

Communique: Industry Strategy Steering Group Meeting – 23 February 2022

This communique is sent on behalf of the Industry Strategy Steering Group (ISSG) to keep you – the ACT community sector – informed about key issues discussed and current work in progress.

About the ISSG

The ISSG monitors the implementation of the [ACT Community Services Industry Strategy 2016-2026](#) (the Industry Strategy). The Industry Strategy sets a 10-year vision for the ACT community services industry and identifies priority areas for response and outcomes to be achieved. The ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) chairs the ISSG.

The Steering Group is a working group of the [Joint Community Government Reference Group](#) (JCGRG). The JCGRG is a consultative forum focused on progressing social and sustainability issues impacting the Canberra community between ACT Government and the ACT community sector. The JCGRG is co-Chaired by the Deputy Director-General Community Services Directorate (CSD), ACT Government and the CEO of ACTCOSS.

Community facilities

ACTCOSS shared that it is starting a community facilities advocacy project and welcomes input from the ISSG and from the broader community sector. ACTCOSS reported that it had met with Minister Steel and raised issues including shortage of office and service provision space and the importance of government provision of community facilities, rather than relying on the private sector. There are currently two ACT Government projects looking at community facilities provision and need in Woden and Belconnen. ACTCOSS and the ISSG will be monitoring their progress.

Commissioning process

The ISSG received a briefing on the progress of the commissioning and procurement reform project. The ISSG was reminded that a baseline survey for the monitoring and [evaluation](#) of the commissioning process had been distributed and encouraged all organisations to complete this. [Commissioning Conversations](#) is available on the commissioning website, and through an RSS subscription. If you would like the ACT Government to come and talk to your Board about commissioning please contact Fiona.may@act.gov.au. ACTCOSS highlighted that many organisations are unsure of the status of contracts that are not being commissioned and have written to the ACT Government to request more information. Organisations are encouraged to contact ACTCOSS or their contract manager if they are unsure of the status of a contract beyond 30 June 2022.

The meeting also discussed how the commissioning process links to the [Industry Strategy](#). Commissioning is an important way to achieve what we want under the industry strategy.

ACT Community Sector Cost of Service Report

It was reported that the [Cost of Services Report](#) is currently being considered by the Government and a whole of Government response will be released at a later date. The ACT Government has indicated that it might take several budget cycles to respond to the recommendations.

Next meeting

Please let us know if you'd like anything to be discussed at the next meeting on Wednesday 30 March and 29 June. The next JCGRG meeting is 28 April.

Current ISSG Membership

- ACT Council of Social Service – Emma Campbell
- CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn – Anne Kirwan
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government – David James, Josephine Andersen
- Community Services Directorate, ACT Government – Jacinta Evans, Fiona May, Jancye Winter
- Canberra Institute of Technology – James Dunstan, Sally Holdsworth
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT – Bec Cody, Leith Felton-Taylor
- National Disability Services ACT – Kerrie Langford
- Regional Coordinator for ACT, Southern NSW, Wagga-Wagga, Boosting the Local Care Workforce Program, Department of Social Services, Australian Government – Renee Wallace
- UnitingCare Kippax – Michael Nurmi
- Unions ACT – Patrick Bates
- Volunteering ACT – Jean Giese
- Youth Coalition of the ACT – Justin Barker

For more information

Please contact the ISSG Secretariat on 02 6202 7200 or by email: JCGRG@actcoss.org.au.