

Communique: Joint Community Government Reference Group (JCGRG) Communique



Meeting #123: 29 November 2022

This communique is sent on behalf of the Joint Community Government Reference Group (JCGRG) to keep you – the ACT community sector – informed about key issues discussed and current work in progress.

Acknowledgement of Country

ACTCOSS is committed to reconciliation, acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to elders past, present and emerging.

Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building Community Sector Levy

JCGRG members **approved** a paper outlining the monitoring and evaluation capacity building plans to be funded through the remaining \$60,000 Community Sector Levy Funds. Funding will cover one externally delivered *Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation* course by Curijo held in November 2022. The course was well attended with positive feedback from participants.

The remaining funds will be used in 2023 for two rounds of Youth Coalition's [Service Improvement Project](#), to be co-delivered by YouthCo and ACTCOSS, and to facilitate an **Outcomes Reporting peer network for Peaks CEOs** and to progress the next stage of Peaks Commissioning. Further discussions will be held between ACTCOSS and Government representatives to consider how government relationship managers can be included in the capacity building program. It was recognised that government members would need to find additional funds to enable participation.

There was also discussion on the need to ensure that monitoring and evaluation frameworks align with the Government's [Wellbeing Framework](#). It was agreed that the Wellbeing Framework and Outcome measures will be discussed at JCGRG's first

meeting in 2023. Updates on the progress of the Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building Project will be provided to JCGRG members at the 2023 meetings.

JCGRG Purpose and focus

The meeting discussed the changing landscape between Government and the community sector and options for ensuring the consultation processes were fit for purpose and facilitated meaningful engagement on joint priorities.

The JCGRG was initially established when the Social Compact was released in 2012. During the last two years of the COVID pandemic, the community sector and government have worked in coordinated ways outside of formal consultation bodies such as JCGRG. This has enabled faster feedback to government and more immediate adjustments to government responses, programs and policies.

It is timely to consider how the group operates as a key consultation mechanism and what should be the focus of meetings in 2023 and beyond. Members agreed that greater alignment with key strategies such as the Wellbeing Framework was needed as well as the opportunity for the community sector to engage with government across all directorates on broader social outcomes.

Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Workforce Strategy: coaching and mentoring guide

Members discussed how to ensure better linkages across discussions impacting the community sector workforce when strategies and professional development is often siloed across government funding and policy directorates. The Education Directorate introduced the topic on the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Workforce Strategy and adaption and use of the Volunteering ACT [Peer support, coaching and mentoring guide](#). It was recognised that workforce shortages and skills development in one sector impacts others, as well as the pull of the public sector for workers from the community sector. The co-chairs will consider how workforce development discussions are included as agenda priorities in 2023.

The co-chairs will hold an offline discussion early in 2023 to agree agenda topics and meeting dates. This will help prioritise JCGRG meetings for all members to increase participation and engagement.

Vote of thanks for outgoing co-chair

JCGRG members paid tribute to outgoing Community Sector Co-Chair, Dr Emma Campbell, who is stepping down as CEO of ACTCOSS early in January 2023. The group thanked her for her tireless efforts at bringing community sector concerns to government's attention and working collaboratively on issues around the [Counting the Costs](#) report and indexation.

About the 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 the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS).

The JCGRG also has an ongoing Industry Strategy Steering Group (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. ACTCOSS chairs the ISSG.

Current JCGRG Membership

ACT Council of Social Service –
Emma Campbell
ACT Shelter – **Travis Gilbert**
Capital Region Community Services –
Mandy Green
Carers ACT – **Lisa Kelly**
Conservation Council ACT –
Helen Oakley
Council on the Ageing ACT –
Jenny Mobbs
Families ACT – **Will Mollison**
Mental Health Community Coalition
ACT – **Corinne Dobson**
National Disability Services ACT –
Jo Huxley
Volunteering ACT – **Susan Helyar**
Youth Coalition of the ACT –
Justin Barker

Department of Social Services,
Australian Government –
Josh Ballinger
Education Directorate, ACT
Government – **Kylie Scholten**
Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development Directorate,
ACT Government – **Lesley Cameron**
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate, ACT
Government – **Andrew Mehrton**
Community Services Directorate, ACT
Government – **Jo Wood**,
Jancye Winter, **Jacinta Evans**,
Jessica Summerrell
Health Directorate, ACT Government –
Jacinta George, **Chris Wood**
Justice and Community Safety, ACT
Government – **Andrew McIntosh**
Transport Canberra and City Services,
ACT Government – **John Bowd**

For more information: Please contact the JCGRG Secretariat on 02 6202 7200 or JCGRG@actcoss.org.au