

Communique: Joint Community Government Reference Group

Meeting #122: 28 April 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.

ACT Budget Process

The meeting discussed the recent consultations held between the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and the community sector for the [ACT 2022-23 budget](#) to be handed down on 2 August 2022. These consultations were very useful for officials to hear directly from the sector as they presented funding cases and priorities. The community sector appreciated the engagement from CMTEDD and the briefing on the Wellbeing Framework and indicators.

Social Compact Update

The finalisation of the updated Social Compact has been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 and the recent ACT lockdown. Representatives from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) have briefed Ministers but no decision has been made on the release of the Compact. Community Sector members will write to the Chief Minister seeking a commitment to prioritising the Social Compact and committing to a release date.

Community Sector Levy

ACTCOSS outlined ISSG consideration of options to spend the remaining \$60,000 Community Sector Levy Funds. Priority has been given to building the monitoring and evaluation capacity of both the community sector and government. This was seen as the area needed greatest attention and can build on capacity building work currently being undertaken both within the ACT public service through CMTEDD and some work in the community sector such as the [Service Improvement Project](#) run by Youth Coalition. ACTCOSS will prepare a paper to be considered at the next Industry Strategy Steering Committee meeting on 30 June. JCGRG members agreed for oversight of the project to be managed through ISSG.

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 – Bec Cody
- National Disability Services ACT – Kerrie Langford
- Volunteering ACT – Jean Giese
- Youth Coalition of the ACT – Justin Barker
- Department of Social Services, Australian Government – Josh Ballinger
- Education Directorate, ACT Government – Kate McMahon
- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government – Lesley Cameron
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government – Sam Engele, David James
- Community Services Directorate, ACT Government – Anne-Maree Sabellico, JancyeWinter, Jacinta Evans, Jessica Summerrell
- Health Directorate, ACT Government – Jacinta George
- Justice and Community Safety, ACT Government – Andrew McIntosh
- Transport Canberra and City Services, ACT Government – John Bowdery

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