

Communique: Joint Community Government Reference Group Meeting – 6 May 2021

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.

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.

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.

Social Compact

The [Social Compact \(2012\)](#) is a relationship framework between the ACT Government and Community Sector and outlines principles of good communication and partnership in our work. A forthcoming refresh will be finalised soon and relaunched through a new website. Details will be shared with the sector in due course.

Project Alignment Hub

This project has been established as an executive governance group within ACT Government to support integrated strategic planning across the redesign and retender of a significant number of programs ending in June 2022. Membership includes Community Services Directorate, Health Directorate, and Justice and Community Safety Directorate. ACT Government will prepare information to brief the community sector about this alignment work.

Community Sector Service Costing Project

The JCGRG was briefed regarding this ISSG project conducted by the University of New South Wales Social Research Policy Centre. The goal of this project is to provide empirical evidence on increasing costs and resource constraints face by ACT community services.

The project has now begun, and further information will be available in the coming months regarding participation through a survey and/or interviews.

Role of the ISSG and Future Work

The JCGRG discussed the current and future role of the ISSG and its remit and resourcing for oversight versus implementation of the [Community Services Industry Strategy 2016-26](#). There was agreement that the development of the ISSG and its Terms of Reference would be revisited to facilitate future conversations regarding its work in relation to the Industry Strategy.

ACT Government Commissioning and Procurement

There will be a 6-week consultation process in July regarding the ACT Government approach to commissioning, when the final version is due to be released. ACTCOSS has also developed with its member organisations a [position paper on commissioning](#).

Organisations yet to receive formal notification regarding funding ending June 2021 are encouraged to contact CSD for follow-up. ACTCOSS is also compiling information from its member organisations on this matter, to send to respective ACT Government Directorates.

ACT Wellbeing Indicators

The [Wellbeing Indicator Dashboard](#) was published on 1 April. Approximately 50% of the data measures have a breakdown published, with the children and young people domains still being mapped.

ACTCOSS will organise a data review session with sector colleagues to discuss the current data sources and suggest additional data sources to ensure an up-to-date and comprehensive wellbeing measure.

Feedback can also be sent to wellbeingfeedback@act.gov.au.

ACT Budget Process 2021-22

The ACT Budget will be delivered in August 2021. It is expected the pre-pandemic budget cycle will resume from next year. Direct input is through a [short survey or written submission](#) to ACT Government.

ACTCOSS is developing its annual budget submission and welcomes input and collaboration from the community sector. There will also be opportunities for the sector to hear directly from ACT Treasury at upcoming budget consultation meetings.

Current JCGRG Membership

- ACT Council of Social Service – Emma Campbell
- ACT Shelter – Travis Gilbert
- Capital Region Community Services – Mandy Green
- Carers ACT – Lisa Kelly
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, ACT Government – Sam Engele, David James
- Community Services Directorate, ACT Government – Anne-Maree Sabellico, Jancye Winter, Jacinta Evans, Jessica Summerrell
- Conservation Council ACT – Helen Oakley
- Council on the Ageing ACT – Jenny Mobbs
- Department of Social Services, Australian Government – Josh Ballinger
- Education Directorate, ACT Government – Kate McMahon
- Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, ACT Government – Lesley Cameron
- Families ACT – Will Mollison
- Health Directorate, ACT Government – Jacinta George
- Justice and Community Safety, ACT Government – Andrew McIntosh
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT – Bec Cody

- National Disability Services ACT – Kerrie Langford
- Transport Canberra and City Services, ACT Government – John Bowdery
- Volunteering ACT – Jean Giese
- Youth Coalition of the ACT – Justin Barker

For more information

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