

Meredith Hunter MLA  
ACT Greens Parliamentary Convener  
GPO Box 1020  
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email: [Hunter@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:Hunter@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Ms Hunter,

**Re: *Strengthening our Support of Young People Transitioning Out of Care: A New Framework***

ACTCOSS welcomes the opportunity to respond to your recent discussion paper. The five proposals have been well received by stakeholders consulted by ACTCOSS. We have two specific comments to raise in relation to the proposals.

In regards to Proposal 1 which recommends young people in care receive material and non-material support from the ages of 15 to 25 years, consultation with stakeholders has indicated 25 years would be the ideal extension of mandated support, 21 years should be the absolute minimum. It is clear the current mandated age of 18 years for support is insufficient.

Some queries were raised in regards to Proposal 4 which recommends the establishment of a specific after-care support service. Whilst there was support for the establishment of an after care service, there was strong consensus such a service should be provided by the community sector, rather than as an extension of the work of Care and Protection Services. It was also noted where young people have existing relationships with a support service (such as a foster care agency) they should have the choice to access after care support from that agency. Agencies would require additional resourcing to provide after care support.

ACTCOSS has provided a submission in response to the DHCS paper *Maximising Potential: improving life transitions for young people in care*. A copy is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Roslyn Dundas  
Director

30 November 2010