

Communique: Industry Strategy Steering Group Meeting – 14 April 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.

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 Sector Service Costing Project

The ISSG discussed the progress of the community sector service costing project. The goal of this project is to provide empirical evidence on increasing costs and resource constraints faced by ACT community services.

The project has now begun, work is underway to finalise the project scoping, and survey design and development will soon commence. The survey will be sent to community sector organisations to better understand costs incurred in delivering community services as compared with funding received from the ACT Government.

Workforce Plan 2017-20: Emerging Leaders Event

The ISSG, alongside Building the Local Care Workforce (BLCW) and ACTCOSS, has proposed to hold an Emerging Leaders Event. The event will discuss the Emerging Leaders Framework and will discuss how the community sector can improve opportunities for rewarding career paths for staff, including into senior roles. Details will be shared with the sector in due course.

Workforce challenges

The ISSG noted ongoing challenges for community sector organisations in recruiting staff. This is particularly serious in some sub-sectors including mental health and childcare. The ISSG has committed to addressing this issue as part of the service costing project and it will continue to be a major focus for the ISSG following delivery of the service costing project.

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, Shaun Kelly, Jancye Winter

- Canberra Institute of Technology – James Dunstan
- Family Policy Section, Department of Social Services, Australian Government – Josh Ballinger
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT – Bec Cody
- 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.