

## **Communique: Industry Strategy Steering Group Meeting – 9 June 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.

There is a [project flyer is available on the ACTCOSS Industry Strategy webpage](#).

The case study component has begun with three organisations, with the survey design currently being reviewed by the ISSG and a survey launch expected in mid-July.

The scoping of a workers forum to enable staff to add their input to this research is also planned. The focus will be a format that creates a safe and trusting environment for workers to contribute to this research.

### **VET Qualifications and Subsidies**

The ISSG discussed the JobTrainer and Skilled Capital Qualifications and Skill Sets List. Gaps highlighted were noted by CMTEDD (Skills Canberra) and the input shared will guide the development of future qualifications and skills lists. The need for better coordination and support for students between completing a qualification and a pathway to employment was also highlighted and ISSG members agreed to explore ongoing responses to this challenge.

### **Commissioning and Procurement Training**

CSD provided an update regarding this training package development, with the hope it is suitable for both Procurement ACT and relevant community sector workers, with further updates in due course.

CSD clarified that the procurement legislation does not prohibit a commissioning approach in human services, and confirmed the current commissioning agenda has received endorsement from all ACT Government Ministers in the Human Services Subcommittee within ACT Government.

A roadmap outlining recontracting processes will also be released soon, co-produced by CSD and Health Directorate.

### **National Careers Institute Partnership Grant**

The ISSG was briefed regarding this second round application to this Commonwealth grant program with letters of support from ISSG members.

The application will build on the previous proposal that sought to set up an online ACT Community Services Careers Hub to highlight the value and opportunities to working in the sector and act as a portal for better coordination on recruitment and retention issues within the sector.

### **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, Fiona May, Jancye Winter
- Canberra Institute of Technology – James Dunstan, Sally Holdsworth
- Family Policy Section, Department of Social Services, Australian Government – Josh Ballinger
- Mental Health Community Coalition ACT – Bec Cody, Leith Felton-Taylor
- 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](mailto:JCGRG@actcoss.org.au).