

Ms Jo Wood  
Director General  
ACT Community Services Directorate

Via email: [jo.wood@act.gov.au](mailto:jo.wood@act.gov.au)

Dear Jo

**Funding certainty for ACT Community Service Directorate-funded community sector organisations**

I am writing to request a written response regarding funding issues impacting the ACT community sector. This is to enable transparency and certainty for ACTCOSS's member organisations.

ACTCOSS has been grateful for CSD's flexibility on contracts and funding during the COVID-19 crisis.

The ACT community sector is now seeking funding certainty for the coming financial year and beyond. Given that the ACT Budget has been delayed until later in the year, there is considerable concern about ongoing funding. While some reassurances have been given verbally, I am writing to ask for a written response to the following questions that ACTCOSS can share with the community sector:

1. Will organisations funded by CSD through contracts that expire on the 30 June 2020 receive ongoing funding for the financial year 20/21?
2. Have *all* impacted organisations been contacted by CSD?
3. Will CSD-funded organisations receive indexation increases and when will they be informed of the amount of that increase?

Further, the sector is looking for certainty with regards the continued funding of the cost of the Fair Work Commission's 2012 Equal Remuneration Order.

It is the understanding of ACTCOSS that the National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and the states and territories, providing additional funding to cover additional costs of the ERO, concluded in June 2019. I am not aware of a new NPA. Further, I understand that CSD has paid an ERO supplement to

eligible organisations for the period of the Financial Year 19/20. I would be grateful for written confirmation that:

1. The above understanding is accurate.
2. That *all* CSD-funded community sector organisations currently receiving ERO supplement from the ACT Government will do so in the Financial Year 20/21 *and beyond* until contracts are renegotiated to reflect the cost of the salaries following the full implementation of the ERO.
3. That all CSD-funded organisations are aware of the level of ERO supplement funding that they will receive in the Financial Year 20/21.

I note that there was an intention to partly deal with this issue through a joint project of CSD and the Joint Community Government Reference Group's (JCGRG) Industry Strategy Sub-Group (ISSG). However, circumstances have meant that this project has been delayed. I will also be in touch with Ann-Maree Sabellico to discuss the restart of the JCGRG following the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

As the 19/20 financial year is soon coming to an end, I would be grateful for a timely response to this letter. If you would like to discuss this further please contact me by email at [ceo@actcoss.org.au](mailto:ceo@actcoss.org.au) or by telephone on 0424 910 617.

Yours sincerely



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CEO

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25 May 2020