

Ms Kylie Jonasson
A/g Director General
ACT Health Directorate

Via email: kylie.jonasson@act.gov.au

Dear Kylie

Funding certainty for ACT Health Directorate-funded community sector organisations

This is the first time I have had the opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Acting Director General of the ACT Health Directorate.

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 the ACT Health Directorate'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 the ACT Health 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 ACT Health?
3. Will ACT Health-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 Health 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* ACT Health-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 ACT Health-funded organisations are aware of the level of ERO supplement funding that they will receive in the Financial Year 20/21.

I note that this is not a new request but one that I made when meeting with you and the then Director General, Michael De'Ath earlier this year. However, I do appreciate that circumstances have meant that we are only now revisiting this issue.

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 or by telephone on 0424 910 617.

Yours sincerely



Dr Emma Campbell
CEO

Email: ceo@actcoss.org.au

25 May 2020