**JOINT COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT REFERENCE GROUP (JCGRG) COMMUNIQUE: December 2014**

The JCGRG comprises ACT Government, Peak Body and Community Sector representatives. It meets seven times a year to monitor sector viability matters in the community sector and provide strategic advice to the ACT Government. The JCGRG fosters a partnership between the ACT Government and Community Sector to progress social and sustainability policy issues affecting the ACT community and the community sector.

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## Meetings and members

The JCGRG met on 14 November 2014 at Volunteering ACT and next meets on 13 February 2015 at the Community Services Directorate. In membership news, we farewell Stephen Gilfedder (ETD) and welcome Frances Crimmins (Ministerial Advisory Council on Women).

***JCGRG Work Plan Priority 2: Government/community/business engagement***

***Digital Canberra Strategy***

The Digital Canberra Team will be invited to the next JCGRG meeting in February 2015 to discuss the Team’s mechanisms for engaging the community in setting priorities and developing processes.

***Budget Strategy***

The next JCGRG meeting in February 2015 will explore options for greater community sector input into the ACT Government’s Budget development process.

***Commonwealth***

The JCGRG is conveying to the ACT Treasurer the sector’s concern about the disruptive impact of Commonwealth procurement and the lack of decision about the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness.

## Sector Viability/Workforce Issues

***Community Government Partnership Improvement Group (CGPIG) (JCGRG sub-group)***

The sector development program has been extended to 2016 and has been incorporated into the sector preparedness work undertaken by the NDIS Taskforce, while retaining a focus on the entire community sector. Representatives from the NDIS Task force will join the Community-Government Partnership Improvement Group (CGPIG), a sub-group of JCGRG.

A meeting was held 13 November 2014 to explore community/business partnerships. Participants included the Canberra Business Chamber, ANZOG and Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).

The Prequalification Review report is expected for release by the end of December 2014.

***National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)***

There is an emerging need for service planning and citizen engagement on non‑NDIS services. The JCGRG will be writing to the NDIA concerning its communication to mental health consumers.

The Community Services Directorate agreed to develop a workshop that will provide a forum to raise implementation challenges and determine a resolution strategy and responsibilities across Commonwealth and ACT jurisdictions. The Directorate also agreed to advise the JCGRG of the mechanism through which government and NGOs can plan continuity and ongoing development of ACT Govt funded services, that will continue to be needed by people who are living with disabilities, and their carers, who are not eligible for the NDIS.

# *JCGRG members*

**Community Sector Representatives**:

Susan Helyar (Co-Chair), ACT Council of Social Services/Darlene Cox, Health Care Consumers Association/Emma Robertson, Youth Coalition of the ACT/Clare Henderson, Conservation Council of the SE-Region & Canberra/vacant, ACT Shelter/vacant, Council of the Ageing/ Maureen Cane, Volunteering ACT/Dira Horne, Belconnen Community Service/Stephen Fox, National Disability Services/Frances Crimmins, Ministerial Advisory Council on Women/Simon Viereck, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

**Government Representatives:**

Sue Chapman (Co-Chair) , Community Services Directorate/Karl Alderson, Justice and Community Safety Directorate/Leanne Cover, Education and Training Directorate/Louise Gilding, Economic Development Directorate (EDD)/Elizabeth Jolley, Environment and Planning Directorate/Andrew Mehrton, EDD/Ross O’Donoughue, ACT Health/David Peffer, CMTEDD/Anthony Polinelli, Territory and Municipal Services Directorate/Tim Reddel, Department of Social Services/Geoffrey Rutledge, CMTEDD.

***Further information:*** Contact Rowan Ford, JCGRG Secretariat on (02) 6205 0454 or email: rowan.ford@act.gov.au