



30 April 2014

Senator David Bushby
Chairperson
Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Transmitted via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Bushby,

RE: Senate Standing Committee Inquiry into the ACNC (Repeal) (No. 1) Bill 2014

The purpose of this submission is to share with the Senate Standing Committee, Community Employers WA's (CEWA) perspectives on the Repeal of the ACNC Legislation.

Attached is a media statement CEWA released in March 2014, calling on the Federal Coalition Government to focus on reducing the level of red tape which continues to burden the Community Services sector. It is clear that there has been limited success to date in aligning the States and Territories to actively work with the Commonwealth in reducing reporting and compliance, and we believe this is a critical area for the Government to address.

If the ACNC is to be abolished, it is equally imperative that a well resourced and appropriate alternative is put in place which will continue to undertake the key regulatory requirements of the sector. It is disappointing that to date there has been no clarity provided in conjunction with the tabling of this draft legislation. As part of the proposed repealing of the current legislation, it is reasonable to expect, that a sustainable and appropriately resourced alternative is detailed for consultation with and consideration by various stakeholders.

CEWA again calls on the Government to provide that clarity and we look forward to working together with Community Services sector employers and the government in supporting those who are less fortunate in our society.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hall
Co-Chair

Tony Pietropiccolo AM
Co-Chair

MEDIA RELEASE 20TH MARCH 2014

RENEWED CALL TO ELIMINATE ROAD BLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY

Employers in the Community Services sector are renewing their call on the Federal Coalition government to reduce the red tape that is tying up the sector and taking the focus away from providing critical community services.

“The compliance burden has real and direct costs on all Community organisations and is a significant inhibitor to the efficient and effective delivery of services. If we are to maintain and indeed grow the level of support the community sector provides to the maintenance of Civil Society, it is imperative that we eliminate the road blocks to delivering that support and in particular, that means the reduction in the level of red-tape across all levels of government”, said Mr John Bouffler, CEWA Executive Director, today.

CEWA welcomes the Federal Coalition government’s plans to implement initiatives to reduce the legislative and reporting requirements for the Community Services sector.

The debate has recently escalated in light of the Government’s announcement to abolish the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

“One of the core objectives of the ACNC when it was established in late 2012, was the reduction of red tape, an initiative which was widely supported. However this has been slower than many would have hoped. Indeed, many CEWA members believe there has been an increase in the level of reporting through the requirements to provide an Annual Information Statement, registration and lodging of accounts,” said Mr Bouffler.

If, as the Coalition is proposing, the ACNC is abolished, it is equally imperative that well resourced and suitable alternatives are put in place which will continue to undertake the key regulatory requirements of the sector.

“The proposal is now for a ‘Centre of Excellence’ to be established and in time for this to be transferred to the sector. Again, what sounds interesting at a conceptual level, is yet to be fleshed out in terms of how it will work, what it means and who will run it. This will require effective and meaningful consultation with the sector, and we would encourage the Federal Government to adopt a similar partnership approach to that in place with the WA State Government and the WA Community Services sector.

“We remain fully supportive of Community Sector organisations being open, accountable and transparent. Surveys show that the broader Australian community has an extremely high degree of confidence in the Community Sector and there continues to be significant support for the outstanding work undertaken across so many areas to assist those who are less fortunate” said Mr Bouffler.

Community Employers WA (CEWA)

CEWA is a registered Employer Organisation with the Industrial Relations Commission of Western Australia, and represents non-government, not-for-profit employers in the Community Services sector of Western Australia. CEWA has 125 members comprising many of the largest and smaller Community Services sector employers in WA, who in turn employ in excess of 10,000 staff and are supported by over 10,000 volunteers.

CEWA Members as at April 2014

Aboriginal Legal Services of WA Inc
Accordwest
Activ Foundation Inc
Advocacy South West Inc
Advocare
Albany Youth Support Association
Alzheimer's Australia WA
Anglicare WA Inc
ARAFMI
Armadale Community Family Centre
Association for Services to Torture & Trauma Survivors (ASeTTS)
Association for the Blind WA
Asthma Foundation WA Inc.
Australian Red Cross WA
Baptistcare
Beehive Industries of WA
BJL Connecting Communities
Bluesky Community Group
Bunbury Pathways '92 Inc.
Burdekin – Youth in Action
Calvary Youth Services Mandurah Inc
Care Options
Centacare Employment and Training
Centacare Family Services
Centrecare Inc
Child Inclusive Learning and Development Australia Inc (CHILD Australia)
CLAN WA
Coeliac Western Australia
Communicare
Community Housing Coalition of WA
Community Legal Centres Association (WA) Inc
Community Vision Inc
ConnectGroups
Consumers of Mental Health WA
Continence Advisory Service of WA
Cyrenian House
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services Inc
Ethnic Communities Council of WA
Ethnic Disability Advocacy Centre
Extra Edge Community Services
Family Support WA Inc
Financial Counsellors Association of WA Inc.
FPWA Sexual Health Service
Fremantle Multicultural Centre Inc
Good Samaritan Industries
Gosnells Women's Health Service
Headwest
Health Consumers Council (WA) Inc

Holyoake The Australian Institute For Alcohol & Drug Addiction Resolutions
Hope Community Services
Identity WA
Inclusion WA
Interchange
Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Centre Inc
Kids Camps Inc
Koolkuna (The Eastern Region Domestic Violence Services Network Inc)
LAMP Inc
Lifeline WA
Linkwest
Margaret River Community Resource Centre Inc
Meath Care Inc
Melville Cares Inc
MercyCare
Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre
Midland Joblink Inc.
MIFWA
Mission Australia
Mosaic Community Care Inc
Multicultural Services Centre of Western Australia Inc
National Disability Services WA
Ngala Family Resource Centre
Nulsen
Outcare (Inc)
Palmerston Association Inc
Parkerville Children Youth Care Inc
Pat Thomas Memorial Community House Inc.
Patricia Giles Centre
Peel and Rockingham Volunteer Resource Centres
Peel Community Living
People with Disabilities (WA)
Perth Home Care Services Inc
Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc
Richmond Fellowship
Rise Network
Rocky Bay Inc
Ruah Community Services
Secca
Serenity Lodge
Shelter WA
Silver Chain
South Coastal Women's Health Services
Southcare Inc
Southside Care
St Bartholomew's House
St Patrick's Community Support Centre
St Vincent de Paul Society
Swan City Youth Service
Swan Emergency Accommodation
Technology Assisting Disability WA

Tenancy WA
The Gowrie (WA) Inc
The Salvation Army
The Spiers Centre Inc
The WA Aids Council
Therapy Focus Inc
Uniting Aid
UnitingCare West
Uniting Church in the City
Valued Independent People Inc
Vincentcare
Volunteer Task Force Inc.
WA No Interest Loans Inc.
WANADA
Wanslea Family Services Inc
We Can Community Services
Westcare Inc
Western Australian Association for Mental Health
Western Australian Council of Social Service Inc
Women's Council for DFV Services (WA)
Women's Health Resource Centre
Women's Health Services
Women's Healthworks
Yaandina Family Centre
YMCA Perth
Youth Focus
Youth Futures WA