



Aged & Community
Services NSW & ACT

23 April 2014

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

Aged & Community Services NSW & ACT (ACS) is the leading peak organisation representing not-for-profit, church and charitable providers of services in retirement living, community aged care and residential aged care in NSW and the ACT. ACS represents around 300 organisations, providing over 2,000 services to more than 100,000 people. ACS members range in size from large multisite organisations to small rural and regional stand-alone providers.

ACS members are typically registered charities with not-for-profit status in recognition of the services provided to aged and frail people unable to afford fees and charges, or unable to access any other form of support due to their levels of disadvantage.

Not-for-profit organisations across NSW and the ACT provide around 65% of all aged care beds and around 89% of community packages. There are 470 Home and Community Care NGO providers for aged care in NSW and the ACT.

The objectives of the ACNC are important to us. We are strong advocates for reducing red tape and in the data management concept of 'report once – use often'. The ACNC has just started to make some headway on this, and our members were expecting to see some reduction in the number of different agencies to which we have to report. We have to comply with 144 different pieces of legislation and regulation, which contributes to the ridiculous situation of residential aged care providers spending more on administration than they do on feeding the residents.

The ACNC has created many useful resources and has geared them towards the less sophisticated organisation. We have found these resources to be helpful in improving our governance arrangements. The ACNC is also more closely aligned to our values and operations as we are not-for-profit and do not have shareholders, so ASIC is not a good match for us.

On that basis we would support the retention of the ACNC. If the Government decides to proceed to repeal it, we strongly urge that the good works that have been done and the progress made in reducing reports be retained by any subsequent body.

Yours faithfully

Illana Halliday
Chief Executive Officer