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Q1

How you can use my information

Yes, you can publish my completed survey with organisation name on the website (contact details will be removed)

Q2

My contact details

Organisation (Organisation name will appear on the Assembly website unless you request confidentiality.):

ACT Council of Social Service

Name (Individual names and contact details will not be published.):

[REDACTED]

Phone number:

[REDACTED]

Email address:

[REDACTED]

Postal address:

[REDACTED]

Q3

Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

ACTCOSS advocates for social justice in the ACT and represents not-for-profit community organisations. We are a peak body

Q4

Yes (go to question 5)

Did you provide a pre-Budget submission to the ACT Government?

Q5

Do you think that the issues raised in your pre-Budget submission have been addressed in the Budget?

Partially,

If no or partially, please comment.:

ACTCOSS welcomed pre-budget packages for the community sector including increases the indexation rate to annual grants. We also welcomed the review of the mechanism for determining indexation and hope that this will lead to substantial increases in the core funding for community organisations to cover the full cost of delivering services. Significant housing announcements were also made in budget including renewal and maintenance funding for public housing and some support for community housing. These were welcomed. While those additional investments in housing are welcome, this budget has still not explained how the Government will deliver its full promised commitment of 400 additional public dwellings and 600 additional affordable rental properties by the end of the Parliamentary Agreement. While we welcome programs and projects responding to the pressures facing the sector we remain concerned about the lack of ongoing funding for many services. While we welcome additional funding for 2021-22 for services including the community legal sector and the ACT's Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Service, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, we need an ongoing commitment from Government. Organisations need to be able to provide certainty to staff and the people they support. Further, a number of issues have not been addressed by this budget. These include gaps in supports for older Canberrans, perinatal health services and community facilities. ACTCOSS is also disappointed that the budget did not include funding for the ACT Carers Strategy or a Disability Health Strategy. Adequate provisioning for community facilities and hubs in older parts of Canberra is a concern to us. We feel there is an imbalance between spending on infrastructure on buildings where government designs programs and the spaces and places where the community needs to deliver them.

Q6

Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that you would like to submit?

Yes (please email it to the Economy, Gender and Economic Equality Committee)

Q7

Please list your top three priority areas for the 2021-2022 ACT Budget, in order of importance.

Priority 1

Please refer submission - we prioritise housing, support for vulnerable Canberrans and adequate provision for human, capital and financial resources for the community sector so it is sustainable as we come out of COVID and across the long term.

Priority 2

Refer above

Priority 3

Refer above

Q8

Please outline your views of the 2021-2022 ACT Budget in relation to your top three priority areas

Priority 1

Refer our Budget Bulletin

Priority 2

Refer our Budget Bulletin

Priority 3

Refer our Budget Bulletin

Q9

No

Are there any other issues related to the 2021-2022 ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the committee's attention?
