



The Secretary
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601
1 May 2015

*Club support has been
invaluable to our organisations
etc.*

Dear Mr Smyth

RE: Inquiry into elements impacting on the future of the ACT Clubs Sector

On behalf of the ACT Deafness Resource Centre I wish to comment on the Inquiry mentioned above.

The **Canberra Southern Cross Club** has been a great supporter of our organisation for **at least 12 years** and each year we receive funding under the Community Support Grants Program. In addition, the **Canberra Deaf Club** meets monthly at the Southern Cross Club and receives yearly funding support as does the **Cochlear Implant Support Group – CICADA ACT**. I am also aware that **Better Hearing Australia – Canberra** receives financial assistance.

Because of our Clubs support, we are able to **meet important needs within these organisations that are not funded from any other source**.

Without this partnership with the Club, our organisations would simply not be able to operate or provide the additional services we can to the Community. We cannot envisage any other organisation or government agency being able to fill the void if our Club was not there to support us. Right now, access to funding for the not-for-profit sector in the ACT is extremely tight and serious doubts exist as to whether on-going ACT/Cth Government support via the NDIS will be available despite the accepted view that our organisations play a pivotal role in providing Information, Linkages and Capacity Building for the Deaf/Hearing Impaired in our community.

The assistance of the Club industry in the ACT is reflected through our partnership with **Canberra Southern Cross Club** and is something that can only be maintained by the Club if they are able to remain a viable community asset.

We trust that your Committee will see the invaluable role the Clubs play in our community.

Yours sincerely

Pete Halsey
Pete Halsey
CEO
Churchill Fellow 2009

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