

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

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Dear Mr Smyth

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above inquiry.

This letter is in reference to the long-term support provided to our not for profit organisation through a partnership with the Canberra Labor Club Group. Thanks to the Group, our organisation's offices have been available to us on a rent-free and expenses-free basis (except for electricity) for some fifteen years.

The Canberra Labor Club Group has also supported us through participation in the judging panel for the ACT Volunteer of the Year Awards over many years and through attendance of Board and senior management members at various events and functions.

Volunteering ACT operates as an 'active link' between people seeking volunteering opportunities and community organisations needing volunteers. Last financial year we referred over 8000 prospective volunteers to volunteering vacancies, resulting in a huge benefit to the community and to themselves. We also provide training, information and support to community organisations on how to best manage their volunteers. Through special programs we also match vulnerable/isolated people with volunteers to create 'structured friendships', hence encouraging social inclusion.

Without the Group's assistance a significant proportion of our income would be diverted away from the provision of these services at considerable detriment to our organisation and to the Canberra community. We cannot envisage any other organisation or Government agency being able to fill the void if the Canberra Labor Club Group was not there to support us.

We strongly value the assistance provided by the Canberra Labor Club Group to our organisation. This assistance goes beyond the financial, involving a genuine interest and concern for our work as enablers of volunteering and supporters of volunteers in the ACT.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Cane

Maureen Cane
Chief Executive Officer

13 May 2015