

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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To whom it may concern

Arthritis ACT is a small, health promotion NGO with a very limited budget and a large community expectation for support and information services. As a result Arthritis ACT relies heavily on the clubs sector both for small grants and for conference facilities which we often gain at a heavily reduced price or even at no cost. This type of subsidization means Arthritis ACT is then able to provide more of its outreach services to the greater community, and in more of the community's neighbourhoods than simply relying on our own small meeting rooms in our current rental accommodation.

As we know the Canberra community often has quirky ideas about travel across our city. Older Canberrans in particular often do not like to travel out of their own communities, and as a health service we often struggle to arrange community functions including providing support and information to the one in four Canberrans who live with Arthritis. The club sector's generous support means we can provide services across our city.

Arthritis ACT works very closely with people who are marginalized due to pain conditions and in particular struggle to maintain social networks. Being able to provide information and support sessions within the club sector often extends the social contact of these people, who will often 'stay for lunch or coffee' with a friend after our event, thus increasing the individual's social contact and reducing the isolation of those living in our community with chronic pain.

Arthritis ACT is pleased to be able to have this relationship with the club sector in the ACT and thanks the various clubs for their commitment to the Canberra community.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Davey
CEO