



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	
SUBMISSION NUMBER	53
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Dear Mr Smyth

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

On behalf of **Belconnen Tennis Club**, I wish to comment on the above inquiry.

The **Canberra Southern Cross Club (CSCC)** (and its predecessor, *Western Districts Rugby Union Club*) have been a great supporter of our organisation for **over 40** years. The CSCC took over operations from the Western Districts Rugby Union Club around 2009 and has continued to be a strong supporter of our club financially and through provision of services and facilities.

Each year CSCC provides us with a direct financial grant of \$2000 and additional rebates on expenditure for club social events up to \$1000, giving an overall annual benefit of \$3000.

More significantly CSCC Jamison has provided court hiring and key services for our club to make our premises available to members of the public; this facilitates greater community use of our courts and provides a significant revenue stream to cover the costs of court refurbishments. Overall, in addition to the \$3000 direct sponsorship I mentioned previously, we derive round \$8000 per annum from court hire, which would be greatly diminished if not for CSCC's generosity. This extra income has, in recent years, enabled us to maintain all courts in good playing condition and to plan for future upgrades of court lighting and other member facilities.

CSCC Jamison has also freely offered access to office facilities including printing and photocopying as well as making available congenial and convenient facilities for our committee meetings.

Without CSCC's great support, the operations of our club would be greatly diminished and broader public access to the facilities somewhat curtailed.

The close proximity of CSCC greatly enhances the social aspects of our club; many of our members are also long-term CSCC members, availing themselves of modern, family friendly club facilities to enjoy a social drink after matches, and meals. CSCC also provides the local base for social functions that form a key part of our tennis club calendar.

Because of CSCC's support, we are able to maintain excellent facilities for the use of members and the general public. Belconnen Tennis Club is a great community asset, not only for paying members but also for the steadily increasing population of the inner North, encouraging social interaction for members and visitors alike. We draw your attention to the national senior tennis championships held in Canberra at the beginning of the year and the invaluable service that CSCC, by virtue of its proximity to BTC, provided visiting players from around Australia.

CSCC's direct sponsorship also enables our club to keep membership fees low, benefiting a large proportion of our retired members and encouraging junior participation.

Without this partnership, our organisation would simply not be able to operate or provide the level of services we currently do to the community. We cannot envisage any other organisation or government agency being able to fill the void if the CSCC was not there to support us.

The assistance of the club industry in the ACT is reflected through our partnership with **Canberra Southern Cross Club**. For the reasons I have already presented, the Belconnen Tennis Club committee regards CSCC as a vital community asset.

We trust that your Committee will recognise the invaluable role that clubs play in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Cameron

Name: Gary Cameron

Position: President

Organisation: Belconnen Tennis Club