



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2011-2012

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Meredith Hunter MLA (Deputy Chair)

Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA, John Hargreaves MLA, Caroline Le Couteur MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

1. Name of organisation Victims of Crime Assistance League (A.C.T.) Inc.
2. Name of contact person & telephone and email contact details : Bryan Harper (Chairperson)
3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT 2011-2012 Budget?
 1. Victims of crime
 2. Funding to community services
 - 3.

Comment

4. Did you provide a budget submission to the Government?
 Yes (go to question five) No (go to question six)
5. Do you think that the Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?
 Yes No Comment
6. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas listed in question three?
Comment : There has been a substantial increase in funds for management of prisoners/perpetrators; but there appears to be no increase for management of services to assist victims of crime.
7. Are there any particular issues you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?
 Yes No
8. Please provide a brief outline of the issue/s, in order of priority. VOCAL has previously requested (for the 2010/11 budget year), and increase in funding to enable it to fund a new position to assist with recruiting and training volunteers; and also for a position to provide support to victims at the the Courts. However, VOCAL received only \$236,000 (exc. GST); which is well below its budgetted operational requirement of about \$360,000. In summary, VOCAL did not receive sufficient funds for those new positions, and VOCAL believes that increased funding is required in order to meet the demand for services by VOCAL (which includes clients who are not eligible for government services). The level of funding in recent years

has made survival of the organisation extremely difficult, placing undue pressure on staff. VOCAL provides a range of services - some of which the government is unable to provide. In addition, VOCAL provides a service at a very efficient and cost effective manner with the limited funds available. VOCAL is seeking an exemption for an Open Tender process for future services in view of VOCAL's experience, its well established services, and infrastructure already in place - if VOCAL is not funded, there is a risk that a lesser quality service would be provided by a new provider inexperienced in that field; and if VOCAL does not receive funding, the loss of what took 22 years to build would be very difficult to replace if it is later realised that a new service provider was not as effected as VOCAL in the long term. VOCAL is very concerned that with less than 2 months before the end of the current funding contract, there has been no notification about future funding, the funding level, and the tender process. This makes it extremely difficult for VOCAL and its staff to plan ahead. [Please append your organisation's budget analysis if available]

9. Does your organisation want to attend a hearing on 13May 2011?

- Yes
 No

If you have indicated yes, the Committee Office will contact you by COB Tuesday 10 May to confirm details. (Please note however, that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups).

Please return by 12.00 noon, Monday 9 May 2011

Thank you
