



IVILA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2016-17 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 7 JUNE 2016

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 10 June 2016**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. **Full name of group/organisation: ACT Disability Aged and Carer Advocacy Service**
2. **Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:**
Fiona May CEO [REDACTED]
3. **Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.**

We provide independent advocacy to people with disability, frail older people and their carers

4. **Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?**

No
5. **Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2016-2017 (you can expand on these in Question 6):**
 - a. Elder Abuse responses
 - b. Ongoing commitment to disability issues (in addition to NDIS)
 - c. Employment for People with Disability and Older People

6. Please provide detail of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

a. The budget was silent on issues for vulnerable older people. While the safer families initiatives may be of benefit to older people the budget papers are silent with regard to abuse of older people and how the initiatives will respond to abuse that is not about children and women. Elder abuse and the rights of older people is a significant issue that receives little attention locally or nationally. Some budget initiatives will put financial pressure on older people with low incomes (such as the changes to concessions).

b. While the NDIS rollout is continuing as planned and the budget makes provision for sensible transition for the remaining cohorts, it does nothing to address wider issues for people with disability . There is no mention of the National Disability Strategy and an ongoing commitment to implementation of other elements of the strategy. There is no articulation of how disability issues will be progressed with the closing of Disability ACT. The social inclusion statement included no new activities beyond NDIS for people with disability. There is no evidence that the INVOLVE initiative has gained any momentum or achieved any outcomes for people with disability in its first year. While some other elements of the budget will benefit people with disability (such as a greater number of accessible homes through the social housing renewal, and more disability accessible buses) other elements disregard disability issues (safer families - access to justice through interpreters for people who do not speak English appears to disregard those who need AUSLAN or other disability specific translation). Similarly, the safer families initiative does not address the additional vulnerability to abuse that people with disability experience (including those who live in group home settings and are specifically excluded from the Family Violence legislation introduced alongside the budget)

c. There are no measures in the budget which will improve employment outcomes for older workers or people with disability. While some budget measures recognise that we are living longer and therefore will need to work longer, there is nothing that addresses jobs for older people. People with disability are also underrepresented in employment (as recognised by the INVOLVE priorities for this year although there appears to have been little action). The ACT government both has the opportunity to become a model employer for these two groups of workers and to influence employment strategies of other ACT employers. With regard to its own employment practices ADACAS would welcome evidence from the government regarding the numbers of older workers and workers with disability that it employs. As a measure of diversity of its recruitment practices, evidence of how many employees with less than 5 years service are people in these two groups would also be welcome.

7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

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8. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

No (go to question 10)

9. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment

10. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 17 June 2016, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 15 June 2016 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
