



# Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Mr Peter Cain MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Community Services

In relation to: Community Sector boosted funding

Hearing: 03 August 2026

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 19-20

Transcript provided: 5 August 2026

Answer Due: 12 August 2026

**Ms Dolan:** Thank you. So the \$10 million was allocated over two years, \$5 million each year. In the first year the money has been allocated. All of it has been allocated out on a tiering structure. So organisations with base funding of less than \$19,999 received an additional \$5,000 in 25-26. Organisations with base funding of \$20,000 to \$69,999 received an additional \$10,000 in 25-26. And organisations with base funding more than \$70,000 received an additional \$38,840 in 25-26. We are currently going through the process of the allocation of this year's funding. And that process is underway to ensure that that money is allocated on the same tiering structure.

**MR CAIN:** So could you provide a breakdown by organisation, program, and obviously the past financial year and part of this current, which includes the amount approved contractors and paid to date?

**Ms Orr:** Mr Cain, we will take it on notice and see what we can come back to you with.

**MR CAIN:** So what measurable improvements has the government identified as a direct result of this investment thus far, including an increase in service capacity, workforce retention, or financial sustainability across the community sector?

**Ms Orr:** Mr Cain, Ms Dolan can talk in more detail to this. But as part of the funding, we have reporting and feedback mechanisms there as to what services are using the funding for and how they are seeing it meet their needs. And this will inform further community reforms, particularly around commissioning and service contracting and delivery with arrangements with the ACT government, particularly to the administrative. So I would just clarify, the community boost that was there was to go to the pressures of administrative costs that services have been talking about, which would be increasing rents, increasing staffing costs, retention of staff, development of staff, implementation of IT systems, and so forth. It was not for specific service delivery programs. That will continue to be done through our commissioning services. But Ms Dolan, did you want to add a little bit as to how we are working to further articulate and understand?

**Ms Dolan:** Thank you, minister. So as part of the funding boost allocation it was a requirement for organisations to complete surveys to identify how the money would be allocated within the organisation and to provide information to inform future working government. So as the funding was allocated last year, organisations have contributed that information back to government as to how the money was allocated across different areas of pressures within their organisation across human resources, information and technology, safeguarding premises, business development or fundraising. And we have received that information. We have also received really positive feedback from organisations about how the flexibility of that arrangement, across those structures, has enabled them to address costs within the organisations. And that has been really positively received. We have not received information on that for this year because we are still working through that process. But we will look forward to receiving that information and reporting back in future.

**MR CAIN:** And just finally, chair. So basically from what you have been told thus far in terms of outcomes, are you able to provide this committee the responses from those organisations? And obviously it would be helpful to have a summary of the dollars and, I guess, the assessed impact of that expenditure.

**Ms Orr:** Mr Cain, we will take it on notice and see what we can come back to you with, just noting that the rollout of the boost is halfway through.

**Ms Caitlin Tough MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:**

The funding boost was provided to organisations that have CSI eligible funding arrangements with Government to provide short term investment in sustainability pressures experienced by organisations across the following domains: human resources; information and technology; business development; safeguarding; and premises.

140 organisations received the Boost payment in 2025-26. A breakdown of those payments is provided below.

Pre boost survey data indicated the following sources of pressure:

- 94% of respondents rated Human Resources as a significant or moderate source of pressure.
- 71% rated Information & Technology as significant or moderate pressure, while 37% rated it as a slight source of pressure.
- Business Development and Safeguarding shared similar pressure ratings of 78+% (significant and moderate).

Investment priorities were listed as:

- 82% rated Human Resources as their highest or moderate investment priority.
- Similar ratings were shared in the categories of Information & Technology (80%), Business Development (76%) and Safeguarding (77%).
- Investment intentions by NGOs were closely aligned to their highest or moderate pressures.

These results will be compared with survey responses provided after the second boost, and an outcomes report prepared.

Payments for 2026-27 are nearing completion.

## 2025-26 Boost payment recipients:

### \$5,000 p.a. Funding boost recipients

|                            |                                                                |                                             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Hare Krishna Food for Life | National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect | Tamils Community Housing (ACT) Incorporated |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|

### \$10,000 p.a. Funding boost recipients

|                                                       |                                                 |                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Association of Parents and Friends of ACT Schools Inc | Majura Womens Group Inc                         | The Scout Association of Australia ACT Branch Incorporated   |
| Australian Breastfeeding Association                  | Oz Harvest Limited                              | Valley FM Broadcasters Association Incorporated              |
| Foodbank NSW & ACT Limited                            | The Men's Table Limited                         | Whispers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Softball Corp |
| Girl Guides Association NSW ACT Region                | The RSI & Overuse Injury Association of the ACT |                                                              |
| Haemophilia Foundation ACT                            |                                                 |                                                              |

### \$38,840 p.a. Funding boost recipients

|                                                                                  |                                                               |                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A Gender Agenda Inc                                                              | Everyman Australia Limited                                    | St Vincent de Paul Society (Canberra/Goulburn) Limited           |
| Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT                                                 | EveryMind                                                     | Stride Mental Health Ltd                                         |
| ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc                                   | Fadiss Limited                                                | Supportlink                                                      |
| ACT Council of Parents & Citizens Associations Inc                               | Families ACT                                                  | Ted Noffs Foundation Ltd                                         |
| Australian Capital Territory Council of Social Service Inc                       | Fearless Women                                                | Australian Red Cross Society                                     |
| ACT Disability Aged & Carer Advocacy Service Limited                             | First People's Disability Network                             | The Benevolent Society                                           |
| ACT Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability Association Inc                    | GROW                                                          | The Salvation Army                                               |
| ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group                                             | Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation                     | The Smith Family                                                 |
| ACT Mental Health Consumers Network                                              | Havelock Housing Association Incorporated                     | Thirrili                                                         |
| ACT Playgroups Association Inc                                                   | Healthcare Consumers Association of the ACT Inc               | Toora Women Inc                                                  |
| ACT Shelter Association                                                          | Hepatitis ACT                                                 | Tuggeranong Community Arts Association                           |
| Advocacy For Inclusion Incorporated (incorporating People with Disabilities ACT) | Indigenous Allied Health Australia                            | Tuggeranong Link of Community Houses & Centres Inc               |
| Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association                                       | Karinya House Home for Mothers & Babies Inc                   | UCA - UnitingCare Canberra City                                  |
| Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT                                              | Karralika Programs Inc                                        | Uniting Care Kippax                                              |
| Argyle Community Housing                                                         | Key Assets the Children's Service Provider (Australia) Ltd    | Uniting (NSW.ACT)                                                |
| Arthritis Foundation of The ACT Inc                                              | Kidsafe ACT Inc                                               | Volunteering and Contact ACT Limited                             |
| ASHM Health                                                                      | Koomari                                                       | Warehouse Circus Inc                                             |
| Asthma Australia Ltd                                                             | Life Without Barriers                                         | Wellways Australia Ltd                                           |
| Australian Childhood Foundation                                                  | Lifeline Canberra Inc                                         | Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services Ltd |
| Barnardos Australia                                                              | Mackillop Family Services Ltd                                 | Woden Community Service Limited                                  |
| Beryl Women Incorporated                                                         | Marie Stopes International                                    | Women With Disabilities ACT Incorporated                         |
| CALMS Ltd                                                                        | Marymead Cathollicare Canberra & Goulburn                     | Women's Legal Centre ACT                                         |
| Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy                             | Menslink                                                      | Women's Centre for Health Matters                                |
| Canberra Community Law Ltd                                                       | Mental Health Community Coalition ACT                         | Yedding Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corp                     |
| Canberra Environment Centre                                                      | Mental Health Foundation                                      | Yerrabi Yurwang Child & Family Aboriginal Corporation            |
| Canberra Police Community Youth Club Inc                                         | Mental Illness Education ACT Inc                              | Yhurwan Bullan Aboriginal Corporation                            |
| Canberra Rape Crisis Centre                                                      | Meridian Inc                                                  | Young Men's Christian Association Ltd                            |
| Cancer Council ACT                                                               | MARSS Australia Inc (Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services) | YWCA Canberra                                                    |
| Capital Region Community Services Ltd                                            | National Disability Services Limited                          | Youth Coal                                                       |
| CARE Inc                                                                         | National Stroke Foundation                                    |                                                                  |
| Carers ACT Ltd                                                                   | First People's Disability Network                             |                                                                  |
| Children Australia Inc (trading as OZ Child)                                     | Noahs Ark Resource Centre Inc                                 |                                                                  |
| Communities@Work                                                                 | North Belconnen Community Association                         |                                                                  |
| Community Housing Canberra (CHC) Ltd                                             | Northside Community Service Limited                           |                                                                  |
| Community Options Inc                                                            | ORYGEN                                                        |                                                                  |
| Community Radio 2XX Inc                                                          | Palliative Care ACT Inc                                       |                                                                  |
| Community Services #1                                                            | Perinatal Wellbeing Centre Inc                                |                                                                  |
| Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma Incorporated           | Prisoners Aid ACT Inc                                         |                                                                  |
| Conflict Resolution Service Inc                                                  | Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre Inc                            |                                                                  |
| Conservation Council ACT Region                                                  | Reclink                                                       |                                                                  |
| Council on the Ageing                                                            | RED NOSE LIMITED                                              |                                                                  |
| CREATE Foundation Limited                                                        | Relationships Australia Canberra & Region Inc.                |                                                                  |
| Diabetes Australia                                                               | Roses in the Ocean                                            |                                                                  |
| Directions Health Services Ltd (Formerly Assisted Drug Dependents Inc)           | Roundabout Canberra Limited                                   |                                                                  |
| Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc                                             | RSPCA ACT                                                     |                                                                  |
| Doris Womens Refuge Inc                                                          | SDN Children's Services (Sydney Day Nursery Association)      |                                                                  |
| Environmental Defenders Office                                                   | SEE Change                                                    |                                                                  |
| Epilepsy Association ACT Inc                                                     | Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT Inc                     |                                                                  |
|                                                                                  | Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corp                             |                                                                  |

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Tough', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Date:

A handwritten date '10/8/26' in blue ink, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Minister for Community Services, Ms Caitlyn Tough MLA