

Women with disabilities ACT

1. Please provide the following information on your group/organisation including the full name of your key contact person:

Name: - sue salthouse

Company: - women with disabilities ACT

Address 1: - Building 1, Pearce Community Centre

Address 2: - collett place pearce

State/Province: - ACT

ZIP/Postal Code: - 2607

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

No

3. Please list, in order of priority, your three main areas of concern regarding the ACT Budget 2013-2014: (there is space available in the next question to expand on this list)

a. - insufficient investment in affordable housing, including funding to increase proportion of platinum level LHA standard housing

b. - limited increase in supports for Children with disabilities in mainstream classes

c. - lack of funding to support equitable access to Village Creek Centre

4. What are your views on the Budget in relation to your priority areas? (provide details on those items you listed above)

On the whole, the budget has included a number of initiatives which have the potential to improve the lives of women with disabilities and their inclusion in the community. These initiatives are in addition to the allocation to fund DisabilityCare Australia initiatives for the ACT Enhanced Service Offer (Readiness) years. However the Budget did not address the recommendations in the WWDACT Budget Submission. 1. However, WWDACT remains concerned about the threat of homelessness

which affects women with low-to-mild disabilities who are in the lowest income quintiles, and the continued long wait for accessible housing. 2. WWDACT applauds the allocation of \$11.2m for increased supports for children in non government schools, but is concerned that criteria for the allocation of funds should be distributed equitably amongst students with disabilities and students in other vulnerable subgroups. This funding, plus the funding of \$1.3m for increased student supports needs to be allocated so that more students with disabilities can be supported in mainstream classes. 3. WWDACT is concerned that women with disabilities, who need to use public transport, are unable to attend at the Village Creek Centre without considerable expense (if using a taxi service) or considerable time expenditure (if using public transport), and that this is diminishing their ability to access Aged Care and Rehabilitation Services

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

Yes

1. WWDACT applauds the \$1.7m allocated to the purchase and equipping of a mobile dental clinic, and asks that it be stipulated to be able to service women (and people) with disabilities in the community who are unable to travel and have mobility impairment. 2. WWDACT is pleased to see the initiatives for improvement of public transport including \$24m for the upgrading of the ACTION fleet, \$2.5m for the design of Woden Bus Interchange to modernise the facility and improve public safety; \$2.2m for upgrades to existing bus stops and shelters and design of information displays, and urges the government to consult with people with disabilities in the design phase. In addition, WWDACT would like to see the funding for the Centenary Bus continued as part of the incentives for workers in the parliamentary triangle to use buses for commuting. 3. WWDACT applauds the increase in funding for micro-credit loans, and hopes that the organisation administering this fund will be required to specifically promote the initiative to women with disabilities. 4. WWDACT is pleased to see the allocation of increased funding for the commencement of the Official Visitor scheme (see also Question 7 below). 5. WWDACT is pleased to see the funding to improve the rental security of the Community Legal Centre Hub, and the small increase of funding to Legal Aid, but is concerned that Legal Aid funding is insufficient. WWDACT is further concerned that there was no specific additional operational funding to the ACT Human Rights Commission.

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

Yes (go to question 7)

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

No

1. WWDACT urged the government to allocate funding for leadership development for women with disabilities to increase their capacity to take up initiatives under DisabilityCare Australia, and for higher level of equitable inclusion in the community. There is not specific initiative in the budget for this initiative. 2. WWDACT urged the government for more funding to enable the collection of data

in a gender sensitive way and to make gender disaggregated data publicly available, and routinely analysed. 3. WWDACT asked for specific funding to increase the emotional and social wellbeing of women with disabilities through improved support to participate in health programs and Improving the frequency, availability and cost of public transport. This was partially addressed through the continuation of the upgrading of the ACTION bus fleet. 4. WWDACT recommended that the ACT Government create a position to overview and co-ordinate the on-going operation of the OVS in the future, and the immediate appointment of a full-time legal policy officer. This may have been partially addressed through the incremental increase in funding for the scheme.

8. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 14 June 2013, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes

Wheelchair Access required