

A brief update on recent advocacy work since our previous sector communications.

* Two sector wide breakfast forums were held on 12th and 13th November, with 140 Chairs and CEOs attending. It was great to see a significant cross section of senior sector leaders there, and to receive strong support and encouragement for our work to date and current plans. In addition to sharing the strategy, the proposed communications plans and social media campaign initiatives were outlined and shown
* **Attached** is a copy of the 3 page summary of the issues with the sustainability of services and an ERO fact sheet, both of which were circulated at the breakfast forums. **We would encourage you to share this with your board**
* The Under Treasurer was interviewed at the CEWA AGM on 14th November. He acknowledged the importance of the NFP Community Services sector and recognised that it is acceptable for NFPs to make a surplus. Interestingly, Treasury’s expectation is that government departments achieve a 5% surplus on the funding allocated to them. It was also asked as to whether the $604M allocated in 2011-13 was fully distributed to the sector, with a simple response that it was disbursed from Treasury to government departments, but beyond that, they weren’t aware of specifics
* Working Group representatives have held a number of meetings and discussions with Treasury, Finance and Communities on the Sector’s call for supplementary funding. Whilst there is general support, the challenge remains in satisfying government with enough evidence. It has now been largely accepted that the 2 page template has significant shortcomings in terms of being considered as reliable evidence, and should no longer be submitted. Following this lengthy discussion, the **attached** summary was shared with government as broad evidence of the additional costs incurred by service providers since the implementation of the ERO
* In addition to the sector’s ‘ask’ of a broad based supplementary funding of contracts, government has shared a few other options, each of which have limitations and short comings
* We understand that a submission is being prepared by government for the Expenditure Review Committee, seeking additional funding in conjunction with the Mid-Year budget review, however we have not yet ascertained specific details. Our current sense is that this is unlikely to be broad based, nor at the levels or simplicity sought
* At this stage it is planned we will be seeking your active involvement and support within the next two weeks. If proceeded with, the campaign will require engagement from everyone, to maximize the impact
* The Communications Working Group has also been active in developing campaign plans in conjunction with the externally engaged PR & Comms specialists, and more information will be forthcoming shortly.

If you haven’t received previous updates, please let us know and we will forward them to you.

Thanks for your ongoing support. On behalf of the Working Group.