

11 May 2007

David J L Bremner  
Executive Officer  
National Electricity Consumers Advocacy Panel  
PO Box 43  
Surrey Hills  
VICTORIA 3127

Dear David

**SACOSS Electricity Project – NEM Application Number 222**

SACOSS is pleased to report on the activities undertaken during the second four months of this project (1 January 2007 to 31 April 2007).

Progress summary

The project resource is nearing completion and will be distributed for consultation to the community workers who have volunteered to be a part of the project approximately at the time the panel receives this report. An integral part of developing this resource has been through undertaking consultation at the SACOSS-led Low Income Support Network (LISP) networking day with LISP workers providing key input into the structure and format of the resource. The resource will be distributed directly to these workers for their comment and this will be taken into account before it is finalised and distributed.

The actions of the project to date so far are as follows:

- Continual updating of the knowledge base in SACOSS and the sector on electricity issues
- The project plan has been finalised and distributed to relevant people in the sector
- Development of a resource list of contacts – it is anticipated it will take the form of a poster or something similar for workers to have on their wall when dealing with clients e.g. quick, easy reference
- Engagement with the consultation on the Smart Meters Stakeholder Working Group Terms of Reference
- Submission to the Smart Meter Stakeholder Working Group Terms of Reference consultation
- Networking and collaboration with other electricity advocates across Australia.
- Attendance at the March meeting of the National Consumers Roundtable
- Ongoing engagement with a wide range of advocates through the e-group.
- Development of a set of principles for electricity advocacy in South Australia to be promoted through a workshop / forum to advocates in South Australia. The aim of this exercise is to achieve uniformity through advocacy and develop a united approach from consumer organisations.

- Consultation with key sector advocates on the RPWG papers
- Consultation with sector consumer representatives and stakeholders to develop a matrix of advocacy issues for the next 12 months of actions. This has come out of the work of the SACOSS Essential Services Policy and Advocacy Group.
- Meetings with TRUEnergy and Aurora, including participation in the Aurora rollout of Pay As You Go electricity meters in South Australia
- Participation in the ERIG Transmission Working Group
- Continual promotion of the SACOSS e-group for electricity advocates that operates state wide
- Participation in the ESCOSA Consumer Advisory Committee

Planned actions for the project are as follows:

- Preparation and submission of comment paper to Retail Policy Working Group (RPWG) Working Paper 1
- Preparation and submission of comment paper to Retail Policy Working Group Consolidated Paper as released
- Preparation and submission of comment paper to the Advocacy Panel's review of their advocacy agenda
- Preparation and submission of comment paper to the Advocacy Panel's review of their fixed costs assessments and the effectiveness of the capacity building project review
- Preparation and submission of comment paper to the Australian Government's Productivity Commission review of Australia's Consumer Policy framework
- Preparation and submission of comment paper to Ministerial Council on Energy's review of consumer advocacy arrangements
- Planned meetings with South Australian SCO and RPWG representatives to build on existing work and promote state advocacy on a national level
- Input to the climate change debate regarding how best to implement strategies for low income people to mitigate the effects of climate change including investigation into carbon reduction / mitigation strategies for low income people"
- Planned attendance at June National Consumers Roundtable meeting

The final project report will be forwarded by 30 June 2007. The report will contain copies of submissions, the resources and a general final analysis of the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 08 8226 4111 should you require any further information about the project.

Yours sincerely



Karen Grogan  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**