



SACOSS

*South Australian Council
of Social Service*

Marjorie Black House
47 King William Road
Unley SA 5061

P. 08 8305 4222
F. 08 8272 9500
E. sacoss@sacoss.org.au
www.sacoss.org.au

ABN 93 197 662 296

26 October 2007

David Bremner
Executive Officer
National Electricity Consumers Advocacy Panel
PO Box 43
SURREY HILLS
VIC 3127

Dear David

Progress Report: SACOSS Project – Application 250

I am pleased to outline some of the activities that the SACOSS project has undertaken in the three months since July 2007 when the funding commenced.

- ◆ Regional consultations to assist in developing the SACOSS response to the Retail Policy Working Group consolidated paper. SACOSS undertook regional consultations in Whyalla and Mount Gambier to garner opinions on the proposed changes to retail and non-economic functions of the National Electricity Market under the Retail Policy Working Group reforms.
- ◆ Participated in several teleconference briefings on issues such as the Retail Policy Working Group, the impending rollout of 'smart' meters as directed by COAG and the Australian Energy Market Operator.
- ◆ Meetings with several SACOSS member organisations and networks including Lutheran Community Care, Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide and Uniting Care Wesley Bowden, COTA, YACSA, the Low Income Support network and the Conservation Council of SA to discuss impending reforms and how they will impact on particular member organisations.
- ◆ Research and watching briefs on several issues including climate change and energy policy, the AEMC's review of the Effectiveness of Full Retail Competition processes and the impending review of Community Service Organisations.
- ◆ A full policy review of SACOSS essential services policies through the Essential Services Policy Advocacy Group, the main policy driver of essential services policy in South Australia.
- ◆ Articles published in a number of organisational newsletters and journals about the project including the Volunteering SA e-newsletter, Low Income Support Project Newsletter and Youth Affairs Council of South Australia Newsletter.

- ◆ Participation in the Advocacy Panel's pilot review of capacity building projects
- ◆ Finalisation and dissemination of a poster resource for advocacy workers in the sector
- ◆ Implementation planning for regular community sector updates on energy issues and initial planning for a sector wide forum to occur late November.
- ◆ Regional visit to Mount Gambier to develop links with sector workers and assess issues to assist in capacity building in rural South Australia.
- ◆ Attendance at briefings at the South Australian Department of Energy regarding the smart meter rollout.
- ◆ Maintenance of relationships and information sharing with various personnel from ESCOSA, DTEI, NERA consultants (smart meter rollout) and energy retailers including Origin Energy, Aurora Energy and TRUEnergy.

Please also find attached an invoice for the second installment payment of funds.

If you require any further information about these activities, do not hesitate to contact me on 08 8305 4222 or at karen@sacoss.org.au

Regards



Karen Grogan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR