



Strengthening Local Communities

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ANHCA welcomes the opportunity to provide this brief response to the "Development of Governance Standards" Consultation Paper released by Treasury in December 2012.

ANHCA represents over one thousand (1,000) Neighbourhood Centres, Community Houses, Learning Centres, Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres nationally, which are member organisations of their state and territory peak/representative bodies.

Neighbourhood Houses and Centres (NH&Cs) are not-for-profit community owned and managed organisations all of which share a community development and socially inclusive approach to the delivery and provision of services and activities for socially isolated and disadvantaged local communities.

The ANHCA response reflects that 85% of NH&Cs in Australia are independently incorporated associations with volunteer committees or boards of governance; 60% have a total gross income less than \$250,000 and 52% do not employ any full time staff.

The Australian Neighbourhood Houses & Centres Association:

- supports the principle of self-assessment and compliance with the governance standards;
- supports standard one – both principles and wording;
- supports standard two as it relates to the majority of NH&Cs as member based incorporated associations;
- supports standard three – both principles and wording;
- supports standard four – wording but concurs with the ACOSS submission that there are other areas of responsibility for organisations;
- is concerned with the wording of both standard 5 and standard 6 – neither standard provides clarity and are not drafted in plain English.

Finally, as a member of ACOSS, ANHCA endorses and supports the content of the detailed ACOSS response provided to us.

Yours sincerely,

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