



By email data@treasury.gov.au

23 March 2018

To whom it may concern,

RE: Review of Open Banking

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SACOSS is the peak body for the community services sector in South Australia, with a long-standing interest in consumer issues. We thank Treasury for the opportunity to comment on the Review of Open Banking by the Treasury. We do so in the context of its relationship to the COAG Energy Council review of access to consumer energy data.

The South Australian Council of Social Service is concerned with the proposed approach by the COAG Energy Council which does not address the core general privacy concerns that relate to the provision of data to third parties. This ranges from the specific concerns regarding access to data that may place people at harm in cases of domestic violence to the consideration of the details of the consent regime necessary to ensure that data is only used for the purpose that a consumer is authorising.

In addition, we note that current protections for consumers are inadequate due to limitations in the Australian Privacy Principles. We note that the recommendations of the Open Banking Review do recognise these issues and the need for amendments to the Privacy Act. We believe it is important to address the issues around how individuals are notified of how their data is collected and used, and how they provide consent.

The process proposed by Treasury for the development of the right of rules specified by the ACCC with the approval of the OAIC will provide the opportunity to address other specific issues around ethical uses of data. The timetable for the economy-wide right works well with the implementation of the priority services in energy.

We recommend that:

- The Treasury implementation of CDR immediately expand the working groups on standards and processes to include energy.
- The 2018-19 Budget provide additional resources to the ACCC and the OAIC to implement the Consumer Data Right for banking and energy by mid 2019

We look forward to continuing to be involved in the assessment and we thank you in advance for consideration of our comments.

If you have any questions relating to the above, please contact SACOSS Senior Policy Officer, Jo De Silva on (08) 8305 4211 or via jo@sacoss.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RWomersley', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Ross Womersley
Executive Director