

25 July 2016

Human Services inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins Street East
Melbourne VIC 8003

ABF submission to Productivity Commission Issues Paper: Human Services – Identifying sectors for reform

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above Inquiry. ABF is the peak body representing the blindness and vision impairment sector. As a member-based organisation, we have drawn on input from our membership to formulate a response to the Inquiry, with particular emphasis on the implications for Australians who are blind or vision impaired.

ABF supports the general intention underpinning the Inquiry to put user choice first in relation to the delivery of human services. However, ABF submits that it is imperative that in order for users or consumers to be able to make a choice about the human services they require, they must be able to access all relevant information in the format of their choice.

People who are blind or vision impaired face many barriers in independently accessing information and materials. Therefore, ABF submits that those human services that can improve access to information for people with disability, such as people who are blind or vision impaired, will be best suited to the increased application of competition, contestability and, most importantly, informed user choice.

Please find attached ABF's response to specific areas of the Issues Paper. Please call Ms Jennifer Grimwade on [redacted] should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Tony Starkey
Chair
Australian Blindness Forum