

## **OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK AUSTRALIA.**

**Submission to the  
Productivity Commission's Draft Research Report on the Contribution of  
the Not-for-Profit Sector.**

**The Older Women's Network Australia welcomes the Report which, if adopted by the Commonwealth Government, could make a difference to the operation of not-for-profit organizations throughout Australia. We appreciate the Report's recognition of the contribution of volunteers to the Australian community**

**The Older Women's Network Australia is a national organization of groups of older women throughout Australia. We are a community based self-help organization committed to promoting rights, dignity and well-being of older women through activities, especially in wellness centres, and as advocates.**

**We are pleased that the Draft Report recognizes the value the non-profit organizations add to the Australian community.**

**We support the Australian Government's policy on social inclusion. This is very important to the lives of older women.**

**Many older women suffer disadvantage through a life time of low income and social exclusion and other problems. The Older Women's Network Australia members provide opportunities for older women to increase their self-esteem and to enable them to achieve recognition of the work/contribution of older women.**

**We are not a large organization and many of the Report's recommendations will not directly affect us but we urge that the key functions of the Report, if adopted, will recognize such organizations as ours, realize our lack of resources and our need to engage volunteers who require protection.**

**We support the submission of the Older Women's Network in New South Wales. We support the establishment of a Centre for Community Service Effectiveness.**

**Cate Turner  
Convenor , Older Women's Network Australia**