

**ATTENTION: Tracey Horsfall**

**Re: Letter in support of ACOSS Submission to the Productivity Commission Draft Research Report**

To whom it may concern,

The National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS is the peak non-government organisation representing PLWHA (People Living with HIV/AIDS) community-based groups in Australia. NAPWA is overseen by a Board of Directors, nominated by the membership of PLHIV groups and organisations from around the country and provides advocacy, policy, education and outreach for people living with HIV. NAPWA has a long record of contributing to national discussions relating to the not-for-profit sector through our participation in numerous inquiries, discussions and consultations.

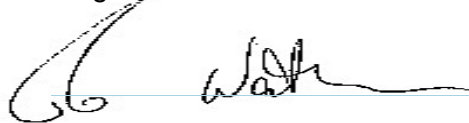
NAPWA welcomes the Productivity Commission Draft Research Report and many of the recommendations contained within. We agree with ACOSS that 'the lack of a central place to drive structural reform has contributed to the failure to achieve this to date' and we join with ACOSS in urging Federal and State Governments to implement this reform as a priority.

NAPWA draws the Inquiry's attention to ACOSS original submission in June 2009, where ACOSS outlined the benefits of a strong, diverse and effective not-for-profit community services and welfare sector. We agree with ACOSS who argue that, apart from the additional or external benefits to much of what is done by the not-for-profit sector, that there are also direct benefits to be drawn from the research, policy development, education and advocacy work undertaken by much of the sector and that this needs to be included in the analysis of the sector's contribution.

NAPWA also welcomes the survey of government agencies undertaken by the Productivity Commission and we look forward to the responses in the final Report. NAPWA believes that emphasis given to the relationship between government and the not-for-profit sector accurately reflects the consultations conducted by ACOSS and we welcome the Federal Government's interest in improving this relationship and its commitment to the development of an effective National Compact.

NAPWA believes that the Submission put by ACOSS to this Inquiry accurately reflects ACOSS member consultations and we look forward to progressing and participating in robust, constructive relationships between governments and the not-for-profit and acknowledge that we see the Productivity Commission's recommendations as an important step toward this end.

Regards



Executive Director  
**07 Dec.09**