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Your submission for this review:

The ASU represents workers in the non-government out-of-home-care sector in a range of roles including residential care worker, house manager, senior management and chief executive officer. ASU members work across New South Wales in metropolitan Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle, outer suburban areas, regional cities and towns and remote parts of the state. ASU members also work in related services such as child protection, early intervention, family support, youth justice and youth advocacy. ASU members have a strong commitment to protecting children and young people from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and injustice. We recommend that the Terms of Reference include the following: Expand 1) Investigate and report on the efficient costs for DCJ and non-government providers, of providing out-of-home-care, including the costs of: By adding f) psychological and mental health care and support to children and young people in out-of-home-care, including acute care, counselling, psychiatric and mental health assessment g) provision of security services for the safety of children, young people and staff h) removals from family due to lack of appropriate services such as housing h) failed restorations i) capital cost of designing and building appropriate out-of-home-care accommodation j) maintenance and repair of out-of-home-care accommodation. Expand the TOR to Add 4) Investigate and report on the extent of the gap between DCJ funding for residential out-of-home-care providers and the true cost of providing these services to understand the extent to which not-for-profit providers are already subsidising residential care. The Process Add to IPART may undertake any other consultation, including targeted consultation, that it considers appropriate Add ,in particular consult with front line OOHC residential care workers, accredited non-government agencies providing residential out-of-home-care, and the union representing workers in the non-government OOHC sector.

Ms Heather Dear
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
heather.dear@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Dear

Re: Draft Terms of Reference for the Review of Out-of-Home-Care Costs and Pricing

The ASU welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft terms of reference (TOR) for this timely and significant review.

The Australian Services Union NSW & ACT (Services) Branch (the ASU) represents workers throughout the non-government social, community and disability services sector. Of specific relevance to this Review, the ASU represents workers who are employed in the NSW non-government out-of-home-care (OOHC) sector. Our members are in a range of roles including residential care workers, house managers, senior management and chief executive officers.

ASU members work across New South Wales in metropolitan Sydney, Wollongong and Newcastle, outer suburban areas, regional cities and towns and remote parts of the state.

ASU members also work in related services such as child protection, early intervention, family support, youth justice and youth advocacy.

ASU members are highly skilled practitioners. They hold qualifications in law, psychology, management, social sciences, welfare work, disability work, social work, youth work, child protection, aged care and community work, mental health, drugs and alcohol counselling and a long list of other specialist qualifications.

ASU members have a strong commitment to protecting children and young people from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and injustice. They also work with and support children, young people and their families in times of crisis and trauma and work to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system.

We recommend that the Terms of Reference include the following:

Expand '1) Investigate and report on the efficient costs for DCJ and non-government providers, of providing out-of-home-care, including the costs of:'

By adding

- f) psychological and mental health care and support to children and young people in out-of-home-care, including acute care, counselling, psychiatric and mental health assessment
- g) provision of security services for the safety of children, young people and staff
- h) removals from family due to lack of appropriate services such as housing
- h) failed restorations
- i) capital cost of designing and building appropriate out-of-home-care accommodation
- j) maintenance and repair of out-of-home-care accommodation.

Expand the TOR to Add

4) Investigate and report on the extent of the gap between DCJ funding for residential out-of-home-care providers and the true cost of providing these services to understand the extent to which not-for-profit providers are already subsidising residential care.

'The Process' Add to

'IPART may undertake any other consultation, including targeted consultation, that it considers appropriate' Add ,in particular consult with front line OOHC residential care workers, accredited non-government agencies providing residential out-of-home-care, and the union representing workers in the non-government OOHC sector.

I would be happy to discuss any aspect of our submission to IPART with you and can be contacted at angus@asu.org.au .

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the terms of reference for this review.

Regards

Angus McFarland

Branch Secretary