

**MEDIA RELEASE – 4 June 2019**

## **ACT GOV BUDGET 2019/20**

### **WCS welcomes commitments on Woden Community Centre, public housing and continued support of NDIS**

Woden Community Service (WCS) again welcomed the ACT Government's allocation of \$1.75m towards the design of the Woden Community Centre over the next two years in the ACT Budget for 2019/2020, as announced last week.

"I welcome the ACT Government's commitment towards building a community centre for Woden and look forward to working with the Government and the local community on developing this plan," said WCS CEO Jenny Kitchin.

Responding to other ACT Government budget announcements made today, WCS also welcomed the extension of 40 new units of the Common Ground program. Common Ground is an important initiative that provides supportive housing for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

"The addition of 40 units to this program will go some way to assisting some of our most vulnerable community members who are faced with housing challenges," said Ms Kitchin.

"We have many clients reaching out to us through OneLink and our Supported Tenancy Services who are in desperate need of housing solutions.

"The Government's commitment to renew, expand and improve public housing in the very difficult housing market in the ACT is welcome," said Ms Kitchin.

The transition towards the full implementation of the NDIS for people living with a disability continues to throw up challenges in the community sector.

"We welcome the ACT Government's continued commitment towards the Integrated Service Response Program that supports people with disabilities who have very complex needs and may not get them met through current NDIS plans," said Ms Kitchin.

"WCS is disappointed that a specific service to assist people living with hoarding disorders has not been included in the priorities for 2019/20.

"WCS has been working extensively in this area and we had hoped that this need would be addressed for people living in both public and private housing with complex hoarding behaviors," said Ms Kitchin.

WCS was first established in 1969 by a group of local residents responding to the needs of people in the community. Childcare, family support, aged care, social groups, mental health support and other community-based services have always been a central part of the services that WCS provides.

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

*Woden Community Service (WCS) is a not for profit organisation that has been providing high quality community based services for 50 years.*

*WCS employs 390 staff and has an active volunteer program delivering a wide range of services covering: children, families, young people and seniors, including disability, housing and mental health support.*

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