



## Council of Social Service of New South Wales

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Georgina Beattie  
Director  
Better Regulation Office  
NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Level 37, 1 Farrer Place,  
Sydney, NSW 2000

9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Dear Ms Beattie

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed National Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA).

NCOSS is generally supportive of the proposed adoption of the SCOA by all Government funding agencies.

NCOSS has already adopted the NSW version of the SCOA, and given its strong alignment with the proposed national SCOA, it is unlikely that the adoption of the national SCOA in NSW will result in any major transactions cost for those NGOs already using the NSW version.

From our analysis, the major difference between the proposed national SCOA and the NSW version is the definitions of fundraising and gaming. The account headings for these expenses now have several definitions, depending on the jurisdiction of the organisation. However, we understand that these variations will be resolved in a second stage of the SCOA in 2012.

For those NGOs that haven't adopted the NSW SCOA, and decide that it is in their interests to adopt the national SCOA, there will be some initial transaction costs involved in the transition to the national SCOA. However, as the adoption of the national SCOA by funded NGOs is voluntary, these agencies can make an informed decision once they have assessed the potential benefits to their organisation.

Once adopted by all NSW funding agencies, it will be essential that these agencies *consistently* use this national standard for financial reporting, and do not also seek additional financial information from funded services. This will ensure both the sector and Government will be able to maximise the benefits that arise from the reduced transaction costs.

The tangible benefits of the national SCOA will be effectively realised as more NGOs adopt the national standard. Consequently NCOSS would recommend that following the adoption and implementation of the national SCOA by the NSW Government, that funding is provided to resource interested NGOs in making the transition.

We would also recommend that these information /training sessions are particularly targeted to smaller NGOs (less than 15 FTE staff or under 1 mil).

Should you require any further information, please contact Catherine Mahony, Deputy Director, and Sector Development/Corporate Services on 92112599 ext 110.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Peters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Peters  
Director

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