



22 February 2016

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE: VALUE OF NRSDC TO COMMUNITY MORE THAN JUST THE BUDGET BOTTOM LINE NEW REPORT SAYS

A new report has shown local community service organisations provide greater value to the community than just the budget bottom line.

The Ernst and Young report, commissioned by NSW Council of Social Service (NCOSS), investigated the broader value that local community service organisations contribute to their local communities.

Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC) was one of three case studies in the report which found traditional economic valuations often overlook the significant non-financial resources such as volunteers and the creation of broader economic and social value.

NRSDC CEO Tony Davies said whilst the findings have widely been known in the sector, the new report demonstrates this total value creation using rigorous economic analysis.

“We get to see the value of our work every day, however, to have it recognised through an economic analysis framework is really important,” Mr Davies said. “The work we do contributes directly to building the fabric of the community that we serve and the effect of that work goes well beyond the money that is spent.”

The report found local community service organisations provide an additional 46% in value, with an estimated 92 cents for every dollar of grant or operating profit remaining within the local economy.

In response to the findings, NCOSS said while both the NSW and Federal governments are commissioning community service organisations to deliver more and more services, the process appears to show a preference to fund fewer, larger organisations that can operate across multiple regions.

NCOSS said by giving preference to fewer and larger organisations, Governments risks the potential loss of value currently invested in our communities by local community service organisations both economically and socially.



Key findings summary:

- Investment in locally based community service organisations yields significant dividends that are reinvested in local economic activity.
- Communities that are dominated by a single industry are vulnerable to downturns with households exposed to highly cyclical incomes. Local community service organisations are often significant employers in regional communities.
- Organisations that provide access to free or discounted community facilities for small organisations and groups support the well-being and vibrancy of the local community.
- Local knowledge about local issues allows smarter investment
- Community service organisation staff share invaluable skills with their community through volunteering
- Local Community Service organisations create significant economic and social value for their local community

For more information on the report visit

www.ncoss.org.au/sites/default/files/public/policy/EY_Final_Report.pdf.

***Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC)** is a community-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes fairness and social inclusion in the Northern Rivers region of NSW.*

-Ends-

Media enquiries contact: Amanda Shoebridge, Communications and Marketing Officer, Northern Rivers Social Development Council (NRSDC). Ph. 0428 242675 e: communications@nrfdc.org.au