

13 March 2019

Can Yaşmut
Executive Officer
Local Community Services Association

Sent via: can@lcsansw.org.au

Dear Can

I refer to the Local Community Services Association state election policy platform and thank you for bringing to my attention your proposals to strengthen neighbourhood centres and improve their capacity to provide vital community services.

Neighbourhood Centres are invaluable, encouraging community engagement and action, including with marginalised, disadvantaged and at-risk people, linking them to community support and early help to prevent the need for costly crisis and institutional responses. I work with the centres in the Sydney electorate and particularly value the practical help with constituents and coordination of community campaigns for reform or laws and policies for community benefit.

It is very disappointing that successive governments have continued to shift resources away from prevention and community building programs or providing security of funding to enable long term planning and continuity of service.

Giving the Department of Premier and Cabinet a coordinating leadership role could help embed Neighbourhood Centres and community development in all government policies and programs. I support LCSA's four point plan to secure Neighbourhood Centres' future through strategic planning requirements, core budget funding, a whole-of-government approach and a standalone program for community development services.

If re-elected, I am committed to advocating for Neighbourhood Centres in the next parliament and hope to work with you further to achieve better outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

