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9 January 2014

Ms Lyn Beverley
Secretary
Senate Select Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: coaudit.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Beverley

RE: Inquiry into the Abbott Government's Commission of Audit

Thank you for your letter dated 19 December 2013 seeking feedback from the National Welfare Rights Network (NWRN) on the Federal Government's Commission of Audit.

The NWRN's submission to the Commission of Audit, *Budgeting for a Better Future*, is attached. We also provide a summary document, *Will the commission of audit lead to a good society?*, which highlights some of the key issues we address in the submission.

The Commission of Audit is headed by Tony Shepherd, President of the Business Council of Australia. Unfortunately, there is no representative from the Australian Council of Social Service on the Commission. This lack of representation is deeply concerning because ACOSS is the voice for many of those who may be adversely affected by the Audit's outcomes.

Welfare is one of the key areas that the Audit intends to closely scrutinise. We note that the last Commission of Audit that was initiated by the Howard Coalition Government in 1996 led to a series of very severe cuts to a wide range of important services and programs. A repeat of this exercise today will have significant impacts upon many vulnerable people in the community. It is also apparent that the Commission of Audit intends to explore Centrelink's future. Our submission explores current issues with Centrelink service delivery.

The NWRN would welcome the opportunity to provide further feedback on our submission, the work of the Commission of Audit and on any reports that are released by the Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Yours sincerely

Maree O'Halloran AM
President
National Welfare Rights Network

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