

17 January 2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Australian Senate inquiry into recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events

The Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) welcomes the Environment and Communications References Committee's *inquiry into recent trends in and preparedness for extreme weather events*.

VCOSS supports and endorses the submission to the inquiry by the Australian Council for Social Service (ACOSS). VCOSS shares ACOSS' concern that the community sector, which provides key services in supporting communities prepare, respond to and recover from emergency events, are not resourced or prepared to face the increase in extreme weather events and climate change risks.

In addition, you may be aware that the Victorian Government is undertaking major reform of the State's crisis and emergency management arrangements. The Government released a Green Paper on the reform in 2011 and a White Paper in December 2012. I have attached for the Committee's consideration and discussion a copy of the VCOSS submission to the Green Paper as this contains information relevant to the current Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications Inquiry's Terms of Reference (c), (d) and (e).

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Atkins
Acting Chief Executive Officer

Encl – VCOSS *Emergency Management Green Paper* submission