

8 November 2017

Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation inquiry
Productivity Commission
Locked Bag 2, Collins St East
Melbourne VIC 8003

Dear Commissioner,

Please find attached the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasCOSS) response to the *Draft Report* of the inquiry into horizontal fiscal equalisation. TasCOSS supports full horizontal equalisation as it is implemented at present, and believes that equity of the capacity of states to provide services and associated infrastructure should be the primary objective of this process.

Further, I note with concern that no public hearing for this inquiry is scheduled to be held in Tasmania. Tasmanians experience entrenched socio-economic disadvantage, and per capita, Tasmanians also stand to lose disproportionately in some alternative equalisation scenarios modelled in the *Draft Report*.

Tasmanians deserve the opportunity to participate in a public hearing during this process, and I hope one can be arranged.

Yours sincerely,

Kym Goodes

CEO

Tasmanian Council of Social Service