

## **Board Communique: April 2023**

**The Energy Consumers Australia Board met via video conference on 20 April 2023.**

### **Grants Meeting**

The Board met to assess a range of funding applications made to the Energy Consumers Australia Grants Program from advocacy and research organisations. The Board wishes to congratulate these organisations on the high caliber of applications and their alignment with Energy Consumers Australia's strategic priorities.

All successful grants had a strong emphasis on placing consumers at the heart of the energy system. Each project in their own way ensures that we consider, incorporate and bring to the fore the value that consumers add to the energy system and that their voices and perspectives are elevated. Equally, there is a sustained focus on equity and measures to address this across the grants, recognising that our community is strongest when we work together so that no one is left behind.

The following projects were approved for funding:

#### **Australian National University**

**Keeping the community in community batteries: targeted research and knowledge sharing to maximise consumer benefits**

**\$181,018**

This project will increase understanding of ways to improve equity and access to neighbourhood energy resources and improve energy system design to reduce emissions. It will also influence policy and regulatory decision-makers and interested stakeholders on community scale batteries.

#### **South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS)**

**Refreshing the National Energy Consumer Roundtable Network**

**\$148,143**

Funding will be provided to SACOSS to implement a refresh of the National Energy Consumer Roundtable Network. The Roundtable is a coalition of energy consumer advocates primarily focused on policy development and strategic collaboration which seeks opportunities for influence. The Roundtable helps ensure that consumer perspectives are embedded into energy planning and decision making.

#### **Energetic Communities Association**

**Building a Coalition for Energy Efficiency Minimum Standards, Mandatory Disclosure and Equitable Energy Performance in Queensland.**

**\$173,082.27**

The project will build an evidence base for a strong coalition of new and existing advocates to articulate the need for improved energy policy outcomes for renters in Queensland and across the National Energy Market, particularly to improve sustainability, health and financial welfare.

**St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria**

**Tariff-Tracking, energy price and market analysis post price resets in July 2023, 2024 and 2025**

**\$341,880**

This project will provide timely analysis of retail pricing trends as we are experiencing upward pricing pressures, high inflation and energy market transition. Media exposure and advocacy around the evidence-based analysis will facilitate consumer participation in the market and key stakeholder engagement will contribute to policy and regulatory outcomes.

More information about the Grants Program, application dates, how to apply and eligibility criteria can be found on the Energy Consumers Australia [website](#).