

Board Communique: August 2021

The Energy Consumers Australia Board met via video conference on 19 August 2021.

Grants Meeting

The Board received presentations from four current grants recipients who are carrying out high-impact projects for the benefit of household and small business energy consumers.

Presenting were:

University of Sydney Queensland and University of Technology - *Supporting CALD Australians to be empowered energy consumers*

Australian Energy Foundation - *Clean, reliable energy for people on life support*

South Australian Council of Social Service and Australian Council of Social Service - *Modelling differential impacts of changes to the electricity concession*

ACT Council of Social Service – *ACT Energised Consumers Project*

Board members were impressed by the breadth of activities currently being carried out under the ECA Grants Program. These projects range from providing recommendations for energy stakeholders to better communicate with CALD energy consumers to working collaboratively with Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) in order to better meet the needs of life support customers.

Board members thanked representatives from all four projects for taking the time to present their ongoing work, noting that each of the projects appears to be progressing well towards making a strong, positive contribution on behalf of Australian energy consumers.

Annual Report

A final, full-text draft of the Energy Consumers Australia 2020-21 Annual Report was presented to Board members, alongside a “design ready” draft showing the proposed presentation style. For the second year, the Annual Report has been composed on the basis of in-depth interviews with all staff and a workshop where staff were given the opportunity to review and shape the document’s first draft. The Board noted that this process has proven to be a positive one for the organisation; successfully investing all staff in the resulting Report and producing a high-quality document that is an accurate, and well-presented account of ECA’s activities for the financial year 2020-21. Directors noted the range and volume of activities described in the report, expressing satisfaction that ECA staff have been extremely active during an historically-difficult period and that these activities have matched well with the organisation’s declared mission, purpose and activities. A final draft of the Annual Report will be presented for Board endorsement at the September meeting before it is submitted to the Member and then shared more broadly.