



## **Index of recommendations of special relevance for COAG from our *Pre-Budget Submission to Commonwealth Government 2008-09***

The following table highlights recommendations especially relevant to COAG's work agenda from Catholic Social Services Australia's *2008-09 Pre-Budget Submission to the Commonwealth Government* of January 2008.<sup>1</sup>

| Recommendation no. | Topic   | Detail   | Most relevant COAG Working Group(s)  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| 1                  | Social inclusion  | Moral and economic imperatives for new expenditure.  | All  |
| 4                  | Social data   | Inter-governmental cooperation towards a new Australia-wide social data system   | Health and ageing<br>Housing<br>Indigenous reform<br>Productivity agenda   |
| 5-7                | Locational disadvantage   | Integrated inter-governmental funding of and planning (with industry and NGOs) for place-based initiatives.  | All  |
| 8                  | Audits of social policy services and information infrastructure | Audits to cover services operated by all providers (all levels of government, community sector agencies and business).   | Health and ageing<br>Housing<br>Indigenous reform<br>Productivity agenda   |
| 9-11               | Red tape affecting community sector                             | The COAG WG on Business Regulation and Competition should address the regulatory environment affecting community sector agencies – assuming no other body is set up with this role. A single registration process across levels of government should assess financial and governance credentials of not-for profit agencies. | Business regulation and competition  |
| 16-17              | Community sector funding security                               | Commonwealth Government should enhance funding security in programs where it funds community sector provision of social services – and should encourage States and Territories to do the same.   | (Possibly) Business reform and competition<br>Health and ageing<br>Housing<br>Indigenous reform<br>Productivity agenda |

<sup>1</sup> That submission is at [Annex F](#) to our 20 March 2008 *Open Letter to COAG Participants*.

| Recommendation no. | Topic   | Detail   | Most relevant COAG Working Group(s)      |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| 25                 | COAG Working Groups' social inclusion objectives      | "The promotion of social inclusion" should be an explicit objective of every COAG Working Group, with more specific social inclusion objectives and work program steps developed as appropriate. This is needed to ensure that reforms pursued by COAG promote – rather than inadvertently harm – the interests of the most disadvantaged people in our community. | All                                      |
| 26                 | COAG Working Groups' community consultation processes | COAG Working Groups should engage in broad, structured and specifically funded community consultation.   | All                                      |
| 33                 | Disability services                                   | Urgent provision of additional funds to support people with a disability.  |  |
| 34                 | Indigenous Australians                                | Early action to remove application to entire Indigenous communities of automatic "income management", or quarantining, of welfare payments [see also Recommendations 60-61 below].   | Indigenous reform                        |
| 35                 | Mental health   | Ensuring increased sensitivity on part of government agencies re needs of people with mental illness who are affected by welfare-to-work policy.   | Health and ageing                        |
| 37                 | Work and family                                       | Consideration of work and family issues should be integral to government policy-making across a wide range of issues – including income support, retirement incomes, health and industrial relations.  | Productivity agenda<br>Health and ageing |
| 40                 | Housing   | COAG's Housing Working Group should give higher priority to its objective of improving social and community housing and ensure appropriate funding for relevant implementation activities.   | Housing                                  |
| 42                 | Homelessness  | Governments should go beyond dealing with homelessness after the fact by prioritising action to address the causes of homelessness, especially poverty and domestic violence.  | Housing                                  |

| Recommendation no. | Topic   | Detail  | Most relevant COAG Working Group(s) |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 44                 | Climate change  | Measures to address climate change should involve broad consultation; include steps to protect low-income Australians from associated cost-of-living increases; and provide well-targeted energy efficiency assistance programs.  | Climate change and water            |
| 45                 | Early childhood education                                     | Access to free pre-schooling should be provided for all three-year-old children in highly disadvantaged areas. This measure could be targeted by using the mapping tool provided by the <i>Dropping Off the Edge</i> report.  | Productivity agenda                 |
| 46                 | Computer access   | For students from disadvantaged areas, support for computer use in the home environment should be provided to complement work undertaken at school.   | Productivity agenda                 |
| 60-61              | Quarantining ("income management") of income support payments | We call for evidence to be presented in support of the policy of "income management", and recommend the review of the national application of the policy in the context of the planned mid-2008 review of the "Northern Territory intervention" [see also Recommendation 34 above]. | Indigenous reform                   |