

Department of Communities Tasmania

COMMUNITIES, SPORT AND RECREATION

Executive Building, Level 4, 15 Murray Street HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 65 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Ph (03) 6165 8388
Email csr@communities.tas.gov.au Web www.communities.tas.gov.au



Mr Duncan Spender
Chief Executive Officer
Multicultural Council of Tasmania
ceo@mcot.org.au

Dear Duncan

Thank you for your invitation to present an overview of the Department of Communities Tasmania's (Communities Tasmania) expectations in relation to its funded peak bodies at an upcoming information session for members of the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT) on 10 August.

Communities Tasmania funds MCOT to be a peak body representing the interests of culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse communities in Tasmania. Peak bodies funded by the Tasmanian Government are expected to undertake consultation, research, support policy development, and provide advice to Government. Communities Tasmania works closely with MCOT, and many peak organisations to ensure that they are able to fulfil their obligations under their specific funding agreements with Government. It is important to acknowledge that MCOT has provided significant advice to Government on the impacts of COVID-19 on migrant and multicultural communities, throughout the pandemic.

Communities Tasmania expects organisations that receive Government funding to have good financial and governance mechanisms in place, as well as processes to resolve differences of approach and perspective that may arise from time to time in the course of operating a community organisation. Organisations like the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), and TasCOSS provide advice to community sector organisations on good governance, and Communities Tasmania encourages its funded organisations to engage with this advice on a regular basis. We understand that MCOT has received advice from the AICD in relation to constitutional changes.

The number of Board members on the MCOT Board is determined by its constitution. Communities Tasmania expects all peak bodies to operate effectively and with strong governance structures that meet the needs of the organisation, and this includes consulting with its members which we understand MCOT has recently done through a member survey.

I look forward to speaking with MCOT members on 10 August.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Kent".

Kate Kent
Deputy Secretary, Communities Sport and Recreation

7 August 2020