

# Conversation Starter CS18-02: Socioeconomic impacts

## DO DIFFERENT DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS PRESENT CHALLENGES FOR YOUR COUNCIL, AND IF SO, WHICH GROUPS AND IN WHAT FORMS ARE THE CHALLENGES MANIFESTING?

In preparation for the 2021-22 Triennium, the State Grants Commission (the Commission) is seeking council comments on how different demographic groups present challenges for councils beyond the standard service delivery cost for its population.

This information will help the Commission determine the scope of any review of its cost adjustors in its Base Grant Model in recognising socioeconomic effects.

### Conversation Starter: Background

Currently the only socioeconomic related cost adjustor the Commission recognises in its Base Grant Model is the Unemployment Cost Adjustor.

As part of the 2018 Hearings and Visits program, the Commission seeks information and input from councils to help it understand the main issues and drivers, and extent of the impacts, councils experience from different demographic groups. The Commission seeks to understand the extent to which these may, or may not, be adequately captured, or are consistent with, the Commission's Unemployment Cost Adjustor relativities and expenditure categories (Health Housing and Welfare and Law Order and Public Safety).

This information will assist the Commission in considering if further recognition of

demographic factors is needed within the Base Grant Model, and therefore what research may be required during the 2021-22 Triennium.

### Conversation Starter: Questions

To help understand these issues and impacts, the Commission seeks council's views on the following questions:

1. To what extent, and across which areas, would different demographic groups impact on council expenditure beyond the standard service delivery cost for its population?
2. To what extent are any of the expenditure categories that the Commission currently recognises as being challenged by Unemployment Cost Adjustor (Health Housing and Welfare and Law Order and Public Safety) affected by different

demographic groups, compared to other areas? Is the impact even or unbalanced? What other expenditure categories may also be affected? Which expenditure categories are unaffected by which demographic groups?

3. In what way, and to what extent, is your council affected by above average or below average occurrences of different demographic groups. Examples of different demographic groups may include, but is not limited to, the number of population greater than Age 60, the number of population less than Age 5, the number of population with a non-English speaking background.
4. In the event that the Commission determines that it needs to consider providing greater recognition of different demographic factors in its Base Grant Model, please also provide suggestions as to acceptable information sources for the Commission to determine council relativities for each different demographic discussed.

### Submissions deadline

To enable discussion at the Commission's 2018 Hearings and Visits which commence 13 February 2018, submissions should be received by Friday 2 February 2018.

*The Commission has prepared these flyers to act as thought provokers and conversation starters with councils in order to initiate discussions on the issue being considered.*

*The intention is to gain council input on these issues early in the Commission's process of formulating any reviews.*

*These Conversation Starter flyers are not intended to be detailed papers.*

*Council submissions on Conversation Starter issues can take any form councils wish. If available, the Commission would appreciate documentary evidence, data and council suggestions on the extent of the issue, and if appropriate, suggestions of suitable data sources relating to the matter being considered.*