



Hon Tjorn Sibma MLC  
Member for North Metropolitan Region

23 August 2017

Hon Matthew Swinbourne MLC  
Chair, Environment and Public Affairs Committee  
c/o Clerk of the Legislative Council  
Parliament of Western Australia

*Matthew*  
Dear Chair,

**PETITION CONCERNING COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE DEVELOPMENT  
SERVICE FUNDING MODEL CHANGES**

On 17 August 2017, I tabled a petition in the house drafted by Ms Jane Chilcott, the CEO of Linkwest, containing 254 signatures and couched in the following terms –

*We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia are opposed to the Department of Communities' proposed changes to the Community and Neighbourhood Development Service (CNDS) funding arrangements. We respectfully seek that the Department of Communities' proposed changes are stopped immediately, and that the Department of Communities engage in genuine consultation with the WA Neighbourhood Centre sector. The current process fails to provide any evidence for the proposed changes and fails to value the local decision making, place-based services and social impact of the Neighbourhood Centre model.*

*Your petitioners respectfully request that the Legislative Council request the Minister for Communities to: instruct the Department of Communities to negotiate a program which halts the open tender process; conduct an independent review of the Neighbourhood Centre sector; and negotiate with the sector on an equitable process and plan for a transition to the new model of service delivery.*

You might choose to draw the committee's attention to the fact that I also advised the house that I had received a non-conforming petition couched in similar terms and signed by 8,048 people. I have possession of this petition, and noting the significant community interest in this matter, stand ready to provide it to the committee for their interest or action upon request.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Tjorn Sibma MLC  
Member for the North Metropolitan Region  
Shadow Minister for Government Accountability; Community Services; Youth;  
Seniors & Ageing; Volunteers; Veterans Issues