



Our ref: DHS/19/02759  
Your ref: 7257900

Ms Nat Cook MP  
Member for Hurtle Vale  
PO Box 158  
WOODCROFT SA 5162

Office of the Chief Executive  
Level 8 North  
Riverside Building  
North Terrace  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 292  
Adelaide SA 5001

DX115

Tel: 08 8413 9050  
Fax: 08 8413 9002

ABN 11 525 031 744

Sent by email: [shadowhumanservices@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:shadowhumanservices@parliament.sa.gov.au)

Dear Ms Cook

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act), received by the Department of Human Services (DHS) on 5 February 2019, seeking access to:

*Copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS, SAHT, SAHA or Ministerial Paper 18MHS/0694.*

Unfortunately, DHS was unable to make a determination on your application within the 30 days, therefore it is considered to be a 'deemed refusal' under section 19(2)(b) of the Act. However, DHS has continued to process your application outside of this timeframe. Section 19(2)(a) of the Act provides that an agency can release documents outside of the thirty-day timeframe, and this is still taken to be a determination under the Act.

Two documents were located that fit within the scope of your request and I have determined to release these documents in full. Please find enclosed a copy of the documents released, and a document schedule containing a brief description of each document and determination in summary form.

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may/will be published on the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, please contact Fiona Braendler, Senior FOI Officer, on telephone 8413 9094 or by email at [DHSFreedomofInformation@sa.gov.au](mailto:DHSFreedomofInformation@sa.gov.au). If you disagree with publication, you will need to advise the Senior FOI Officer within two weeks of the date of this determination.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Schutz  
**ACCREDITED FOI OFFICER**

22 / 03 / 2019

### SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS – DHS/19/02759

Freedom of information application from Nat Cook MP seeking access to copies of any and all documents (including but not limited to physical and electronic material) regarding DHS, SAHT, SAHA or Ministerial Paper 18MHS/0694.

No	Author	Date	Description of document	Determination	Reason
1.	Patrick Maher, Deputy Director - Community Engagement and Grants	10/10/2018	Briefing – 18MHS/0694 - Request from Nat Cook MP for Advice About the Cessation of Southern Connections	Released in full	No exempt material
2.			Attachment 1 to Document 1 - Response letter to Nat Cook MP	Released in full	No exempt material

18MHS/0694



Government of South Australia


Department of Human Services

TO MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

RE: REQUEST FROM NAT COOK MP FOR ADVICE ABOUT THE CESSATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTIONS

Decision/action required by:...../...../.....

Reason:.....

Recommendation	Response
1. That you note this briefing and consider the draft response to Ms Nat Cook MP, Member for Hurtle Vale, for information about the cessation of Southern Connections.	Approved / Not Approved / <u>Noted</u>
<b>Comments:</b> ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... ..... .....	 Hon Michelle Lensink MLC 10 / 10 2018

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this brief is to provide a response letter to Ms Nat Cook MP, Member for Hurtle Vale regarding the cessation of Southern Connections.

**KEY POINTS**

- Northern and Southern Connections ceased to operate from 1 July 2018.
- Southern Connections led innovation and youth entrepreneurial initiatives by supporting the ongoing development and implementation of the HIPHUB youth entrepreneurial initiative.
- A Southern Adelaide resident has raised concerns to Ms Cook about the cessation of Southern Connections and its impact on building local community.
- Ms Cook is seeking advice to be included in the response to the constituent.

**RISKS/SENSITIVITIES - Nil**

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## DISCUSSION

Established in 2009, Southern Connections has contributed to efforts to improve social and economic outcomes in southern Adelaide by aligning the resources and activities of the three levels of government, not for profits, business and other local stakeholders to respond to issues of regional significance.

Southern Connections led innovation and youth entrepreneurial initiatives by supporting the ongoing development and implementation of the HIPHUB youth entrepreneurial initiative. In 2017-18, Southern Connections continued its role as an active partner in social planning involving the four southern Adelaide Councils - Marion, Mitcham, Holdfast and Onkaparinga - across public health plans and social procurement.

In the area of Social Impact Investing, Southern Connections also investigated and trialled new models of funding and delivering social services to the public using social impact tools to mobilise private investment in the sector.

Initiatives managed by Southern Connections were generally catalyst projects funded to 30 June 2018, designed to be delivered by partners beyond the initial funding period. For example, two programs (with a youth employment focus) that are continuing are the HIPHUB youth entrepreneurial initiative and the Be a Job Maker program, both which are being delivered by several partners.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Community Services Division previously funded Southern Connections and Northern Connections, both of which ceased to operate from 1 July 2018.

This is a Budget savings measure to direct funding into areas identified by government as a higher priority. Savings of approximately \$700,000 per annum (indexed) have been identified through this measure.

Funding for Beyond Auto was to cease on 30 June 2018, however the Department for Industry and Skills has extended funding for an additional three months.

DHS will continue to maintain local partnerships in the southern region through the Youth Strategy, engaging with entrepreneurial programs, and the Regional Partnerships team as they continue their work with local government, NGOS and regional stakeholders.

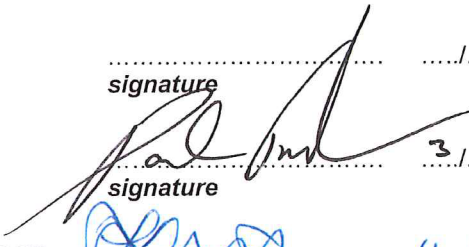
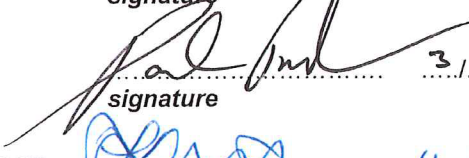

## BUDGET

Are there financial implications

No

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<b>Division</b>	Community Services		
<b>Deputy Director</b>	Patrick Maher	 signature	...../...../.....
<b>A/Director</b>	Paul Tsoundarou	 signature	.....3/9/18
<b>A/Deputy Chief Executive</b>	Kim-Sherie Summers	 signature	.....4/9/18

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Response letter to Nat Cook MP

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Patrick Maher , Deputy Director - Community Engagement and Grants 8207 0508 / <a href="mailto:Patrick.maher@sa.gov.au">Patrick.maher@sa.gov.au</a>
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**Government  
of South Australia**

**Minister for Human Services**

Level 12 South  
1 King William Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 2832  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 115  
Tel 08 8463 6560  
Fax 08 8463 4480

18MHS/0694

Ms Nat Cook MP  
Member for Hurtle Vale  
PO Box 158  
WOODCROFT SA 5162

*Nat,*  
Dear Ms Cook

Thank you for your letter seeking advice about the cessation of Southern Connections.

Initiatives and projects managed by Southern Connections were funded to 30 June 2018 and were generally designed to be delivered by partners beyond the funding period. For example, two programs that are continuing a focus on youth employment, are the HIPHUB youth entrepreneurial initiative and the 'Be a Job Maker' program. Both programs are being delivered by several partners.

Constituents can be reassured that my Department will continue to maintain local partnerships in the southern region through Youth Strategy, engaging with entrepreneurial programs, engaging with the Community Services Regional Partnerships team as they continue their work with local government, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and regional stakeholders.

If you would like further information about the ongoing initiatives in the southern region, please contact Chris Karvountzis, Chief Innovation Officer on 8415 4164 or 0423 025 386 or via email [Christopher.karvountzis2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Christopher.karvountzis2@sa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

**Hon Michelle Lensink MLC**  
**MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

*10 / 10* / 2018

