

Community Services Grants Program

Update on CSGP Review 2007

Communiqué 2

Over the past 18 months, DoCS has informed the sector that the Community Services Grants Program is being reviewed in order to define the future directions for the Program and ensure its Program growth and viability. Letters regarding the Review have been sent to all CSGP funded services, further information has been available on the DoCS website, and the latest February 2007 DoCS *Funding Reform Update* newsletter sent to all DoCS funded services in February contained a column on the CSGP Review.

The Review is being undertaken by DoCS, using the resources of Ernst & Young, and will be overseen by the CSGP Roundtable.

There are three steps to the initial stage of the Review;

1. develop a clear headline result and set of program results for the program (by June 2007) which align it with DoCS result logic and corporate directions
2. identify options for aligning the current service system with this vision and program results (by September 2007)
3. Develop a business case for increasing resources for the program, based on the outcomes of Steps 1 and 2 (by October 2007).

Step 1: CSGP Results

The first stage of the Review is complete. After direct consultation with the Peak representatives on the CSGP Roundtable, a clear headline result and set of program results, which show what the program is expected to achieve for clients, has been developed for the CSGP. The target group for the program has also been clearly defined and includes the input from the CSGP Roundtable.

In line with the approach being applied across all of DoCS funding programs, the CSGP results will clearly show the scope of the program, and what aspects of the Department's core business the program will deliver against. Service Providers will be funded to deliver services that contribute to achieving these results.

The direction for CSGP is determined by the Headline Result:

Disadvantaged children, young people, families and disadvantaged communities are resilient and safe

Achieving this result will be supported by the target group and program results that appear below:

Target Group

Disadvantaged children (0-16), young people (12-25), their families and disadvantaged communities

Four "Program Results" have been developed which provide a distinct focus for each group:

- Result 1 – Disadvantaged Communities
- Result 2 - Disadvantaged Families & Young People
- Result 3 - Children & Young People at risk
- Result 4 - Children & Young People in crisis

The attached Results document provides the full details developed in the Review

Step 2: Service Alignment

With Step 1 now finalised, the Review is moving into Step 2, which involves describing how the current CSGP funded service system aligns with the revised CSGP target group and results.

Ernst and Young have developed a process for developing a broad understanding of how the current target groups and activities of CSGP funded services align with the target group and results that have been identified for the CSGP through Step 1.

The information will be gathered through a desktop exercise using the existing Reports on Achievements (ROAs) already held at the DoCS Network level. As such, it is expected that no additional information will be needed from services.

Following completion of the desktop exercise, the information will be provided for comment to individual services. Any comments that a service wishes make on the information can be provided to the CSGP Review mailbox at CSGPReview@community.nsw.gov.au.

Individual services will not be named or targeted in the Review or identified in the business case. It is purely a program level review.

Moving towards the revised CSGP

Once a clear picture of how the current service system aligns with the revised CSGP through Stage 2, options will be developed for improving this alignment. Change is expected to occur gradually and through existing annual processes relating to contracting and planning.

Formal discussions with individual services will be undertaken as part of the coordinated renegotiation of Service Agreements commencing in 2008 & with the introduction of Performance Based Contracting over the following 3 years. This process will provide the information and timelines for services wishing to participate and contribute to the defined results in the CSGP.

There will be no forced changes to services. Services will have the option of using Performance Improvement Plans (which are part of the Performance Monitoring Framework being phased in for all DoCS funding programs) to demonstrate how they will move over time to achieve the new CSGP results.

Step 3: Developing the Business case

Whilst information in Step 2 will be gathered on individual services, this information will be compiled into "big picture" themes and issues to be included in the Business Case to be put to Treasury. The purpose of the Business Case is to support the recommendation for increased resources for the program.

All information gathered in the Review will be maintained at Network level and not used in any way other than to inform the Business Case.

General

The Review is due for completion in October 2007. Implementation of any changes to the current service system will be developed after that date.

Information sessions on the Review and its findings will be held around the State and all information will be made available online at:

http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/html/comm_partners/comm_partners.htm

Feedback or questions about the Review can be directed to the CSGP Roundtable Peaks:

[NCOSS – info@ncoss.org.au](mailto:info@ncoss.org.au) - 02 9211 2599

[Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW - noel.baum@lgsa.org.au](mailto:noel.baum@lgsa.org.au)

(Social Policy Unit)- 02 9242 4090

[Western Sydney Community Forum – wscf@wscf.org.au](mailto:wscf@wscf.org.au) - 02 9687 9669

[NSW Family Services Inc – admin@nswfamilyservices.asn.au](mailto:admin@nswfamilyservices.asn.au) - 02 9692 9999

[Local Community Services Association – info@lcsa.org.au](mailto:info@lcsa.org.au) - 02 9211 3644

[Youth Action Policy Association – info@yapa.org.au](mailto:info@yapa.org.au) - 02 9319 1100

Or by emailing: CSGPRewiew@community.nsw.gov.au