

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Tansey, John"

**Date:** 17 September 2010 5:20:18 PM AEST

**To:** "Tansey, John", "Reynato Reodica", "Sophie Trower"

**Cc:** "Fowler, Phillip"

**Subject:** RE: YAPA 18-25s

Dear Rey and Sophie

Thanks for your email and thank you for raising this important issue related to the EIPP models and how we manage a smooth and successful transition from the former CSGP program operation to the new program.

Community Services shares your concern that the transition should not lead to abrupt changes to current service delivery. You will recall that we stated this very clearly to the sector when we commenced the earlier streaming exercise. I am keen to ensure that YAPA and its members have certainty about the way forward and are able to actively participate in the current tender process which closes on 13 October and the subsequent transition process into the new arrangements.

Our letter to all services back in June said: *"In order to provide certainty for CSGP funded services over this period, Community Services will extend existing service specifications until 30 June 2011 to enable time to consult with service providers on the proposed changes. Please be assured that whilst this process is underway, service providers will not be required to change the services they currently provide. Further briefings and negotiations will occur before any change in activity may be proposed"*.

I am happy to restate that in the transition to the new program we will also take an approach based on negotiation (which will need to take place with individual services at a later stage) and that we will need to consider strategies and timing that allow existing services to think about and plan for any changes they need to make to the services they deliver. As I discussed with you, it is our view that the formal transition will commence from July next year, by which time we hope to have new specifications in place with most services that will start the realignment process. I also acknowledge that we will need to provide training and support to our Regional staff to maintain consistency on questions relating to the models and how the models are translated into local service provision. This will mainly happen after the completion of the Tender process.

I would like to reassure you also that I have issued urgent directions to regional staff that they are not to provide advice to service providers to "immediately drop services that Officers believe will not fit into a model within EIPP".

You have stated in your email that you *"believe that service providers should be able to allocate a percentage of their pre-existing CSGP money to preserve the important work they do with 18-25 years"*.

We agreed that this issue only relates to services existing former CSGP funding. It is clear and agreed that the new funding available through Keep Them Safe and being allocated through the current tender is tied to specific KTS outcomes in early intervention and child protection placement prevention, and therefore is only available for the target

groups and eligibility criteria contained in the new EIPP models.

I would like to propose that we agree a couple of broad 'business rules' that should be considered when it comes time to work with individual services on the transition of existing CSGP funding and activities to the new EIPP program models.

**Options to be considered individually or in combination could include the following:**

- Services may be allowed a period of 12 months, or longer if appropriate, to transition service delivery so that services are targeted to young people under 18 years; and/or
- Services may be allowed to provide a majority proportion of their services to under 18s and a minority proportion to vulnerable 18 to 25 year olds; and/or
- Services may be allowed to provide a percentage of their services to vulnerable 18 to 25 year olds provided that priority is always given to providing services to under 18s.

Please let me know if these 'business rules' would provide the clarity that is required by YAPA and its members so that youth services would feel able to take part in the tender and subsequent transition process with confidence.

Regards

John Tansey  
A/Executive Director - Funding and Contracting Strategy and Reform  
Community Services, NSW Department of Human Services

-----Original Message-----

From: [kit@yapa.org.au](mailto:kit@yapa.org.au) Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2010 04:42 PM To: Tansey, John Subject: CSGP Service System Realignment Transition and Tender

Dear John,

I am writing on behalf of YAPA and CSGP funded Services within the youth sector. YAPA attended 18 of the 21 CSGP Roadshows, and based on its discussions with services in recent weeks we have some important feedback from services regarding the realignment process. We also note that some of these issues were flagged in our meeting with Annette Gallard earlier this week.

As you are aware from your participation in the Epping roadshow, YAPA is highly concerned that no model within EIPP caters for any client over the age of 18, as the overlapping issues that follow adolescence are currently dealt with by CSGP funded service providers. The whole-of-government policy responsibility for young people aged 12-25 that has been transferred to Communities NSW has never been directly tied to CSGP funding for youth services, and was administered separately within Community Services whilst the youth portfolio was housed in the Communities and Early Years division. Community Services cannot abrogate its responsibilities to this age group without having serious negative impacts on the community and young people that YAPA cannot accept.

Whilst we understand the implications of the Keep Them Safe money that has been

allocated having strings attached in relation to its focus on under 18s, YAPA believe that service providers should be able to allocate a percentage of their pre-existing CSGP money to preserve the important work they do with 18-25 years.

The 18-24 age group are serviced notably in areas with high indigenous populations where factors such as development, maturity and involvement with the juvenile justice system can delay engagement and support with youth and family support services.

As noted throughout the roadshows, the majority of service providers are enthusiastic about the reforms and are willing to be as flexible as necessary to fit within the EIPP stream, through the negotiation process that was highlighted as a core tenet of the realignment process throughout the roadshows. However, without a commitment to negotiation on this vital issue in this area service providers may no longer conform with the CSGP realignment, and consequently not transition into the EIPP stream, resulting in less of the pre-existing CSGP budget being allocated into the new EIPP stream and its models. YAPA would stress that we believe this is not a preferred outcome for either government or non-government parties to this process.

Separately, a concerning issue which has arisen through consultation with many service providers in the past week. It has been reported to YAPA that some of the information coming from CPO's is not as informed as we believe is necessary at the important stage in the transition for tender. YAPA staff are attempting to ensure consistent advice given to service providers, as some are being asked to immediately drop services that CPOs believe will not fit into a model within EIPP. This has created a great level of anxiety with some services that YAPA believes could quite comfortably sit within the Child Youth and Family Support stream, or would need to negotiate a transition timeline well into 2011, in keeping with the representations made by CS during the roadshows. I would be happy to discuss some of these issues with you further if you wish.

However, due to the pressing need to provide advice to our services providers as comprehensively as possible before the tenders are due in mid-October, we request your response in writing to the issue of service provision to 18-25 years with pre-existing CSGP funding, no later than Monday, 20 September.

Regards,  
Sophie Trower

Sophie Trower | (KIT) Youth Sector Support Officer YAPA - Youth Action & Policy Association NSW Inc.

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