

Community Services Grants Program (CSGP) Realignment

TRANSITION STATEMENT

October 2010

The objectives of the CSGP realignment are to:

1. Establish a framework for a continuum of service delivery (from prevention and early intervention to placement prevention) that articulates the range of Community Services funded programs and their respective target groups
2. Transition CSGP services into the identified realignment streams and introduce Performance Based Contracting processes and documentation
3. Increase alignment of Community Services funded services with *Keep Them Safe* objectives and State Plan priorities for the Community Builders program.

Now that the Early Intervention and Placement Prevention Framework has been released and service streaming has been completed, Community Services is planning how best to assist funded service providers transition to the *Keep Them Safe* or Community Builders models of service delivery. Implementation of the transition strategies will commence following further consultation with the key sector Peak bodies and when the results of the transition and Tender process for the two new programs are known.

The diverse network of services formerly funded through the CSGP has made a significant contribution to the well-being of individuals, families and communities in NSW over more than twenty years. The CSGP realignment approach reflects the broad agreement in the sector that it is time to formally strengthen prevention and early intervention efforts and begin the move to an integrated and consistent service system that provides a firm basis for improved program accountability and evaluation.

Reform is also needed across the service system to ensure that service delivery is based on up to date evidence of what works most effectively to assist vulnerable families and communities.

Community Services recognises and acknowledges that the changes may present challenges for stakeholders. Community Services is committed to working with the sector to implement the change program in a collaborative manner that contributes to strengthening partnerships within the non-Government sector.

Specifically, Community Services recognises that:

1. The changes throughout the broader service system and the increased demands on service providers mean that it is essential for the transition process to be implemented in a flexible way.

Community Services is aware that services need to be given time to implement changes in their service delivery in a considered and planned manner. There is no expectation that services will change to new models of service delivery overnight. Instead there will be an emphasis on service providers continuing to support the

current range of clients while transition strategies for the new models are developed and implemented.

It will be necessary for service providers to use additional KTS and Community Builders funds in line with the new service delivery models. However Community Services acknowledges that a more flexible, negotiated approach may be needed when negotiating the transition process for the use of existing funds to the new EIPP models in particular.

2. These structural changes will have a significant impact upon most service providers and service providers will need time and resources to address the implications of the changes for their community and organisation.

The changes in the role of Government agencies as part of KTS reform, the increased focus on prevention and early intervention and the expanded role of non Government services will place additional demands on service providers. In addition these changes will be happening when, as part of introducing Performance Based Contracting, services will be moving towards clear evidence based service models with identified performance measures for reporting results. Over time these reforms aim to reduce the administrative burden on service providers and improve their ability to provide flexible services by focusing on results rather than inputs and outputs alone.

The new program requirements will apply formally from 1 July 2011, when new service specifications commence. Transition to the new models will take place over an extended period, based on the needs of individual service providers.

3. In order to be successful, the transition process will need to be based on a partnership approach with a focus on negotiation.

A key aspect of *Keep Them Safe* is developing stronger partnerships with the non Government sector and Community Services recognises that this approach must underpin the transition.

As regional Partnerships and Planning teams are the key point of contact for most service providers, Community Services will be providing training and support to Regional Partnerships and Planning staff before and during the transition. The key Peak bodies will also continue their advice and support role with funded service providers. This will assist with achieving consistency in how service system change will be implemented at the local level and support Regional staff and service providers successfully negotiate their way through issues that may arise.