



Transition and Planning for NSW Services

Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) is committed to ongoing communication with the sector on matters arising from the April 2010 Council of Australian Governments (COAG) decision on national health reforms.

Under the National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement there will be a split of responsibilities for aged care and disability programs at age 65 (age 50 for Indigenous Australians), with the Commonwealth Government to assume full responsibility for aged care services under the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program from 1 July 2012.

This Fact Sheet provides information on the following issues which have emerged from ADHC's initial consultations about the implementation of the reforms.

What is the status of the NSW HACC Triennial Plan?

The NSW HACC Triennial Plan 2008–11 reflects the service system priorities and service expansion plans for NSW until 30 June 2011. There is a commitment from all governments to deliver services consistent with the current HACC Triennial Plan until 30 June 2011.

2011-12 will be a transitional year and the Commonwealth will assume full operational responsibility for the HACC program for older people from 1 July 2012. To date, details of the 2011-12 HACC budget and information on strategic priorities for the HACC program beyond 30 June 2011 have not been developed. These issues require further discussion between NSW Government and Commonwealth Government agencies.

Therefore, at this time ADHC is not undertaking specific HACC planning activities for the period beyond the current Triennial Plan.

However, ADHC is continuing to undertake its regular consultation and engagement activities with all stakeholders. This includes identification of needs and service development priorities for all of ADHC's client groups - people with a disability, older people, and their carers.

How will transition arrangements be managed by governments?

Senior NSW Government officials will meet regularly with Commonwealth officials to ensure transition to the new arrangements is carefully managed to provide continuity of care for clients, and that the concerns of service providers, staff, clients and families are addressed.

The NSW Government is committed to negotiating with the Commonwealth to ensure that the implementation of the new arrangements provides the best possible outcomes for people with a disability, older people, and their families and carers.

What will happen to Funding Agreements with existing providers?

ADHC renewed the majority of its Funding Agreements with service providers in June 2009 for three years. No change is envisaged to existing Funding Agreements prior to their expiry on 30 June 2012.

The NSW Government will work with the Commonwealth to provide certainty for service providers beyond this period and will continue to urge the Commonwealth Government to fully utilise the services of the organisations currently funded under the HACC Program in NSW.

Under the COAG agreement the Commonwealth is required to not substantially alter service delivery mechanisms for HACC aged care services before 1 July 2015.

What is the consultation strategy for the sector?

The NSW Government will keep stakeholders informed as further details of transition arrangements become available. The Aged and Community Services Association of NSW and ACT (ACS), a representative organisation of aged and community care providers, has been engaged to lead a state-wide consultation strategy with HACC stakeholders. ACS will commence this process in August 2010.

What impact will the COAG reforms have on disability service providers?

Under the COAG reforms, the Commonwealth will be responsible for funding specialist disability services for people aged 65 years and over (50 years and over for Indigenous people). However, the NSW Government will continue to manage disability services as currently, and it is not proposed that the Commonwealth directly fund disability providers.

Older clients receiving disability services will be able to remain with their current service providers and existing arrangements between the NSW Government and disability providers will remain unchanged.

ADHC will directly advise disability service providers of any relevant updates, and will also continue to liaise with NDS NSW about the implementation of new arrangements.

How can I stay up to date on developments associated with the COAG reforms?

Throughout the transition period, ADHC will provide regular updates to stakeholders and maintain information on its website at:

www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/coag-reforms

For further enquires, please contact coagreforms@dadhc.nsw.gov.au



Human Services
Ageing, Disability & Home Care