



## Update on Transition Arrangements

At the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 13 February 2011 all governments committed to signing a National Health Reform Agreement by 1 July 2011, which will supersede the April 2010 National Health and Hospitals Network (NHHN) Agreement.

### **What do the health reform changes agreed to by COAG on 13 February mean for the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program?**

The NSW and Commonwealth governments reaffirmed their commitment to the aged care and disability reforms set out within the NHHN Agreement, as described in previous fact sheets.

The timeframes for the transition of the HACC Program remain unchanged. 2011-12 remains a transitional year, with the Commonwealth assuming full funding responsibility for HACC services for clients aged 65 and over (Indigenous Australians aged 50 and over). NSW will retain all Funding Agreements with HACC providers, regardless of the age of their clients, until at least 30 June 2012.

### **What is happening with the implementation of the HACC Program transition?**

NSW has agreed to implement the current NSW HACC Triennial Plan to 30 June 2011, and is working with the Commonwealth to develop new funding and program arrangements to come into effect from 1 July 2011. This includes arrangements for the allocation of Commonwealth growth funding for additional services for older people in 2011-12.

The NSW Government remains committed to transition to the new arrangements in a way that ensures minimal disruption to clients and existing providers, and real improvements for clients and carers across the state.

### **What do the reforms mean for future community care arrangements for people aged under 65?**

Ageing, Disability and Home Care has started work to explore how to improve the service system for people with a disability under 65/50, for which NSW will have full operational and funding responsibility from 1 July 2011.

The initial focus is on gaining a better understanding of community care clients aged under 65/50 and the system that serves them. Work is also underway on exploring options for how the future service system can achieve the best possible outcomes for people with a disability and their families and carers.





### **What about the other issues raised by the sector?**

Information from the recent Aged and Community Services Association of NSW and ACT consultations will help inform consideration of options for community care for people with a disability aged under 65/50 and the overall implementation of the reforms.

The NSW Government recognises the concerns raised by providers and the uncertainty the reforms present. It is working with the Commonwealth to jointly address the issues raised by the sector including:

- ways to streamline reporting, monitoring and coordination of contract arrangements after the transition
- workforce, including volunteer, capacity and skills development across the aged care, disability and health care sectors
- service planning for the transition year and beyond
- what happens when a client turns 65/50
- how the age split will work for carers and care recipients
- ensuring culturally and age appropriate services for Aboriginal clients and clients from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

NSW is working with the Commonwealth on a detailed implementation plan to ensure continuity of care and support for clients and carers, and minimal disruption to and support for the sector during the reform process and beyond.

### **How can I stay updated?**

ADHC will continue to provide regular updates to stakeholders and maintain its information on its website at:

[http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering\\_hacc\\_services](http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/sp/delivering_hacc_services).

For further enquiries, please contact [coagreforms@dhs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:coagreforms@dhs.nsw.gov.au).

