



Council of Social Service of New South Wales

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WORKING TOGETHER FOR NSW

An Agreement between the NSW Government and NSW Non Government Human Services Organisations

Introduction

The Agreement was approved by the NSW Government Cabinet Committee on Human Services and the Forum of Non Government Agencies (FONGA) in 2004.

Implementing the Agreement

In the first half of 2005, discussions have been held between senior officers of the NSW Department of Community Services (on behalf of the Human Services CEOs Cluster) and representatives of FONGA to identify the best means of implementing the Agreement.

The representatives of both parties believe that it is critical for the Directors General of the NSW Government human services agencies and a broad representation of FONGA members to determine together a small number of key issues to work on each year and how best to conduct that work.

We also think that a strategy should be developed in the short term to inform and educate central and regional office government agency staff and NGO management and staff about the Working Together for NSW Agreement. This strategy should include a plan to launch the Agreement in the public arena.

Proposal

An annual Forum is held between Directors General of the NSW Government human services agencies and FONGA representatives to determine a small number of priority issues to work on over the next 12 months.

This Forum also would determine the best means of progressing this work on each key issues. Means could include adapting an existing working party, committee or group, establishing a new specific purpose working group, holding a series of focused consultations etc.

Progress during each 12 month period would be reported to the Human Services CEOs Cluster and to FONGA by the respective government agency senior officers and FONGA members involved in the work.

The agenda for the first annual Forum involving the Directors General and FONGA representatives will be developed by DOCS senior officers (on behalf of the Human Services CEOs Cluster) and NCOSS (on behalf of FONGA). This first Forum should be held in the second half of 2005.

A communications and education strategy concerning the Agreement and including its launch would also be developed by DOCS Senior Officers and NCOSS and presented to the Human Services CEOs Cluster and FONGA for endorsement.

Next steps

DOCS will present this approach to implementing Working Together for NSW to the Human Services CEOs Cluster for approval and NCOSS will present it to FONGA for approval.

Gary Moore
Chair, FONGA and
Director, NCOSS
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