



## CSGP Fact Sheet

- The Community Services Grants Program was allocated \$80.1 million in the 2008-2009 budget.
- In order to maintain the current level of service funding should be increased to \$125 million per year (indexed) by 2012.
- There are around 950 CSGP funded services across NSW
- The CSGP has received no increase in funding since a small amount (\$2.5m) in 1995, other than indexation (The indexation paid is less than the cost increases in providing services).
- Since funding has not kept up with the cost of service delivery, services have seen a radical reduction in capacity over the past fifteen years despite increasing demand for assistance and services. Services report waiting lists, increased referrals, inability to provide much needed services, and the need for additional staffing to provide the services.
- The CSGP is the only program with a strong capacity to work across family and community needs, and across the silos of government service systems, to ensure an integrated approach to service delivery.
- The CSGP has a proven track record in harnessing funding, services, volunteers and community to deliver real results at a local level.
- No additional funding was allocated as part of the *Keep Them Safe* plan, despite the recognition of the recognition of the importance of universal service provision in preventing problems arising.

Some keys strengths of the Community Services Grants Program:

- Involving community members in identifying local issues and problems;
- providing information and education to community members;
- training workers to work sensitively in disadvantaged communities;
- involving the community in program design, planning and implementation;
- involving community members in community research and evaluation;
- tailoring the program to the unique needs and strengths of the community; and
- sensitivity to the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community.

Failure to support the CSGP funded services will increase pressure on the child protection system, schools and health services as well as on other non government services.