



Council of Social Service of NSW (NCOSS)
Update on *NSW Partnerships for Health* -
Health NGO funding reform

June 2013

The Ministry of Health advised the Health NGO Advisory Committee meeting on 6 June that the next phase of the NGO funding reform is underway. NSW Health is currently planning services and programs to purchase under the new funding framework, *NSW Partnerships for Health*. There will be a phased implementation of the new system from mid-2013 to 2014.

Most services/programs currently delivered by NGOs through grants will be transitioned to purchase of service contracts through open, contestable procurement. Procurement will commence over the next few months. The contestable tendering process is expected to be substantially concluded for selected program areas by December 2013.

NCOSS expects that services will be procured on a programmatic basis according to service type. There will be a streamlined system for planning and coordinated procurement across Ministry Branches, Local Health Districts and pillar agencies. It is anticipated that more specific details about the procurement process will be discussed at the next NGO Advisory Committee meeting in August.

The Ministry is considering how to support NGOs to transition to the new system, particularly those NGOs who are not represented by a peak organisation. A training and information resource package will be developed to support organisations understand and participate in the new funding framework and procurement processes. Training is likely to be provided from August to October.

Until specific details about the services to be purchased and the procurement models are known, NCOSS encourages organisations to familiarise themselves with the broad outline of the new partnering arrangements and funding framework in [Partnerships for Health: NSW Health Response to the Grants Management Improvement Program \(GMIP\) Taskforce Report](#).

Organisations can register now on the NSW Health e-Tendering website in preparation for the new funding system. The site provides information about NSW Health business and funding opportunities. Organisations can register online to receive free weekly email notifications when new tender opportunities are published. See: <https://tenders.nsw.gov.au/health/>.

Organisations can also familiarise themselves with the [NSW Procurement Board Policy Framework \(interim\)](#) or visit: www.procurepoint.nsw.gov.au. NSW Health has indicated the new health funding system will align with existing NSW Government procurement processes.

Other useful resources include the NCOSS booklet on competition and tendering in community services, *Shifting Ground*, which can be ordered for a small charge from the NCOSS website at <http://www.ncoss.org.au/content/view/220/143/>, and the free *Tender and Submission Writing Guide* available on the VCOSS website at: <http://vcoss.org.au/clearinghouse/Docs/thetenderwritingguide.pdf>

The Ministry of Health has committed to provide the sector with information about the funding reforms soon. Keep a watch on their website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/business/partners/Pages/default.aspx>