

Funding and Contracting Reforms: Why there are changes.

If you are a not-for-profit organisation, you are likely to be aware that there are some significant changes to how these organisations receive funding and contracting. So why is this?

In December 2010 the Partnership Forum, at the request of the Premier, provided advice to the WA State Government regarding the issue of inadequate funding levels to the community sector and the need to establish both an immediate and sustainable resolution to the funding shortfall, including the need to reform contracting and implementation arrangements between the government and not-for-profit sector.

In response to this advice, the Government announced funding of over \$600 million over four years in the 2011-12 State Budget. This funding is being provided to ensure a sustainable not-for-profit sector and address a shortfall in the amount paid by Government to the sector for the services they provide.

To support this funding and ensure its ongoing benefits the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy* has been developed jointly by the public and not-for-profit sectors to build and support a more mature contracting relationship between the sectors. The *DCSP Policy* facilitates a greater focus on achieving better outcomes for the community through the funding and contracting of sustainable community services. The *DCSP Policy, whose implementation is being supported by the Department of Finance* took effect from 1 July 2011. This means that current funding agreements as they expire, will now come under the new funding procurements..

To coordinate the implementation of the *DCSP Policy*, a Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) Unit has been established within the Department of Finance; providing resources such as training and information events, standard templates and advice and assistance to both sectors. These reforms will assist both the public and community sectors to move toward providing better and more sustainable supports and services to the most vulnerable in the WA community.

More information about the procurement reforms; useful templates; and training courses are on the Dept of Finance website. <http://www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=12>

Also look out for the following 2 courses being delivered around the State:

Understanding Funding and Contract Reforms.

Understanding Tendering.