

December 2017

NSW Ministry of Health: NGO Contracting Working Group

The Ministry of Health is working to develop a more strategic and streamlined approach to contract management and procuring services from NGOs, with a view to implementing reforms over the next three years. The aim of this work is to:

- Ensure funding aligns with service provision and community need;
- Facilitate better communication between the Ministry of Health and NGOs, LHDs and other funding bodies such as the Commonwealth;
- Clarify roles, responsibilities and accountabilities; and
- Improve quality and safety.

To support the Ministry in developing this approach they have formed an NGO Contracting Working Group that will consider and advise the Ministry on:

- Approaches to ensuring improved accountability and governance structures;
- Methods to ensure quality and safety considerations are built into contractual agreements;
- Ways to streamline contract processes; and
- The development of common KPIs for service contracts.

The Group is made of representatives from funded NGOs, NADA, PHNs, LHDs, the Department of Health and the NSW Ministry of Health. This is probably the first time all funders of NSW NGOs have come together to explore ways to improve contracting for our members.

Since the first meeting was held last month, five sub-groups are being established to look at the following areas:

- Reporting/Accountability;
- Accreditation;
- State-wide services;
- Safety and Quality; and
- KPIs.

As discussed at the NADA AGM in November, this piece of work is a priority for NADA in 2018 and we will continue to keep members informed about how the Working Group, and activities of sub-groups are progressing, and seek opportunities for members to have their own say in these critical areas.

For more information:

Larry Pierce
Chief Executive Officer
larry@nada.org.au
0411 747 106