

Feedback to the Tasmanian Community Sector following community consultation on the Quality and Safety Standards Framework



The Office for the Community Sector would like to extend our sincere appreciation to organisations and individuals who participated in the statewide community consultations regarding the Quality and Safety Standards Framework. Our appreciation also extends to organisations who invited Quality and Safety staff to attend board and committee meetings and to organisations that provided written and verbal feedback.

As discussed in forums, the Department of Health and Human Services is currently engaged in a significant and far reaching reform agenda involving a large number of consecutive consultations. As many organisations and individuals are feeling “consulted out,” the Office for the Community Sector acknowledges and appreciates the commitment of the community sector to engage in the quality and safety agenda.

The Office for the Community Sector is presently engaged in writing the proposed Quality and Safety Standards Framework for Tasmania’s Community Sector and the associated implementation plan. These documents incorporate the feedback that organisations have provided since consultation began in September 2008. It is anticipated that these documents will be submitted to the Department Executive Committee for their consideration and if appropriate endorsement. Once endorsed the Office for the Community Sector will evaluate the documents early in the New Year. If not endorsed the Office for the Community Sector will inform the Sector of the further actions required of the Office for the Community Sector by December.

Alongside this activity, Quality and Safety staff are presently developing the document that contains the set of Generic Standards (of which some health and safety standards will require mandatory compliance) and the associated self-report template. These will be made available as soon as possible in 2009.

The primary themes identified by the community sector during consultation were:

- the large number of current consultations involving the extensive DHHS reforms;
- content and selection of the standards;
- timeframe for implementation;
- monitoring and reporting processes;
- concern about the resource impact on community sector organisations;
- integration and links between the quality and safety project the Finance and Performance Framework and Service Agreements;
- accreditation; and
- applying a standards framework to DHHS operational units and the Office for the Community Sector.

Further information on these themes are attached or can be found at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au or www.communityexpress.dhhs.tas.gov.au

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office for the Community Sector on (03) 6336 4132 if you would like any additional information.