

Department of Health and Human Services

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Stakeholder

Department of Health and Human Services Consultations for the *Draft Community Sector Strategic Plan 2008 - 2010*

As you may be aware, there are exciting organisational changes occurring across the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in relation to the community sector. This commenced with the establishment of the Office for the Community Sector (OCS) and appointment of Associate Professor Des Graham to lead this new initiative. The OCS is a dedicated unit which will be the vehicle to ensure that there is an integrated and planned approach with and between the community sector and DHHS. The OCS will provide strategic leadership; will work across the government and non-government organisations; develop policies, systems and processes and provide high level advice to the Government and Agency Executive Committee regarding community sector reform and enhancement of services needed in the community.

As a first step in meeting the DHHS commitment to community sector organisations and through these organisations, the broader Tasmanian community, a *Draft DHHS Community Sector Strategic Plan 2008-2010* has been prepared. This draft is intended to commence a discussion between the OCS and community sector organisations, and further initial feedback provided to the OCS by DHHS operational units. This feedback will allow the OCS to prioritise their activities over the next two years.

It is at this point that we would now like to hear directly from the community sector organisations from whom we purchase these services. We are interested to hear your thoughts on the attached draft Strategic Plan, its principles and key priority areas. Comments on whether the principles and priority areas included in the draft Strategic Plan accurately reflect your views, how you think this plan may impact on your organisation and any other advice and information you would like to provide to us in relation to the *Draft Community Sector Strategic Plan* will be most appreciated. A draft plan is attached for your review.

It is intended that the final *DHHS Community Sector Strategic Plan* will reflect the wide consultation process with our stakeholders, including both DHHS operational units and community sector organisations and will guide the approach for community sector development and collaboration in the future. The draft plan covers a number of principles, critical goals, the reason we are focussing on these particular areas, outlines the success measures, the risks and major strategies we will use to assist us to achieve these goals. These goals will focus on a strategic approach to capacity building in the community sector (including workforce

development strategies), developing an improved financial and performance management model, and an enhanced focus on quality and safety.

To assist you in this consultation process, the OCS will be providing a variety of ways for feedback or to give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. These options are listed below.

The consultation process will consist of the following:

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- 1 Email:** you may send your comments by email to karen.payne@dhhs.tas.gov.au
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- 2 Post:** You may post your comments to:
- Attention: Karen Payne
Strategic Plan Consultation
Office for the Community Sector
Plaza Level, Block I
188 Collins Street
HOBART TAS 7000
- Fax:** Fax number (03) 6233 3545
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- 3 Attend a Forum:**
- | <u>Burnie:</u> | <u>Launceston:</u> | <u>Hobart:</u> |
|--|---|---|
| Tuesday, 15 July 2008 | Wednesday, 16 July 2008 | Monday, 21 July 2008 |
| 1.30pm – 3.30pm | 10.00am – 12.00pm | 1.00pm – 3.00pm |
| Meeting Room,
Mental Health Services.
112 Wilson Street, Burnie. | The Bass JC Room,
The Tramshed, Inveresk Rail Yards
4 Invermay Road, Mowbray. | Board Room, Office for the
Community Sector, Plaza Level,
Block I, 188 Collins Street,
Hobart.

(refer Housing Tasmania Reception) |
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| <i>For catering purposes, please RSVP by close of business on Friday, 11 July 2008.</i> | <i>For catering purposes, please RSVP by close of business on Friday, 11 July 2008.</i> | <i>RSVP by close of business on Thursday, 17 July 2008.</i> |
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- 4 Peak Meetings:** if you wish Associate Professor Des Graham, Director, OCS, to attend your Peak Meeting, please liaise with Karen Payne on 6233 8533 to check availability.
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- 5 Individual Meetings:** if required and time permitting, the OCS will meet with you in person. Please liaise with Karen Payne on 6233 8533 to check availability.
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- 6 Discussions with other organisations:** this would provide you with an opportunity to hear the views, “brain storm” etc with other community sector organisations. We would leave this for you to arrange with other organisations and for you to provide your combined feedback to us.
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This “Letter to Stakeholders” and a copy of the *Draft Community Sector Strategic Plan* are also available on the DHHS website (www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/agency).

It is important that you provide us with your feedback by **close of business on Monday, 4 August, 2008.**

I envisage that final *Community Sector Strategic Plan* will be launched at the TasCOSS Fairer Futures – People Place Policy Practice Conference in late October 2008.

This is an exciting time for both the DHHS and the community sector and I look forward to working with you in the future to ensure we achieve our common goal of delivering integrated and quality services to all Tasmanians in the future. I would like also take this opportunity to thank you for your input.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Roberts
Secretary

17 June 2008

Enc: *Draft Community Sector Strategic Plan*