

# PARTNERSHIP FORUM

## FACT SHEET

### DELIVERING COMMUNITY SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP POLICY

- The *Delivering Community Services in Partnership* (DCSP) Policy, effective from 1 July 2011, replaced the previous *Funding and Purchasing Community Services* Policy. Jointly developed by the public and not-for-profit community sectors, the DCSP Policy focuses on:
  - the nature of the relationship between the Government and the not-for-profit community sectors;
  - the correct application of the available funding and contracting options, ensuring that Government funding and contracting practices are fair, transparent, consistent and correctly categorise grants and service agreements; and
  - reducing the administrative burden placed upon not-for-profit community sector organisations when contracting with government agencies.
- The *DCSP Policy* guides all government agencies that provide funding for, or purchase community services from, not-for-profit organisations.<sup>1</sup>
- The *DCSP Policy* and associated contracting reforms support the sustainability of the not-for-profit community sector. A key aspect of the reforms is that Government agencies will no longer dictate the price and service specification, but will work with the not-for-profit community sector to establish service outcomes and obtain sustainable prices from service providers, including those in regional and remote areas of the State.
- The implementation of the DCSP Policy and associated reforms has involved:
  - the creation of a Funding and Contracting Services unit in the Department of Finance to support both the public and not-for-profit community sectors;
  - establishing a suite of standardised contract templates to reduce the administrative burden;
  - coordination of a range of education and training initiatives (targeted at both sectors) to raise the awareness of the DCSP Policy and associated contracting reforms; and
  - monitoring implementation of the DCSP Policy with updates provided to the Partnership Forum on the progress of implementation and emerging issues.

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<sup>1</sup>The DCSP Policy is a State policy, and has no jurisdiction over contracts offered by the Commonwealth Government or other non government organisations or private organisations.

- For further information or to access the Policy, and for information on upcoming training and events on the Partnership Forum reform agenda go to: <http://www.partnershipforum.dpc.wa.gov.au>