

# PARTNERSHIP FORUM

## FACT SHEET

### REDUCING THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

- On 1 July 2011, the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy* was released. Central to the *DCSP Policy*, is the recognition that in order to maximise outcomes for all Western Australians, the Government's past approach to dealing with the not-for-profit sector needs to change.
- The *DCSP Policy* acknowledges that past practices have added "red-tape" and detracted from the real aim of the not-for-profit sector – to provide support to those most in need.
- In response, the *DCSP Policy* not only articulates the range of funding and contracting options available, it provides guidance to government agencies on the requirements to be placed on funded service providers to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of public funds – without imposing unnecessary administrative burden.
- Since the release of the *DCSP Policy*, the Government has also implemented a number of measures to reduce the administrative burden imposed on the not-for-profit sector, including:
  - Standardising procurement practices across government agencies – through the release of a suite of standard contract guides, templates, terms and conditions;
  - Mandating the Government's Indexation Policy – so increasing cost pressures are recognised and a standard indexation clause is included in all contracts;
  - Moving away from prescribing "inputs" in contracts and focusing "outcomes" – which allows service providers to innovate and reshape service delivery;
  - Moving to longer-term contracts (up to five year terms) – to provide funding certainty and security and minimise transition and re-bidding costs;
  - Moving away from financial reporting and focusing on contractual performance – to ensure that contract management focuses on service delivery and reporting requirements are commensurate with scale and risk; and
  - Expanding the use of the Government's online tendering system (Tenders WA) – to reduce the cost and effort involved in identifying and responding to tenders.
- The Department of Finance's Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) unit provides support and guidance to both the public and not-for-profit sectors to implement the *DCSP Policy* and the associated procurement reforms.
- The FaCS unit will continue to work with both sectors to reduce unnecessary burden and can be contacted on (08) 6551 1515 for further information.