



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW COMMUNITY CARE FORUM

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Transition

- We are talking about **transitioning to** the Commonwealth Home Support Programme and to the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- We are talking about Local Government **transitioning to** these arrangements
-but what are we ***transitioning from***.....

Local Government is About Community

- ❑ Some say, local government is the closest level of government to the people;
- ❑ The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) stipulates the role of local government;
- ❑ The Local Government Charter sets out the responsibilities of a local government organisation and;
- ❑ The interpretation of these responsibilities are as diverse as the communities that are served.

History of LG in community services

- Historically, there has been no “one size fits all” when it comes to local government;
- Local government remains an entrenched institution, pre-dating Federation by some six decades;
- Australia’s first local authority, the Perth Town Trust, was established in 1838 (3 years after white settlement) followed by The Adelaide Municipal Council in 1840;
- NSW was a bit slower (fifty years after UK settlement) for Sydney Corporation, to emerge in 1842.

History of LG in community services

- District Councils soon followed – The Imperial government no longer was willing to provide or manage the administration of justice and police within the district – it was becoming a significant cost;
- The legislation required that District Councils raise, via property taxation and other ‘imposts’, fifty per cent of the funds for maintenance of gaols outside the convict regime due to loss of Imperial funding and;
- ***So began the politics of cost shifting.....***

Local Government Charter

- ***to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively***
 - ▣ to exercise community leadership
 - ▣ to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism
 - ▣ to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
 - ▣ to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development

Snapshot of Local Government in NSW- 2015

- 152 NSW general purpose councils, 12 special purpose councils and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council – all report to NSW Minister of Local Government
- Local government organisations provide, plan for, monitor, or resource a number of local community service initiatives across the State range of services including:
- Community transport, meals, recreational services, disability advisory councils, events, seniors groups/citizens centres, case management/planning services, child care centres, homelessness services, etc

The Reforms – what are they?

- Prior to 1 July 2012, many community services were provided through the Home and Community Care Program (HACC) for people of all ages. HACC funding in NSW in 2011/12 was over \$671 million and the program supported around 265,000 clients annually
- From July 2012, NSW government has sole responsibility for community care supports for younger people (under 65s);
- CCSP is funded and administered by Ageing, Disability and Home Care (ADHC) and provides basic community support services to approximately 54,000 people in NSW.

CCSP and ADHC

- CCSP funds 101 local government providers to provide community care services in NSW
- They receive a total of \$13,807,921 in funding and are a significant and important service sector for ADHC *(Department Family and Community Services, ADHC 2013)*

Service Type	Amount
Case Management	\$4,786,156
Non Output Services*	\$2,282,384
Social Support	\$1,522,112
Transport	\$1,251,214
Meals Services	\$891,456
Respite Care	\$740,199
Centre Based Day Care	\$735,136
Other Service Type	\$1,599,264
	\$13,807,921

The Reforms – what are they?

- ❑ NSW is transitioning to The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) that will deliver a national system of disability support focused on the individual needs and choices of people with disability. The NDIS will roll out across the whole of NSW by 2018.
- ❑ Under the NDIS, people with disability will make the decisions about their supports, including who will provide them. Funding for disability supports is allocated to each eligible individual, not to a service provider.
- ❑ The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 replaced the Disability Services Act 1993 and has two main roles: (i) committing the NSW Government to making communities more inclusive and accessible for people with disability and (ii) regulating specialist disability supports and services to people with disability in NSW and introducing better safeguards for these services until the change over to the NDIS.

The Reforms – what are they?

- Commonwealth responsible for all aged care programs
- \$3.7 billion package over 5 years
- Other measures, such as dementia supplements, funded by adjusting basic subsidies. Workforce supplement to be available for residential care, home care and home support services
- Marks further policy shift towards home care through the Commonwealth Home Support Program
- Consolidation of in-home/community care through one agency and all accessed via My Aged Care portal from July 2015

The Reforms – what are they?

- Local government reform through the Independent Local Government Review Panel contained a series of recommendations;
- Local Councils are digesting and considering their options and they all vary;
- The recently re-elected NSW government is likely to accelerate the reforms and some Councils have already acted – reducing and no longer providing community services; amalgamating or something in between.

Impacts on Local Government Agencies

- There are many opportunities for local government to step up and determine what role they want to play in the provision of services in the next decade.
- ***The big impacts of reforms include***
 - A move away from block funding grants;
 - A change of providers in local area who are the providing system – move to a market approach;
 - An expectation that local governments will know what is going on and provide information to their community and;
 - A belief that many Council will still provide (or facilitate) local service delivery.

What seems to be the response?

- ❑ Trying to engage relevant stakeholders and showcase best practice. Councillors seem to be thinking locally not regionally so getting support to do so is hard;
- ❑ Not much resourcing from State or Federal to support Councils to change. Also not well resourced to do community services, so exiting services;
- ❑ Still quite reactive - let it happen and deal with it when it arrives (head in the sand given there have been so many changes);
- ❑ Many in government don't understand the role that LG plays in the community
- ❑ We've had lots of reviews and nothing has changed so there is little cognition or belief it will *actually* change;
- ❑ Councils won't necessarily merge and;
- ❑ Some Council are considering a role in merging community services

What seems to be the response?

- ❑ Unsure about how Councils will respond to change - the higher levels at Council are not engaged enough;
- ❑ More concerned about amalgamations than they are about HACCC;
- ❑ Mainly worried by non output or non block funded services;
- ❑ Non output funded Councils are trying to work with others to get them to change;
- ❑ Analyzing needs and changes in the community and trying to work out how they can service need when and if block funding disappears. Better to do that rather than wait for clarity;
- ❑ Ageing workforce and people are tired (they don't attend training is an example);
- ❑ Some don't see themselves as a business, just a program or outlet and
- ❑ Councils don't see their community services as an integrated system so may not fully understand their role or opportunity.

Key Points and Strategies

- Aged and Disability Services are important to many Councils is not in Councils;
- Integrated planning is more than just financial reporting and should be used to drive the community services agenda;
- LG Charter is stronger than the LG Act in pushing the CS agenda;
- In the future, Councils can 1. run services, 2. let others run them and fill the gaps and/or 3. don't run any services but resource others;
- Councils, like others in community sector have not been good at building the evidence to prove their impact;
- Councils must identify the unique selling propositions.

Key Points and Strategies

- ❑ Develop a network of information services – there will be a demand on Councils to know and provide information to residents;
- ❑ Tie community into economic impacts (know how ageing or people with disabilities contribute economically);
- ❑ The new Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC)– Tier 2 Level presents strong opportunities for LG
- ❑ Educate groups and providers about access and integration. Tell them how to navigate the system;
- ❑ Develop a Social Map – design the system from the perspective of the “user”;
- ❑ NDIS is only a launch pad. People will be better able to do things or be better supported but they will access generic supports. Council can 'ready' the community for the change. Need to know others are doing like the Chamber of Commerce etc and;
- ❑ Shared back office functions; local delivery but centralism administration and coordination.

Key Points and Strategies

1. Put the reforms on Council's agenda. Let them know, you have to act.
2. Understand the reforms and how they will impact on your Council
3. Assess the availability of resources and other players in your community
4. Connect with the people that use your services
5. Assess your capabilities as a provider, planner or funder
6. Know your real costs in providing services
7. Consider your leadership role locally
8. Develop an impact strategy

MAKE SURE DECISIONS ARE EVIDENCE-BASED