

PARTNERSHIP FORUM
10 November 2010
COMMUNIQUÉ

On 10 November 2010 the Partnership Forum held its third meeting specifically to progress the work on the review of community sector funding arrangements and the Social Innovation Grants Program.

Funding Shortfall

The Partnership Forum considered its advice to the Premier on addressing the shortfall in funding provided to the community sector for services delivered on behalf of the State Government. It considered reports prepared by the Community Sector Funding Working Group and PricewaterhouseCoopers, as well as a summary paper including recommendations to the Forum for consideration. The Partnership Forum discussed key issues relating the funding shortfall including: the various approaches used to quantify the shortfall; issues that contributed to the shortfall; and options for an implementation approach to address the shortfall in a sustainable manner.

The Partnership Forum agreed that the funding shortfall is broadly within the range of 20% to 30% and that this would be included in the advice to the Premier.

The Partnership Forum agreed that the shortfall should be addressed in two stages:

- a one-off price adjustment to be paid to all community sector organisations; and
- a provisional sum to be rolled out progressively within a procurement reform agenda with the aim of achieving a mature, sustainable funding and contracting relationship between the public sector and community sector.

It was also decided that an agreed governance process for overseeing the second stage would need to be developed as a priority and linked to the procurement reforms.

Social Innovation Grants Program

The proposed framework for the Social Innovation Grants Program was discussed by the Partnership Forum.

The Partnership Forum approved the proposed framework for the governance and administration for the Program, including directions for 2011. It was endorsed that the Department for Communities will manage the administration of the Program, recognising its

experience in grants administration. The Partnership Forum remains committed to implement the Program by January 2011.

The Forum agreed to the Program being as broad in coverage as possible with applications to be invited for all forms of innovation.

Consumer Engagement

Sue Ash, as co-chair of the Community Building Steering Group, briefed the Partnership Forum on proposed consumer engagement strategies, noting recent feedback from the community about the need to enhance the engagement with consumers on the implementation of the Economic Audit reforms. A consumer engagement workshop is planned for February, following some preliminary meetings before Christmas. Government members of the Partnership Forum agreed to attend the community sector briefing following the February Partnership Forum to facilitate more direct engagement with all the Partnership Forum members.

Next Meeting

The Partnership Forum's next meeting will be on 22 February 2011 after which a de-briefing for the community sector will be held. Further information will be provided closer to the time.