**New DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement Format - Information for DSS Grant Recipients**

DSS is implementing a new streamlined agreement format to reduce red-tape, improve reporting and performance requirements and significantly reduce the terms and conditions that apply to DSS grant funding.

The new DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement (SGA) will be implemented for **new grant agreements from 1 July 2014**. The new agreement document comprises the Grant Details schedule and General Grant Conditions, Schedule 1.

The new SGA may seem to be a longer document than previous FaHCSIA agreements and the Grant Details schedule appears different, but the content remains similar to your previous agreements.

The main change is the significant reduction in number and complexity of the terms and conditions of the SGA, with now just 23 clauses (General Grant Conditions) written in plain-English.

Multiple activities can still be accommodated within the SGA and you will only have to comply with one set of General Grant Conditions when doing business with DSS unless the nature of the Activity being funded is very specific or complex and requires more robust clauses, such as for capital works.

Terminology within the agreement has also changed to align with the implementation of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA)*, which takes full effect from 1 July 2014. The PGPA replaces the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act) and it outlines the governance, performance and accountability requirements for Commonwealth entities.

Summary of changes:

* The term ‘Funding’ has been replaced with the term ‘Grant’ throughout the agreement document.
* The order of the Items within the agreement document has changed - for example the parties information that was previously on the signature page now appears in at the start of the Grant Details schedule.
* Social and Community Services (SACs) supplementation information is now incorporated into the Grant Details schedule at Items D and E.
* The GST clause is now within the Grant Details schedule at Item D.
* Item E4 Accounting for the Grant now includes full details of the requirements that you must meet.
* Item G Supplementary Terms lists any additional conditions that apply to your Grant.
* Reduced number and complexity of clauses – only 23 compared to the previous agreements with between 29 and 54 clauses.

If you feel that the implementation of the new DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement will cause difficulties for you in delivering the funded activity then please contact your Grant Agreement Manager.

The DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement General Grant Conditions, along with other information about doing business with DSS can be found on the DSS website - *www.dss.gov.au*.

The Australian Government recognises your significant role in delivering grant funded services and as issues emerge that may impact on our funding relationship with you, we will communicate and work collaboratively with you to resolve these issues.