

MINUTE

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

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Due Date	7 December 2009
Critical Date	
Consultation	Media No
	Group Manager Yes
	Deputy Secretary No
	State Manager No

To the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

cc: The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, Minister for Status of Women
 Senator Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector
 The Hon. Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services

For information

Subject: Evaluation of the Department's funding of peak organisations through the National Secretariat strategy

Purpose: To provide you with the Terms of Reference and proposed timeframes for the review of the National Secretariat strategy following MN09-002012.

Issue: The two previous reviews of the National Secretariat strategy conducted in 2000 and 2004 (see **Additional Information**), resulted in some improvements to the administration of the strategy and some consolidation in specific program areas.

In MN09-002012 (June 2009), you noted that peak bodies would be subjected to reviews linked to the Department's strategic directions (see decision note at **Attachment A**). The Terms of Reference and proposed timeframe for the evaluation are at **Attachment B**. They have been cleared by relevant Deputy Secretaries and the Department's Program Management Committee. A list of the current funded organisations is at **Attachment C**.

Recently you and the Deputy Prime Minister wrote to Ministerial colleagues about key initiatives across Government to reduce the administrative burden on third party providers. FaHCSIA's Standard Performance Framework approach and the principles of the National Compact are fundamental parts of this common business model approach.

While funding for peak bodies is provided across Australian Government portfolio agencies, the National Secretariat strategy review will consider only FaHCSIA funded peak bodies at this time; however a future activity could look at the key set of arrangements for supporting peak bodies that could operate across government, consistent with the common business model approach.

The review will examine the extent to which current funding of peak organisations aligns with government policy, and the strategic directions of relevant program areas. The review will be guided by an internal Steering Committee and it is planned for the review to be completed by 30 June 2010. At that time the Department will brief you on the outcomes of the review and seek your approval of the funding strategy for organisations beyond 30 June 2011.

IN CONFIDENCE

Branches Consulted: Disability and Carers Policy; Disability and Carers Programs; Homelessness; Affordable Housing Programs; Family Support Program Operational; Children's Policy; and Office for Women.

Recommendation:

That you:

1. Note the Terms of Reference and proposed timeframe for the evaluation. Noted / Please discuss

Jill Farrelly
 Name: Jill Farrelly
 Date: 19 December 2009
 Position: Branch Manager
 Branch: Community Investment
 Phone/mobile: 02 6244 1378 /

Contact Officer: Robyn Page
 Phone/mobile: 02 6244 1314

Comments (MO use)

I would make priority is given to delivery of current projects. Defer discussion of this review until later in the year.

Signature: *J. Mackel*

Date: 19.2.10

ADVISER TO ACTION:

Local Member Advised	State Member Advised
Yes / No	Yes / No
Name of Member	Name of Member

Rating	Quality	Timeliness
Unsatisfactory		
Satisfactory		
Good		

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Additional Information

- FaHCSIA's National Secretariat strategy and other program funding provide over \$9.5 million (2009-11) to 22 peak organisations (three are funded to June 2010). Funding ranges from almost \$60,000 per year (Lone Fathers Association) to around \$500,000 per year (Australian Council of Social Service).
- The National Secretariat commenced in 1991 (then called the Community Organisation Support Program) and a review was undertaken in 2000. One of the outcomes was the move to three-tier funding for national peaks (T1), disability peaks (T2) and industry representative bodies and FaHCSIA program areas (T3).
- A further review was undertaken in 2004 which included consultations with funded organisations. Following Machinery of Government changes from the 2004 election, findings from the review were not released.
- The need for a reassessment of arrangements, and a re-alignment to reflect the Department's changed strategic directions were considered in 2006; however the 2007 election delayed the decision to conduct a comprehensive review.
- Recently a more consistent approach to administering current funding of peak organisations has been adopted, including in relation to activity details, monitoring, reporting requirements and performance indicators.
- One of the challenges in taking an holistic view of peak funded organisations has been the varying arrangements across program areas, and varying quality of their performance and understanding of their roles.
- The evaluation will be undertaken on the basis that the National Secretariat strategy needs to be realigned to better reflect the Government's strategic directions. Any changes to the National Secretariat strategy will take into account the development of the National Volunteer Strategy, as well as the principles of the National Compact. Learnings will also be taken from the recent internal review of Women's Alliances and relevant policy and program priorities in each program area.

IN CONFIDENCE

Attachment A

s22 irrelevant material

IN CONFIDENCE

Attachment B

Terms of reference

Guided by an internal steering committee the review will examine and report on:

- The extent of the value gained by government from providing funding to peak organisations under the National Secretariat and broader FaHCSIA programs.
- Proposed funding to organisations, including minimum mandatory deliverables from funded organisations to better ensure value for money.
- The extent to which there are gaps and overlaps in representation of sectors, by way of organisations funded.
- Identifying areas for better matching the funding of peak bodies with Departmental strategic directions and Government policy.
- How the current model used for the funding of peak organisations can be improved in the future.

Outcomes of the review will include:

- Developing a definition of a “peak body” and guiding principles for which types of organisations should be funded (including level, period and expected outcomes).
- Developing a protocol, principles and model for recommending peak organisations to receive/not receive FaHCSIA funding, with a transition plan to implement these, in order to guide future funding proposals.
- Developing a strategy and timetable for communicating with the non-profit sector on the outcomes.

The review is to consider the range of peak organisations across FaHCSIA’s outcome streams, including those currently funded by the Department, either under the current National Secretariat Strategy or via other funding streams, and/or in receipt of funding from outside FaHCSIA. Both existing and potential funding sources will be evaluated. Why peak organisations have been funded from a range of sources for core/admin and project specific activities will also be evaluated, noting past decision making on allocated funding.

The review will consider approaches taken by recent reviews within FaHCSIA e.g. Office for Women.

Proposed timing for research and developing options:

1. December 2009 through January 2010 – establish and conduct first meetings of the internal Steering Committee
2. By end February 2010 – Discussion paper for release to peak bodies finalised for distribution
3. March/April 2010 – Program areas consult peak bodies, including online survey
4. May 2010 – Collate and analyse survey results and outcome from consultation
5. June 2010 – Brief Minister Macklin

s22 irrelevant material

Group	Organisation	Funding 2009-2010	Funding 2010-2011 (*plus or minus indexation)	Total Funding	Funding Period Ends	Linked To	Comments
Disability and Carers	Deafness Forum Australia (*Funded out of Community Engagement and Development Group)	\$193,160	\$193,160	\$386,320	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	Funding has been committed for 2 years to allow for a review of the funding arrangements for Disability and Carers peak organisations which will be undertaken in 2009-2010. This review will consider the value to Government, and to the disability sector, in funding a number of peak bodies across various disability and carer types.
	National Council on Intellectual Disability (*Funded out of Community Engagement and Development Group)	\$160,966	\$160,966	\$321,932	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Blind Citizens Australia	\$193,160	\$193,160	\$386,320	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Brain Injury Australia	\$160,966	\$160,966	\$321,932	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Deaf Australia	\$193,160	\$193,160	\$386,320	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	National Ethnic Disability Alliance	\$160,966	\$160,966	\$321,932	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Physical Disability Council of Australia	\$160,966	\$160,966	\$321,932	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Women with Disabilities Australia	\$160,966	\$160,966	\$321,932	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	\$300,469	\$300,469	\$600,938	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	
	National Disability Services	\$268,276	\$268,276	\$536,552	June 2011	National Disability Strategy	

s22 irrelevant material