

DISABILITY SERVICES

Meeting - July 2007

ITEM 1 Commonwealth State/ Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) 4 Negotiation

Item 1.1 Policy Positions for CSTDA 4s

Ministers:

1. Reaffirmed their commitment to a fourth multilateral Commonwealth State/ Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA).
2. Noted progress made on draft clauses for a fourth CSTDA, subject to further negotiations to finalise arrangements for:
 - a set of national priorities as part of a national framework;
 - a methodology for unmet need;
 - a nationally consistent approach to service quality;
 - funding; and
 - an outcome-based performance reporting framework.
3. Endorsed continued work to complete the draft clauses for a fourth CSTDA for consideration by governments, in line with agreed directions.

ACTIONS ARISING: Queensland (DCDS) / DPRWG – All Jurisdictions

Item 1.2 National Priorities

Ministers endorsed the proposed national framework to underpin a fourth multilateral Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) and the following priorities in a clause for inclusion in a fourth CSTDA:

1. Unmet need;
2. Early intervention;
3. Access for Indigenous people with a disability;
4. Service quality and continuous improvement;
5. Coordination within and between service systems;
6. Workforce capacity; and
7. Accountability and transparency.

Ministers agreed that the priorities agreed above (1 – 7) be clearly specified and include specific milestones, targets and dates for achievement.

ACTIONS ARISING: Queensland (DCDS) / DPRWG – All Jurisdictions

Item 1.3 A Methodology for Unmet Need

Ministers:

1. Noted the work undertaken under the third Commonwealth State/ Territory Disability Agreement (CSTDA) to identify and develop strategies to respond to increasing demand for specialist disability services, including the findings of the 2007 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report – *Current and Future Demand for Specialist Disability Services*;
2. Noted the limitations of the current methodology for measuring unmet demand for specialist disability services;
3. Noted that jurisdictions are working with the best available estimates of unmet demand; and
4. Approved additional work under a fourth CSTDA in the following areas to provide improved estimates of unmet demand to inform policy and planning:
 - A. A nationally consistent methodology to define and quantify unmet demand for specialist disability services;
 - B. A proposal to increase the sample size of future national disability surveys and to revise and/or include additional questions to improve its estimates;
 - C. Improvement of the quality and consistency of jurisdiction-level unmet demand data; and
 - D. Improvement of the quality of data reported under the CSTDA national minimum data set.
5. Agreed that the work identified at 4A and 4B above be completed by the end of November 2007 and that firm dates be agreed for delivery of 4C and 4D.

***ACTIONS ARISING: New South Wales (DADHC) / DPRWG
All Jurisdictions***

Item 1.4 CSTDA 4 – National Priority Quality

Ministers noted that the Australian Government has advised that the introduction of an independent quality assurance system for the funded services of all States and Territories is one of its four priority areas under a fourth Commonwealth State/ Territory Disability Agreement.

Ministers agreed that an independent third party accreditation system based on continuous improvement and recognising the diversity of service types and building on existing jurisdictional arrangements, be put in place within the terms of the Agreement, with the timeline being agreed by the end of November 2007.

ACTIONS ARISING: Queensland (DCDS) / DPRWG – All Jurisdictions