

17th November 2008

The Hon. John Della Bosca,
Level 30, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Regarding: Adverse Impact of NSW Mini-budget on Drug and Alcohol Non-Government Organisations

Dear Minister John Della Bosca,

I am writing on behalf of the NSW Health funded Drug and Alcohol Non-government Organisations (NGO) to voice our concerns over the measures indicated in the NSW Mini Budget of the 11th of November this year.

While it is unclear what "Reform grants to non-government organisations through efficiencies and limiting new agreements" would entail, there seems little doubt that reducing the funding passed on to NGOs by NSW Health to the tune of \$11 Million over three years will result in a real reduction in the services that the NGO sector is able to provide to the community.

The non-government sector is already struggling under increased compliance and reporting requirements resulting in difficulties in maintaining service delivery levels. Inadequate indexation and a failure to provide appropriate funding to allow NGOs to shoulder the increased compliance and reporting requirements characterise the NSW Health's administration of the grant program.

Recognition of the innovative and effective provision of services that the NGO sector contribute to the community appears to have been forgotten. Efficiency savings should be directed back into direct service delivery.

The Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies is supportive of measures to improve the management of the NGO grant program however it is unreasonable to expect that this can be achieved by reducing funding to NGOs. Reduced funding will result in further reduced services to clients to the detriment of the community as a whole.

I urge you to reconsider the application of efficiencies through cuts in funding to the NGO sector.

Yours sincerely,



Kerri Lawrence
Board President