



## **NSW Health Review of Alcohol and Other Drug Non Government Agencies Funded by MHDAAO: Funding Options Workshop Summary 21 October 2009**

At this consultation, a number of concerns were raised by the NGO sector including:

- NGO comments from HealthConsult consultations not being adequately reflected in the Funding Options Discussion paper
- NGOs that provide services across 2 or more of the 3 service delivery streams (residential treatment, non-residential treatment and health promotion/prevention) were not adequately considered throughout the Funding Options Discussion paper
- Data collection:
  - A database of services funded by NSW Health MHDAAO does not exist and is needed to build up an accurate picture of the services provided by the NGO sector
  - The data on which many models were based (i.e. NSW Minimum Data Set Collection) was not appropriate for use in developing funding models as it was not designed for this purpose and does not capture all activities provided by an organisation, nor is it able to be used as performance measures alone (if at all).
  - For health promotion services, there is no consistent data collection (this is a limitation that needs to be addressed)
- Inadequate consideration of service diversity and client complexity in all funding model options
- Inadequate consideration of quality of service delivery in all funding model options
- NSW Health could contribute to an improved funding model by better articulating their service delivery priorities (across both treatment and health promotion).
- Concerns that NSW Health may use information about other streams of funding to NGOs (e.g. DoHA) to determine what funds they would provide for service delivery by the NGO. This has the potential to stifle growth and innovation by the NGO and may be viewed as 'punishing' the NGO for being able to attract other funds.
- Terms of funding need to be addressed (3 years or more) and should be between coordinated with other major funding bodies such as the Department of Health and Ageing.

NADA members at the workshop stressed that better data collection and consideration of the diversity, complexity and quality of service provision were important principles that should be considered in any funding model proposed. It was highlighted that a 'one size fits all' model was not appropriate for the sector and flexibility would be required.