



**CHP/DV Vic Sector accreditation meeting September 14 2010, notes on the
Integrated Standards Project
Workshop with Australian Healthcare Association (AHA)**

Peter Orchard (AHA) explained Integrated Standards project would reduce the regulatory burden on services. The streamlining of standards across the three DHS divisions: Housing, Children Youth and Families, and Disability Services would mean that a funded organisation will only need to be accredited once in each three year period regardless of the number of DHS programs they are funded to provide.

Tim Wilmot (DHS Corporate Services) said that it's envisaged that services would select an assessment body. This assessment body would then assess the service against the corporate standards and the DHS module. It is proposed that the new standards module will be developed by December 2010 and implementation will occur for the commencement of the 2012 funding and service agreement.

Q&A

Will the model meet the standards in the National Quality Framework? (Further development of NQF had been suspended by FACHSIA because of the Federal election). Mary Marshall (DHS) said that the Integrated Standards Project will complement the Commonwealth work. Victoria is regarded as a leader in quality work.

Will all aspects of the 3 divisions work be integrated across the standards?

Peter Orchard (AHA) said that that commonalities will be emphasized i.e. consumer participation is common to all standards. However some standards will be specific to the sector.

Is Housing registration under the scope of the project?

No. Housing registration is a separate process. Mary Marshall (DHS) said DHS has not commenced the examination of models for the recognition of Organizational Management standards.

Peter Orchard (AHA) said a correlation exercise is being done by AHA across the 3 sets of standards applicable to the 3 divisions within DHS.

The workshop:

Peter said the initial consultation today is for AHA to gain an overview on what needs to be retained and what is duplicated within the HASS standards. This will inform the working group to be held September 22.

Peter divided the meeting into 5 groups. Each group were given 2 standards discuss. Outcomes from the discussion were recorded on a template. A template was taken

from each group to AHA for collation before September 22. (A scanned copy is attached with these minutes). The questions they were asked to answer were:

- What duplication is there?
- When is it too detailed?
- What standards might be "in common" with other sectors?
- What standards (or intent) have to be preserved?
- Are there standards missing from all of HASS that should be included?
- Any other comments.

Further Q&A

A concern was raised that the quality assurance would be the focus of the new standards rather than the continuous quality improvement.

Tim Wilmot (DHS Corporate Services) answered that the new standards would have a CQI focus.

What other opportunities is there for regional input into the process?

Mary Marshall (DHS) indicated that 4-5 rural based agencies are represented on the working group. Mary explained that the working group has been chosen from agencies who responded to Sandy Milne's email calling for participation in the group. Agencies were chosen on the basis of their size, their program composition and the geographic region they cover. This was to obtain a balance in the working group.

It is envisaged that a draft of the new standards based on the consultation today and with the working group September 22 will be available for comment by the end of October.