

Memorandum of Understanding 2016–19

Between the non-government health, housing and community services sector, and the Department of Health and Human Services

Preamble

- A** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the non-government health, housing and community services sector in Victoria. It covers sector organisations funded by DHHS; the term is for 3 years from July 2016 to June 2019. This MOU is the latest iteration which began with a MOU between the sector and the Department of Human Services in 2002 and with the Department of Health in 2009.
- B** The MOU recognises that DHHS and the sector share a common objective: to achieve the best possible outcomes from the provision of health, housing and community services for the people of Victoria.
- C** This MOU acknowledges that the best service outcomes are the product of effective public policy, inclusive planning, clear service and funding agreements, improved service delivery, and transparent accountability at all levels of activity.
- D** All parties to this MOU are committed to working in the spirit of partnership, acknowledging their different roles and responsibilities.
- E** This MOU acknowledges that formal arrangements are in existence, both in Victoria and nationally. In many instances there will be overarching issues across all relationships and joint work may occur and influence the relationships, including work around service and system redesign.

Parties

The parties to this MOU are the:

- 1) Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- 2) Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS): as signatory on behalf of the health, housing and community sector.

1. MOU

1.1 This MOU creates no legal partnership or joint venture and none of the parties can commit the others financially, or otherwise, to third parties.

1.2 This MOU is not intended to create legal relations or constitute a legally binding agreement between the parties.

2. Term

This MOU runs from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019 and covers all non-government health, housing and community services that are represented by VCOSS and which are funded by DHHS.

3. Purpose

1.2 The parties to this MOU enter into the arrangement with the intention of working cooperatively to sustain, strengthen and build on the working relationship between the health, housing and community services sector and DHHS.

1.3 This MOU recognises that DHHS and sector organisations have different and complementary roles and responsibilities which involve different accountabilities and decision making processes, but it recognises and promotes vision, values and goals that are held in common.

1.4 This MOU will guide joint participation in agreed processes for policy development, planning, service monitoring and review, and accountability.

4. Shared Vision

1.5 The parties are committed to the delivery of high quality health, housing and community services as needed by Victorians.

1.6 The future of human service delivery in Victoria assumes the sustainable existence of a robust and resilient non-government health, housing and community services sector working in a dynamic relationship with responsive government agencies.

1.7 The ultimate vision continues to be for service provision that supports a democratic, fair, effective and accountable body of services that accommodates and values diversity, addresses the needs of vulnerable and marginalised people, recognises regional and rural differences and contributes demonstrable high quality outcomes in accordance with agreed standards.

5. Principles

The following principles will guide the interactions between the parties to this MOU:

- 1) **Mutual respect** for each party's autonomy and responsibilities, while recognising that working in the spirit of partnership may require change, innovation and risk.
- 2) **Collaboration** and the fostering of opportunities to work together on issues of mutual benefit or concern.
- 3) **Communication, consultation and engagement** on decisions by one party that will impact on the other.
- 4) **Transparency** of financial relations between DHHS, VCOSS and the sector, subject to legislation and policies.
- 5) A **relationship** that celebrates success, addresses challenges and acknowledges contributions to outcomes that are achieved.
- 6) **Joint leadership** including joint agenda setting.

6. Governance

1.8 The Human Services and Health Partnership Implementation Committee (HSHPIC) is the governance structure to support implementation of this MOU.

1.9 The parties to this MOU will continue to maintain and support HSHPIC to facilitate, represent and service joint activities.

7. Reporting Arrangements

1.10 Department of Health and Human Services – HSHPIC reports to the DHHS Board, this MOU covers all DHHS funded community service organisations.

1.11 Victorian Council of Social Service – HSHPIC reports to the Peaks and State-wide Networks Forum.

8. HSHPIC Terms of Reference

HSHPIC will be governed by Terms of Reference (ToR) that will be reviewed annually.

The ToR will detail HSHPIC's:

- 1) Objective
- 2) Membership
- 3) Resources
- 4) Deliverables

5) Governance

9. HSHPIC Work plan

HSHPIC will develop an annual work plan that will focus on areas of mutual responsibility and interest. A report card will evaluate work plan progress annually.

Signed by:

Kym Peake

Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services

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Emma King

Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Social Services

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To receive this publication in an accessible format email HSHPIC@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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