

December 2015

NADA continues to be involved in the NGO grant reviews at both the state and commonwealth levels. Sector Watch aims to keep members informed through regular updates for you, your staff, board and management committee.

NSW Ministry of Health

The Ministry has recently established a Drug and Alcohol Reference Group to inform the design and process of Partnerships for Health as it relates to drug and alcohol services. The evaluation of NADA is about to commence, which will be followed closely by the evaluation of Residential Rehabilitation services. Additionally, MHDAO have funded NADA to support the development of services specifications for NGO treatment which will begin in early 2016. Finally, you should have received communication from the Ministry (attached) indicating an extension of contracts to at least 30 June 2017.

Commonwealth Department of Health

The Department of Health has announcement that NGOTGP and SMDSGF will be extended until 30 June 2017. You should have received communication from the Department last week, and we understand that deeds of variation with funding at the same level as 2014/15 will be negotiated early in the new year. NADA has sought a meeting with Minister Nash to discuss the implications of commissioning alcohol and other drug services through Primary Health Networks. The [National Ice Taskforce Report](#) has been released, along with the Australian Government's response to the report. Additionally, the Australian Government has released the long awaited reports on the [reviews of the AOD sector](#).

Update on questions from the sector

NADA has provided your questions to the NSW Ministry of Health and is awaiting a response. We'll convey it to you as soon as we receive it. The questions from the sector are attached.

For more information

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Questions from the sector

The September Sector Watch Update asked NADA members if they had any questions they would like to know about funding developments so that NADA could provide them to government for a response. The following questions have been provided by NADA members:

- What are the improvements the contract and purchasing reforms are going to achieve?
- The NGO AOD sector costs in excess of \$80m to operate, but the Ministry only cover \$33m. How does the Ministry intend to address the problem of purchasing services when they only fund about a third of the actual costs of delivering services?
- What is the composition of the review panel? Does it include AOD services and service user representation?
- Does the government acknowledge there needs to be different types of treatment for different clients? Are they willing to fund the full range of services needed?
- How will the new grants program protect and support the service diversity we currently have?
- Why are we not using the DA-CCP model in the Partnerships for Health planning process? This looks at residential and day programs and includes complexity
- Does the Government know what type of services are provided by NGOs? E.g. what is residential rehabilitation and what range of services does it provide clients?
- Has the Ministry consulted with service users?
- How is the government going to get its mental health services to response to AOD?
- How does government expect the sector to maintain its workforce, leases, and service users in the current environment?

NADA has provided a request to the NSW Ministry of Health to respond to the questions so that it can be communicated to the sector.