

NGO role and efficiency

Introduction to MOH –NGO forum
papers prepared by Henry Harrison By
Chris Harris & Rob Warriner

Motivation for papers

- The biggest upheaval in the global economy since the Great Depression – and the consequent need for transformation in the provision of health and disability services
- Concern that opportunities and potential, latent capabilities within the NGO sector, can be overlooked as traditional, more powerful vested interests assert themselves.
- To remind government and policy makers about the unique opportunities offered by NGOs – efficient service delivery, consistent effectiveness, innovative practices, and “value for money” - that clearly enhance community health and well-being
- Specify the potential and capability of the NGO sector to support government policy – via current and planned initiatives (ie. services that are “better, sooner and more convenient”)
- Consider the changes that will be necessary to ensure continued NGO viability and influence

NGO role paper

- NGO role – and potential - is undervalued and overlooked.
- Hospital / medico-centric dominance of key forums diminishes the representation and understanding of NGO contribution – it is irresponsible to ignore the role of NGOs as a source of innovative, cost -effective solutions
- Government / statutory agencies need to commit to relationships that empower, nurture and partner rather than contain, constrain and direct.
- Innovation is the key to a post-recessionary future – history would assert that NGOs are the first place to look

Opportunities to reduce administration and compliance costs

- Unspoken – but conveniently popular - policy agendas regarding the number and size of NGOs
- Creating a new conversation about how we might add value through collaboration
- Workforce strength vs risk and the option to support skills and client pathway partnerships
- How do we improve efficiency without eroding service choice? Options for the future

Introduction Henry Harrison

- Significant experience and understanding of the NGO sector and the mental health and health sectors as a clinician, manager, purchaser and consultant
- Access to wide repository of information relevant to the topics
- Strong collaborative approach
- Papers – are provocative and provide a rich information source for NGO sector and policy makers – an informant of some key conversations