

Report on the Eleventh Health and Disability Sector NGO-Ministry of Health Forum

“Innovation and Collaboration”

Health and Disability Sector
NGO-MOH Forum
18 May 2007
Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor Christchurch

Introduction

The theme of this forum - Innovation and Collaboration - was selected on the basis of feedback from the sector and the growing need to identify models of excellence, innovation in collaborative partnerships in the sector to achieve health outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Welcome Address

Rose Wall, MoH NGO desk manager and Manager DHB Funding and Performance Directorate welcomed delegates to the Forum. She endorsed the Ministry's commitment to building strong links with the NGO sector in order to delivering health outcomes jointly for all New Zealanders. Rose acknowledged the significant work of the WG in fostering this relationship on behalf of the sector.

Jo Fitzpatrick, Chair of the NGO WG also welcomed delegates and thanked Rose for her introduction. Jo also acknowledged the work of immediate past Chair Marion Blake and thanked her organisation Platform for the continued administration of the Working Group. She referred delegates to the third quarter reports in their packs (See Appendix 1) and addressed salient points including:

- The NGO Working group participation in the Director General's 'Harder and Faster' workshops and the associated reports to and from the workshop.
- The Strategic Planning Workshop which set the scene for the identification of workstreams, activities, responsibilities and priorities within a clear strategic framework for the Working group. A copy of the Strategic Plan overview was also included in conference packs.
- The changes in the Working Group, both at secretariat and leadership level, and at the Ministry desk which delayed some of the projects planned for this 12 month period including work on the website and the development of a robust database for communication
- The Working group intention to repeat the earlier Ministry and DHB 'Relationships Survey.'

***Minister Clayton Cosgrove** , Minister for Social Justice delivered an address on behalf of the Hon. Ruth Dyson , Minister for Disability Issues. In this address he reiterated the importance of Government commitment to the NGO sector and it's expression in the MoH/NGO Working Group. He also discussed the importance of collaboration with NGOs and across government in progressing the NZ Disability Strategy. He also highlighted International collaborations in Mental Health and Disability leadership. The sector was strongly encouraged to maintain its momentum in the changing health and disability environment .

***The Deputy Director -General Anthony Hill** outlined the eleven priority MoH targets with their rationale and associated champions within the Ministry.

Forum Overview

The programme included presentations to reflect collaboration and innovation from across and within the sector, question and answer sessions and workshops to give participants the opportunity to identify opportunities and barriers to innovation and collaboration.

***Dr Anne Pomeroy**, Manager -Funding for Outcomes, Ministry for Social Development presented an overview of Funding for Outcomes (Integrated Agreements) based on the experiences of MSD. She outlined FfO as an approach to social service delivery that “brings together the multiple contracts held by individual communities, iwi and Maori service providers with multiple government agencies into single, outcome -focussed , three year contracts.” Integrated agreements add value as providers and funders work collaboratively to improve service provision for clients and early experience suggests that both sides find this funding model to be more effective than many currently used in other Ministry's. Integrated contracts seem to satisfactorily meet the promise of the Statement of Government Intentions for an Improved Community- Government Relationship as they : encourage government funders to work with providers; change the way contracts with community organisations are negotiated; and involve community organisations in decision- making.

***William Hamilton, Health Workforce Innovation Programme Manager DHBNZ** discussed the importance of relevant workforce information in an innovative environment. He provided an overview of relevant health workforce information goals and outlined the 2007 programmes of action. These include an extension of the HWIP client base to include DHB and non- DHB health and disability sector organisations and the use of HWIP principal workforce information inputs to inform health and disability sector workforce planning and development.

***Steve Creed, Senior Policy Analyst , Ministry of Health**, presented an update on the MOH `s Key Directions in the Information Environment as it applies to the Primary Health Care Strategy. He reported on the 12 Action Zones; the five uses of data with particular relevance for the NGO sector. He also highlighted upcoming opportunities for participation.

***Tony Duncan, Executive Director, National Heart Foundation**, discussed innovation and collaboration based on the Heart Foundation experience with the Ministry of Health. He defined the characteristics of strong collaboration as being based on:

- constructive relationships
- trust
- mutual value
- transparency
- integrity

He appealed to NGOs to be value -makers rather than contract -takers and to reflect on the process by which NGOs sit with MOH and DHBs to plan services , programmes and projects. He believed that NGOs offer brand value(trust and credibility), community value(public goodwill and engagement) and institutional value(expert knowledge and evidence).

***Mike Watson**, Chief Executive , NZ Business Excellence Foundation, presented an overview of how NZ Business supports NZ NGO's to achieve world class performance and results by rewarding innovation in the Health Sector .The Health Innovation Awards aim to recognise and celebrate innovation and improvements that are developed and implemented effectively while delivering results. He emphasised that all organisations in the Health and Disability sector are eligible to participate and that participation builds capacity in the sector .

Workshops : Identifying opportunities and Overcoming barriers to Innovation and Collaboration

Three workshops allowed participants to brainstorm and share their perspective on what the opportunities and barriers were to collaboration and innovation in the NGO sector (both within and between NGOs and between NGOs and funders). The main issues identified in the workshops (along with relevant information obtained from the NGO Working Group survey) will be developed into a short paper that will be shared with the NGO sector and sent to the Ministry of Health from the NGO Working Group after the survey has been analysed. Some of the key themes from the workshops included the impact of the contracting environment (including contract negotiation processes, the competitive tendering model and funder/provider conflict within DHBs) on NGO innovation and collaboration, capacity issues (funding, workforce development) affecting innovation and collaboration, and the desire to explore opportunities for NGOs to work together (to share information, best practice, present united front to funders).

Evaluation

There were 122 registrations for the forum but only 80 delegates attended. Feedback received from 50 participants indicated that they value the opportunity to be informed of sector -wide issues and to network with colleagues and the MOH . Topics for future forums include show casing of Innovative and Collaborative practice, Auditing and Contracting and Relationship Building with Funders.

*Presentations are available at: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesmh/6398>