

Phase One: Self-managed Funding Initiative Consultative Committee Communiqué Meeting May/July 2010



Government of South Australia
Department for Families
and Communities

About the Self-managed Funding Consultative Committee

The Self-managed Funding Consultative Committee is comprised of key stakeholders from across the disability sector and members of the Self-managed Funding Panel. The Consultative Committee was established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Department for Families and Communities (DFC) on the development of a future system of self-managed funding in South Australia. Some members are also representatives of other committees or groups. This Communiqué outlines discussions that occurred at the Consultative Committee meetings held in May /July 2010.

Self Directed Funding Scheme in Victoria

In considering future directions for self-managed funding, the Consultative Committee is keen to make contact with individualised funding schemes in other states. The Committee will hold a link up with Victorian project staff and participants in August. To facilitate discussion the Committee will formulate some key questions of interest.

Funding Agreements

The Honourable Jennifer Rankin, Minister for Disabilities, signed some of the first Self-managed Funding Agreements with participants and carers at Parliament House on 21 June.

Communications

Secure options for participants to communicate electronically are being explored in addition to the self-managed funding website and newsletter, which are in development.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Some services and items will be exempt from GST while others will attract GST. Disability SA's advice is that many specialist disability services will not attract GST. Other more general services and items may attract GST. Disability SA will provide an allowance to participants to cover any GST costs. This allowance is only for GST and does not form a part of the participants' self-managed funding package.

Self-managed Funding Panel

The Consultative Committee discussed the Self-managed Funding Panel and queried the need for it to continue in future phases of self-managed funding. Information was provided on the operation of the Panel and the rationale for its establishment for Phase One. The Panel was established to make recommendations in relation to participants' expenditure and service provision plans. The Panel does not receive any identifying information. The Panel includes people external to Disability SA to ensure that precedents about expenditure and service provision are transparent and informed by people with a range of expertise.

Draft Committee Work Plan

The Consultative Committee is developing a work plan to prioritise issues to be addressed in their recommendations for a future system of self-managed funding.



Evaluation

An independent evaluation will be conducted during Phase One. The evaluation will examine participants' experience of this initial self-managed funding system. The insights of participants, service providers and other interested parties will support the further development of a self-managed funding system for South Australia. The Evaluator (Jenny Pearson) has met with the Consultative Committee and outlined the evaluation. Jenny will attend future meetings on a regular basis.

Self-managed Funding Update

- Currently there are 41 participants actively pursuing self-managed funding. Ten people currently have a funding agreement and are self-managing. Another nine are in the process of finalising their funding agreements. Other participants are still finalising their plans.
- There is diversity among participants including: an equal mix of males and females; a range in age; country representation; living alone or with carers; and individuals with a range of disabilities, including physical and intellectual disability.
- The facilitators provide ongoing support to all participants and are available to answer questions or offer assistance as needed. They are currently keeping in touch with country participants through Skype.