

2.1 COUNCIL'S ROLE IN HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE – PROGRAM FOR YOUNGER PEOPLE (SR:AGED8)

Responsible Director: Julie Salomon

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the outcome of the negotiations agreed to at the November 2017 Council meeting, resulting in Council ceasing to be a provider of the State Government's Home and Community Care – Program for Younger People, as of 30 June 2018.

INTRODUCTION

At the November 2017 ordinary meeting, Council resolved to cease the delivery of the Home and Community Care – Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP) unless funding certainty could be negotiated with the Victorian State Government via the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Council sought a commitment to a minimum funding level of 70% of our current funding. No specific funding levels were able to be committed to by the DHHS, although some minor concessions were made in terms of revoking the initial funding target reductions and making a commitment to support Council with the reduction in fee income generated by the introduction of the NDIS.

BACKGROUND

Council resolved to cease the delivery of the HACC-PYP at the November 2017 Council meeting unless the DHHS committed to 70% of the current base funding and authorised the CEO to commence negotiations with the DHHS to achieve this. The CEO subsequently wrote to the secretary of the DHHS outlining Council's concerns and requests, followed by a meeting with senior departmental staff. A formal response was received from the DHHS on 20 December 2017. This correspondence did not address the majority of points that Council had raised with the DHHS, including the request for a specific funding commitment, any clarity on what work had been done on the future viability of the program or any specific planning the State Government may have done on the future support of people with a disability who are not eligible for the NDIS.

DISCUSSION

Detailed discussions and adopted recommendations were included within the November report. For the purposes of this report, Councillors are asked to note the outcome of the negotiations with the DHHS which have failed to secure the funding commitment required by resolution.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst this program supports some of the most vulnerable people in the community, the State Government has committed to continuing to support the HACC-PYP and will need to source an alternative provider to deliver services. Council will work with any new provider to ensure a smooth transition of support.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The effect on human rights have been considered in this report and whilst there are potential serious social implications, human rights will not be compromised on the outcome of these recommendations and within the timeframes included. The State Government will subsequently need to determine how it manages any human rights considerations in planning future service delivery models.

CONSULTATION

Appropriate internal consultation has taken place in addition to the discussions and negotiation with the State Government as required by the November report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Direct financial effects will be negligible, with the reduction in income being offset by a corresponding reduction in expenditure. The total reduction in income will be approximately \$1,280,000.

CONCLUSION

Following the meeting, officers will formally notify customers, staff and the DHHS of the cessation of Council's role in the delivery of the HACC-PYP as of 30 June 2018. Officers will immediately commence discussions with the DHHS about transitional processes and how residents in receipt of this program can be supported through this time.