



MEDIA RELEASE

OUTSOURCING COMMUNITY SERVICE DELIVERY – INTERIM REPORT

The Legislative Assembly Committee on Community Services has released an interim report in connection with its Inquiry into outsourcing the delivery of housing, home care and disability services to the community sector.

The process of transferring the delivery of Government provided housing, home care and disability services to community based organisations has already commenced and is a trend which is continuing to evolve. The Committee's Inquiry has provided the opportunity to examine this process to date and to advise Government about the best way forward.

The Chair of the Community Services Committee, Mr Kevin Anderson MP, National Party Member for Tamworth, said: "This has been a particularly timely and significant Inquiry which has assessed the impact on clients and service providers of delivering services closer to the ground. The Committee has received 83 submissions and taken evidence from 57 witnesses covering a range of matters and concerns including ways to regulate and monitor service providers, improved quality assurance safeguards for clients, building capacity for smaller providers, incentives for private philanthropy and more effective use of technology".

"As the analysis of all the evidence received by the Committee has not yet been completed, and conscious of the pace with which the outsourcing process is evolving, the Committee has decided to release a preliminary report making recommendations to guide policy in two key elements of the outsourcing process", Mr Anderson continued.

"The Committee has recommended that a centralised database be established within an appropriate Government agency to collect information about outsourced services, classified by service category for all providers across all agencies. The Committee has also recommended the establishment of an application Gateway, which will streamline contract requirements and level the playing field for providers. Further recommendations are made to require applications to be expressed in clear language, after consultation with service providers. A greater description of the process is contained in the report, Mr Anderson concluded.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the Committee website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/communityservices, or by contacting Mr Kevin Anderson, Chair, on (02) 6766 1422 or Mr Bjarne Nordin, Inquiry Manager, on (02) 9230 2843.

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