

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Community Services Procurement Schedule?

The Community Services Procurement Schedule (the Schedule) details the alignment of service program areas to the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs Services Plan 2015-2025 (the Plan) under the streams of Community Treatment, Community Bed Based, Community Support and Community Prevention. The Schedule is broken down to the service program areas relative to the four streams.

The Schedule provides a transparent overview of the Mental Health Commissions (MHC) procurement planning timeframes and enables non-government organisations to plan in advance for the procurement of their respective service or other services. The Schedule includes an 18-month procurement planning process which includes consultation, procurement and commencement.

Why has it been introduced?

The MHC is working to make things clearer for stakeholders by setting out when different types of services will be procured.

The Schedule aligns the MHC's procurement of mental health and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services to each program area against the Plan service streams.

The Schedule will provide greater clarity to service providers, as well as other commissioning agencies such as the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) who also plan services in the community services sector.

This will, in turn, provide greater continuity in mental health and AOD services to consumers and the wider community through better coordination and targeting of resources and funding.

Currently, service contracts may contain a number of schedules for services in different program areas. This means the same program area across service providers may have different expiry dates. The alignment of existing service program areas to the Plan allows the MHC to plan and procure services by program area in a flexible manner, and to be responsive to the changing needs of the community.

For organisations, the risk is all their funded services may cease at the same time. A program area expiry date rather than a single contract expiry date also reduces the number of procurement processes an organisation has to undertake in one period.

How does the Schedule affect me?

All current service agreements will remain in place. However, your organisation may be requested to extend the service program areas in your agreement to the dates outlined in the Schedule.

Normal contract processes will continue to apply including reporting requirements, compliance and standard service reviews and evaluations

When will my organisation be notified if my service will undergo a Preferred Service Provider process or be part of an open tender process?

The MHC intends to provide a minimum nine months' notice of its decision regarding the procurement method to be undertaken for each service or program area.

What if the Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025 changes – will this change the Schedule?

If any changes are made to the Schedule they will be made in consultation with the mental health, alcohol and other drugs sectors, and other relevant stakeholders.

The Plan is reviewed on a regular basis to provide the latest modelling and population demographics to ensure ongoing responsiveness to emerging trends in the delivery of mental health and alcohol and other drug services. This should not have a direct impact on the Schedule as the service streams should remain unchanged.

Does the Schedule mean that all services will now be publicly tendered out?

No. The procurement strategy for each service program area will be dependent on a number of factors including:

- the type of service being purchased;
- evaluation and consultation results regarding the type of services;
- research findings including the size of the market, maturity of the market, location of service, etc; and
- length of time since last tender process.

The MHC is committed to working with NGOs and the community services sector to deliver quality, sustainable mental health and AOD services that keeps people well and prevents or reduces mental health, alcohol and other drug problems.

Sector input will also be sought as part of the deliberation on the procurement strategy to be applied for the respective program area.

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