

NSW Infrastructure Grants Program

While many parts of NSW are experiencing rain for the first time in seven years, the funding drought has also broken for the mental health sector, which is enthusiastically making use of new resources to improve infrastructure. So far, \$2,735,277 from the Infrastructure Grant Program (IGP) has been allocated to NGOs across NSW to implement 45 service improvement projects.

Projects are both big and small, including –

- Installing new and updated data management technology
- Engaging consultants or temporary staff to prepare NGOs for accreditation review
- Developing methodology and conducting program evaluations
- Exploring opportunities for improvements in specific areas of service delivery
- Painting, air-conditioning, updating office equipment, etc.

The final round of funding was promoted during February 2008, and assessments have now been released. To ensure that the remaining IGP funds are targeted effectively, the eligibility criteria was amended to give priority to NGOs with one or more of the following characteristics –

- Incorporated organisations in the mental health sector that do not currently receive any funding from NSW Health
- NGOs that have not previously applied for IGP funds, and provide services specifically for mental health consumers, and/ or their family and friends
- Projects that promote the development and use of routine consumer outcome monitoring mechanisms.

In addition, IGP funds are also ear-marked for projects that will benefit the mental health sector as a whole, including –

- Mapping the sector to identify gaps and inform future planning
- Developing resources to assist NGOs maintain continuous quality improvement processes
- Training NGOs to develop and implement routine consumer outcome monitoring mechanisms.

As we look forward to seeing a healthier mental health landscape, let's hope for more rain on the horizon. MHCC will provide more information about the outcomes being achieved by the IGP in future issues of the View from the Peak. If you have any questions about the IGP, contact Jenna on (02) 9555 8388.