

What is the Sector Development Program?

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) funds 14 peak and consumer organisations to undertake capacity-building policy, and advocacy activities. Further information on the program can be found on the [Department's website](#).

Collaborative Design

On 15 August, DCJ started a collaborative design process with stakeholders - funded peak bodies, representatives from service providers groups, DCJ districts and commissioned Programs. This was the first in a number of sessions to work together to design a program that will contribute to improvements in the delivery of the sector development activities to address changing needs.

The key messages from the session:

- Collaboration needs to be based on principles incl. trust, openness and transparency.
- In a changing environment, there is a need for strengthening engagement, focus on client voice and innovation in the delivery of the services.
- Trends, market structures and performance measures have shifted towards the need to reorienting services to be more client-focused, strengths-based and solution focused.
- The scope and underlying assumptions need to be clear and communicated openly to stakeholders.
- Design of the services need to be outcome focused, accountable and measurable
- Systemic advocacy embeds the voice of the community and client in

commissioning and ensures the diverse range of views and voices are represented in policy debate

- Focusing on working collaboratively with a diverse group of people and organisations will be key supporting the success of program
- Measuring the outcomes of the services is important to demonstrate effectiveness
- Performance frameworks and funding are key levers to empower and drive achievement of outcomes and an emerging area of evidence.
- Recognition of move to new program will involve a transition.

Who attended?

- Representatives from all 14 peaks as well as consumer organisations
- DCJ District representatives from the Northern NSW/Mid North Coast/ New England, Western Sydney/Nepean/Blue Mountains, South Western Sydney and Illawarra Southern NSW districts.
- Provider representatives from Mission Australia, SECC, Southern Youth and Family Services, Community Industry Group, YPS
- DCJ Program teams.

Find out more or contribute to this work

Visit our [website](#) or contact the Project by email

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Alternatively, you can contact the above peak/ consumer organisation or service provider representatives to contribute.