The Mental Health Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Workforce Project aimed to improve the understanding of the mental health NGO sector and the people who work in it. It included a survey of organisations about their characteristics and a survey of individual staff members. This fact sheet shows some of the findings regarding funding of mental health NGOs.

Responding organisations reported on their total annual income and their funding sources:

**Budgets and use of funding**

- 12% of organisations had an annual income of less than $100,000.
- 58% of organisations had an annual income of $100,000 - $3 million.
- 30% of organisations had an annual income of $3m - greater than $10m.
- Figure 1 shows the highest respondent counts for annual income were for the $1m - $3m and the $100,000 - $499,999 bands and the lowest respondent count for annual income was for the $30,000 - $99,999 band.
- 37% received 76-100% of their total annual income for mental health services.

- The majority of organisations (53%) reported annual budgets of greater than $1 million.
- 40% of Landscape Survey respondents received 5% or less of their funding for short term programs. This contrasts with the results of the Mental Health Council of Australia NGO Capacity Development Project, which found that a majority of agencies it surveyed had a large proportion of their mental health funding for short-term programs. It was not clear from the data available why there was this difference in results.

**Funding sources of organisations responding to the Landscape Survey**

Responding organisations received funding from a range of sources. Some of the main findings of the Landscape Survey were:

- 58% of organisations had 2-5 funding sources.
• 28% of organisations had only one funding source. Figure 2 shows the funding sources for these organisations.

• Government funding was found to be the largest contributor to mental health NGO income by the Landscape Survey, as well as by other studies of the sector.

• 58% received some and 35% received the majority of their funding from state/territory health departments.

• The only organisations which reported receiving their entire funding from fundraising or donations were small organisations.

• Of the organisations who reported their entire funding was from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), 70% were large organisations.

**NGOs in the Mental Health Funding Environment**

• In 2007-08, about $5.3 billion was spent on mental health related services in Australia. During 2008-09, this expenditure increased to over $5.8 billion, or $272 per person. The split in sources for the funding in 2008-09 was relatively unchanged from the previous period, with 59% coming from state and territory governments, 37% from the Australian Government and 4% from private health insurance funds.

• As a result of the COAG National Action Plan for Mental Health, announced in 2006, there has been additional Commonwealth and state and territory funding injected into the mental health NGO sector.

• In 2007-08, grants to NGOs made up 7% of states and territories’ recurrent mental health funding ($225m) and in 2008-09 grants to NGOs made up about 7% ($236m). Although this was still a small proportion of total state/territory funding for mental health, it was an increase from 6% in 2004-05 ($130m).

This series of fact sheets summarises some of the findings from the Mental Health Non-Government Organisation Workforce Report. All results are indicative and cannot be generalised beyond the scope of this study. For a copy of the full report and other fact sheets go to www.aihw.gov.au/Publications.asp or www.hwa.gov.au.

**Other fact sheets in this series:**

- A Snapshot of the Mental Health Non-Government Organisation Sector
- Non-Government Organisation Mental Health Service Provision
- Mental Health Non-Government Organisation Workforce Characteristics

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**Landscape Survey**

The Landscape Survey asked organisations about their characteristics and the services they offer and was conducted between 16 December 2009 and 7 May 2010. The focus of the project was the testing of a methodology for future workforce studies of the sector, however a range of data on the sector’s size, services and workforce was gathered in the process. This was a targeted and voluntary survey, and most likely not all mental health service providers or NGOs providing some level of support to mental health consumers and carers were captured through this sample. This, combined with challenges in defining mental health NGOs and their services, means that the results are not necessarily definitive, but provide some indicative information which will be of benefit to the sector and help develop future data collection. 268 valid responses were received and survey coverage was estimated at 34% of the sector.

DEEWR - Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
DoHA - Department of Health and Ageing
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Website www.hwa.gov.au Freecall 1800 707 351