

## Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2014 — at a glance

To reduce red tape and maintain safeguards for funding and funded products and services, the Bill:

- amends and significantly reduces the *Community Services Act 2007*
- repeals parts of the *Disability Services Act 2006* that duplicate the Community Services Act; and
- repeals the *Family Services Act 1987*.

The scope of the amended *Community Services Act 2007* will not include direct funding to individuals to obtain disability services. This will continue to be provided under the Disability Services Act.

### Summary of proposed changes to the *Community Services Act 2007* (CSA)

Change	Impact
New objects and principles	These suit the wider range of services that will be subject to the revised Act and they are relevant to its narrower scope (i.e. the use of investigative and remedial powers).
Remove legislative service standards	Quality standards will continue to be made administratively and organisations will continue to be required to meet them under their services contracts.
Remove requirement for NGOs to be pre-approved as eligible for funding	There will be a one-step funding process instead.
Remove funding approval and contracting requirements	These requirements will be dealt with administratively rather than in legislation.
Remove prescribed requirements	Investigative and remedial powers will instead be triggered where there is a 'serious concern' about service delivery.
Remove legislative show cause process	This process will continue to be set out in service contracts.
New approach for applying the Act	The Act will apply to funding that is the subject of a Ministerial declaration published on a department's website.
Simplify review and appeal processes	This will allow quick remedial action to be taken to ensure the safety of publicly funded products and services and to safeguard the use of public funds.

**Note:** The existing investigative and enforcement powers will be retained, including the power to request information and documents, issue a compliance notice, appoint an interim manager for the funding and recover misused funds as a debt.

### Summary of proposed changes to the *Disability Services Act 2006* (DSA)

Change	Impact
Remove all funding provisions	Funding processes will be set administratively.
Remove investigative and remedial powers, including the power to enter a place without consent or a warrant	The powers in the amended CSA will be available instead.

**Note:** Specialist disability service requirements will be retained. These include the human rights principle and other disability rights, employment screening requirements and restrictive practice approvals.

### Summary of proposed changes to the *Family Services Act 1987* (FSA)

Change	Impact
The FSA will be repealed	Powers in the revised CSA will be available instead. Honorary officer provisions will be transferred to the Child Protection Act 1999.