

ITEM 15. TENDER - HOMELESSNESS BROKERAGE PROGRAM

FILE NO: S070694

TENDER NO: 0193

SUMMARY

This report provides details of the tenders received for the Homelessness Brokerage Program (HBP).

In early 1997, the City of Sydney launched the Homelessness Brokerage Program. This was provided by four community sector agencies. In 2002, the YWCA became the sole provider of the HBP under contract to the City of Sydney.

The HBP is jointly funded by the City of Sydney and Housing NSW (HNSW). The HBP provides flexible support to people, with low to moderate needs, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service aims to help people secure long-term accommodation and, where necessary, link people to support services to enable them to live independently. To achieve this goal, the service provides short-term accommodation, food, transport and other support to people who are homeless and do not require supervised accommodation.

The current contract to provide the HBP will expire in June 2009. A 2007 evaluation of the HBP determined that it was a very effective and cost efficient service.

This report recommends that Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer 'A' to provide the Homelessness Brokerage Program for three years from 2009/10 – 2011/12 with option to extend for a further two years.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council accept the tender offer of Tenderer 'A' to provide the Homelessness Brokerage Program 2009 - 2012/14; and
- (B) Tender Evaluation Summary, Attachment B to the subject report, remain confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Letter from Housing NSW confirming financial commitment to the Homelessness Brokerage Program

Attachment B: Tender Evaluation Summary (Confidential)

BACKGROUND

1. In early 1997, the City of Sydney launched the Homelessness Brokerage Program (HBP) as an initiative of its Community Strategic Partnerships Program. Initially, the Homelessness Brokerage Program was provided by four community sector agencies: Wesley Mission; Mission Australia; Anglicare; and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).
2. In 2002, the YWCA became the sole provider of the HBP under contract to the City of Sydney. The HBP is jointly funded by the City of Sydney and the NSW Department of Housing (HNSW). The HBP provides flexible support to people, with low to moderate needs, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The service aims to secure long-term accommodation and, where necessary, links people to support services to enable them to live independently. To achieve this goal, the service provides short-term accommodation, food, transport and other support to people who are homeless and do not require supervised accommodation.
3. The current contract to provide the HBP will expire in June 2009. On 15 December 2008, Council resolved to re-tender the HBP, in partnership with Housing NSW, for a period of three years, with the option to extend for a further period of two years.

INVITATION TO TENDER

4. The Tender was advertised in The Sydney Morning Herald and The Daily Telegraph on 24 February 2009, with tenders closing on 24 March 2009.

TENDER SUBMISSIONS

5. Two submissions were received from the following organisations:
 - Foster House, Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory
 - YWCA NSW
6. No late submissions were received.

TENDER EVALUATION

7. All members of the Tender Evaluation Panel have signed Pecuniary Interest Declarations. No pecuniary interests were noted.
8. The relative ranking of tenders as determined from the total weighted score is provided in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Summary – Attachment B.
9. Submissions were examined and evaluated according to the following criteria:
 - (a) realistic budget;
 - (b) key personnel – allocation of adequate resources;
 - (c) service model (including establishment phase);
 - (d) program delivery;

- (e) demonstrated ability to provide concrete outcomes against stated objectives of Tender;
- (f) demonstrated understanding of the policy framework underpinning the service and the role of the HBP within the broader framework of homelessness services;
- (g) experience with client group/services of a similar nature (quality of references);
- (h) environmental management;
- (i) Occupational Health & Safety; and
- (j) financial viability.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

10. The performance of the successful tenderer will be measured against specific Key Performance Indicators which include total number of referrals, percentage of referrals receiving assistance to exit homelessness, number of people prevented from becoming homeless, and accurate reporting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. There are sufficient funds allocated for this project within future years' forward estimates.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

12. The tender has been conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and the City's Contracts Policy.
13. Information provided by tenderers which is commercial-in-confidence has been protected and will not be disclosed in accordance with section 10A(2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993. A consistent standard for all tenderers has been used in assessing any request for confidentiality by a tenderer.

CRITICAL DATES / TIME FRAMES

14. The City of Sydney expects that the successful tenderer will commence operation of the new contract on 1 July 2009.
15. The HBP will be contracted to provide a service to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2012, with a two year option to extend.
16. The implication of a failure to commence the provision of the new HBP on 1 July 2009 is that there will be a lapse in the provision of this important service to vulnerable people until such time as the new program can commence.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

17. Consultation was undertaken with Housing NSW in the preparation of the tender process.

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