



# SSPA Alert

SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AOTEAROA. 7 March 2017

*SSPA Alert is to tell you about current events and seek your ideas and feedback.*

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## What's happening?

### **Individual Client Level Data: alternative approach proposed to Ministers**

SSPA has taken a lead role in convening a ComVoices group to try and reach agreement on the collection of client data that will be acceptable to both MSD and the community sector. [ComVoices](#) is a grouping of national social service organisations.

An initial issues paper led to a workshop with MSD and various providers before Christmas, but there are many unresolved issues, some of them fundamental. MSD says that the direction and timeframe have been set by ministers.

ComVoices has now written to ministers to raise these serious concerns and to seek agreement to working on an alternative approach –see below. The [issues paper](#) sets out the concerns in detail and a proposal to work together.

There has been considerable media coverage of the issues we are raising.

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## The letter to ministers

6 March 2017

### **To:**

Rt Hon Bill English, Prime Minister  
Hon Anne Tolley, Minister of Social Development, Minister for Children  
Hon Amy Adams, Minister Responsible for Social Investment  
Hon Alfred Ngaro MP, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector

### **Individual Client Level Data and Social Investment: A Proposal**

As you will be aware, MSD has advised that from July 2017 provider contracts will include the requirement to gather and share identifiable data about clients accessing services (ICLD). We understand this directive and timeframe has been set by ministers.

ComVoices members have engaged constructively – and continue to do so - with MSD on the basis of an earlier issues paper we prepared. However, significant issues remain unresolved.

The purpose of this paper is to advise ministers of those issues and to propose an alternative approach to deliver a robust system that will support the social investment programme.

The key request at this time is to agree a timeframe that will enable full discussion involving all interested parties. A July 2017 implementation date, when hundreds of providers throughout the country will be faced with contracts that include this ICLD, is creating an unhelpful environment to engage constructively on issues that are challenging for providers and MSD alike.

You will be aware that this matter has now entered the public arena. It is our preference to engage directly with you to seek a path forward and we are therefore requesting an early meeting to discuss the matters in our attached Issues Paper, including our proposal for a way forward.

Brenda Pilott  
Chair, ComVoices

c.c.     Brendan Boyle, CE Ministry of Social Development  
          Grainne Moss, CE Ministry for Vulnerable Children Oranga Tamariki  
          Murray Edridge, DCE Community Investment, MSD

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## What do you think?

Let us know what you think of the proposal. Are there other issues we should consider? What should we be seeking in an alternative approach? Send your views to Brenda Pilott at [manager@sspa.org.nz](mailto:manager@sspa.org.nz)

We will keep you informed of progress.