

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Hearing Aid Provider Network

November 17, 2011

Update to the RFQ Process

#2011- 75

As you aware, RFQ #055-2011 was concluded on October 28, 2011 due to concerns raised by members of the Hearing Aid Services Liaison Committee. As WorkSafeBC takes these concerns very seriously, we concluded the RFQ process.

WorkSafeBC would like to thank all Respondents who had prepared or submitted a RFQ response. WorkSafeBC is sensitive to and aware of the time and investment that has been incurred by your company and appreciates your efforts in preparing your response.

In considering the concerns raised and reviewing the priorities of all stakeholders, **WorkSafeBC has made the determination that the original decision to reduce the size of the Hearing Aid Provider Network will be reversed.** We have done that in order to focus on the underlying issues of quality and communication. The value and size of the HAP contract requires a formal procurement process, and as such, WorkSafeBC will be proceeding with a RFQ. However, we will **not** be limiting the number of providers in any geographic regions during the renewed RFQ process.

Yesterday WorkSafeBC staff met with members of the Liaison Committee in person and by teleconference and discussed some of the issues related to the RFQ as well as broader topics of quality assurance, communication and collaboration. The intent is to develop a full list of issues between us in early December and work towards a larger session on how we address these topics in 2012 once the RFQ is completed. Any issues that relate to the RFQ will be dealt with prior to the RFQ being released.

It is our intention to initiate this procurement process at a later date. We intend to begin this RFQ process for these services as soon as possible, anticipating that the RFQ document would be released in early January 2012, and there will be a longer time frame for response. The questions in the new RFQ will be very similar, if not the same, to the prior RFQ. Any changes to the previous RFQ will be easy to identify and enable Respondents to focus their efforts and submission accordingly. Previous respondents will have the option of either using their prior submission for this next RFQ or completing a new submission. All interested parties will have 6 weeks to complete their submissions once the RFQ is released. More details will follow in early January.

The RFQ document will be posted and made available for downloading at following websites:

WorkSafeBC website (PDF):

http://www.worksafebc.com/contact_us/bid_opportunities/current_bid_opportunities/default.asp

BC Bid website (Word): <http://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/open.dll/welcome>

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to register for automatic notification emails in order to be notified of the posting date of the RFQ. To subscribe to the "Notification of Bid Opportunities", please visit:

http://www.worksafebc.com/contact_us/bid_opportunities/default.asp

and click on "health care bid notifications."

Thank you.