



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Meeting #5 - DRAFT Meeting Notes and Actions

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 1 June 2022
<b>Time</b>	2:00 – 4:30pm
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams Meeting
<b>Members*</b>	Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Julie Waylen, Sandy McKiernan, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis, Melissa Perry, Denver D'Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, David Russell-Weisz, Adam Tomison, Lanie Chopping, Ralph Addis, Jennifer McGrath, Sharyn O'Neill, and Emily Roper. <i>* This does not include members that are on leave of absence.</i>
<b>Secretariat</b>	Community Policy Unit - Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) <a href="mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au">SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Invited Guests</b>	Greg Italiano, Natalia Kacperek, Tracey Ninnette and Christina Colegate (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); Lara Connor and Steven Hill (Department of Finance); Gail Beck (Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA); and Olwyn Williams (Minister McGurk's office).
<b>Apologies</b>	Kelda Oppermann, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Dr David Russell-Weisz, Ralph Addis, Dr Adam Tomison

### 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

#### 1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

Forum Co-Chair Jodi Cant acknowledged the Whadjuk Noongar people – the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Western Australia – and paid respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

#### 1.2 Welcome (opening remarks, introductions and apologies)

Forum Co-Chair Jodi Cant welcomed members, guests and acknowledged apologies.

Members noted movement in membership of the Forum and the sector.

#### 1.3 Confirm the meeting notes and actions from 2 March 2022

Members noted and confirmed the meeting notes from the 2 March meeting, with all actions completed.

#### 1.4 Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts of interest were noted for this meeting.

### 2. STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

#### 2.1 State Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan

Lara Connor, General Manager, Government Policy and Strategy Advisory Services, Department of Finance (Finance), provided members with an update on the State Commissioning Strategy (Strategy) and its Implementation Plan.

Members noted:

- the Strategy and an initial two-year Implementation Plan has been jointly developed and finalised by Departments of Finance, Treasury and the Premier and Cabinet, in consultation with government and the community services sector;
- the Implementation Plan reflects feedback received from government and community services sector stakeholders, obtained via workshops and consultations sessions held on 17<sup>th</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 respectively. Stakeholders included members of the Forum and representatives from the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA (AACWA). Government feedback also includes feedback from Directors General of the top five departments that are major procurers of community services – the Departments of Communities, Health, Justice, and Education, and the Mental Health Commission;
- the Implementation Plan includes eight priority areas, each having a central coordinating agency, clear actions, expected benefits, timeframes, and establishes roles and responsibilities for central agencies, line agencies and the community services sector;
- the key element of the Implementation Plan will be to embed enablers of commissioning as a foundation for both sectors to transition to commissioning;
- the Strategy and its Implementation Plan will ensure alignment with the implementation of the State's Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF), and support prioritisation of Aboriginal empowerment in alignment with the commitments made under the Closing the Gap National Agreement and Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy; and
- the final Strategy and Implementation Plan will be submitted to Cabinet in June 2022 for consideration and endorsement.

Members sought clarification on which government agencies had been consulted and involved in the development of the Strategy and its Implementation Plan.

## 2.2 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

Tracey Ninyette, Director, Aboriginal Engagement, and Christina Colegate, Assistant Director, Aboriginal Engagement, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provided members an update on the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

Members noted:

- The Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC) has expanded its membership to enable a whole-of-government approach to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and a Closing the Gap Deputies Group has been established to support the AACC.
- Work is being progressed on Priority Reform Two to build the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector (ACCO) sector, with DPC leading the development of a whole-of-government ACCO Strategy. DPC will work with the Aboriginal Health Council of WA's Social Services Committee, ACCO sectoral representatives, key WA Government agency representatives, and the broader not-for-profit sector, including the Forum.
- The Joint Council on Closing the Gap (Joint Council) agreed to the Sector Strengthening Plans for Health and Early Childhood Care and Development in December 2021. Plans to strengthen the housing and disability Aboriginal community controlled sectors are currently being considered by the Joint Council.
- The National Agreement commits parties to develop five national policy partnerships, with the Justice Policy Partnership established in 2021. The remaining four will be established in 2022 in the areas of:
  - early childhood care and development;
  - social and emotional wellbeing;
  - housing; and
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

- The Department of Treasury is reviewing current expenditure on Aboriginal programs and services as a commitment under the National Agreement. The expenditure review will be a key tool to facilitate reprioritisation activities and broader Closing the Gap work.
- DPC continues to collaborate with Lotterywest on the design of the grants program for the \$3.4 million set aside to build the ACCO sectors.

Members were encouraged to reflect on their partnerships and connections with ACCOs and the potential to deepen and develop those relationships. Members were also encouraged to consider the importance of Aboriginal leadership in the community services sector, and reflect on the value of strong cultural leadership alongside strong cultural advice.

Members sought clarification on the connection and communication between Aboriginal Elders and Directors General. Members noted the work being done by the Public Sector Leadership Council in yarning with Elders and meeting on Country, as well as the current channels for government engagement through the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA.

Members sought clarification on the plans and timeframes for developing partnership planning groups and sector strengthening plans on disability and housing. DPC clarified the plans are expected to be published shortly, and that sector strengthening plans are reported against as part of annual progress reports on Closing the Gap, with the Implementation Plan being updated as the forward-looking piece.

Members discussed the significance of access to data and the need to be mindful of the administrative burden of data provision and reporting as work in this space progresses. Members also raised the significance of data access and a 'two-way street', particularly for ACCOs and the sector more broadly to access the insights and information they provide to government.

DPC took on notice a question on the requirements of the sector in contributing to Priority Four under the National Agreement.

### 3. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

#### 3.1 Implementation of the 10-year Homelessness Strategy 2020-2030

Members noted an update and discussion by the **Homelessness Strategy Working Group**, which is tri-chaired by **Mike Rowe**, **Debra Zanella** and **Tina Pickett**.

Members noted:

- membership of the working group has expanded with the appointment of Ms Sandra Harben, a respected Aboriginal Elder bringing extensive experience spanning Aboriginal homelessness, Aboriginal housing and Aboriginal cultural consultancy to the Working Group;
- the adoption of an integrated approach to project and program management of the Homelessness Action Plan and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy being proposed;
- the Office of Homelessness has developed a draft Logic Model that makes explicit the relationships between Strategic Priority Outcomes, the Priority Actions supporting them, and the individual initiatives defined in the Action Plan. The Logic Model will provide the guiding framework for ongoing monitoring and management of strategic implementation;
- the critical importance of data supporting relevant indicators to demonstrate the difference being made by implementation of the Strategy. Members discussed the challenges of securing regular access to relevant data from multiple departments and the need to leverage existing data sources and work to avoid any additional administrative burden on service providers;
- the complexity of the governance landscape in the homelessness space and the opportunity to connect and organise different groups together; and
- Minister Carey's interest to attend a future Forum meeting to share his vision and big picture to address the housing and homelessness issues in WA.

### 3.2 Monitoring the further development and implementation of the State's Community Services Outcome Measurement Framework

Members noted an update and discussion by the Department of Finance (Finance), on the work to further develop the State's Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF).

Members noted:

- Finance has completed three online training sessions with an additional session planned in June due to demand. Over 150 government and sector representatives will have attended the sessions once complete, and the recorded sessions will be made available as an online resource.
- Finance has developed a dedicated [Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework webpage](#) which includes the OMF user guide and supporting resources. Finance have also released communications in partnership with peak bodies to raise awareness on the OMF, and updated procurement templates to include provisions for the OMF.
- Members discussed the importance of ensuring alignment between implementation of the OMF and the State Commissioning Strategy and implementation of the Closing the Gap National Agreement and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.
- The Finance-led cross-sector Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Working Group's OMF sub-group will its purpose and terms of reference after the State Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan is considered by Government to determine its most appropriate function as part of the governance structure that monitors the implementation of the OMF - a priority of the State Commissioning Strategy Implementation Plan.
- The Working Group will be putting a paper to the Forum later in the year to facilitate a discussion about the next steps in implementing the OMF.

### 3.3 Building Capacity and Capability to Implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Members noted an update and discussion by the **Child Safe Organisations Working Group**, which is co-chaired by **Lanie Chopping** and **Tricia Murray**.

- A survey and implementation framework, seeking exemplars and emerging practice in implementing the National Principles, were released on the [Safer WA for Children and Young People \(Safer WA\) webpage](#) and promoted through the Working Group's networks in April 2022.
- Three time-limited working parties, comprising Working Group members, were established in April 2022 to focus on activities related to:
  - Selection of demonstrations of national principles implementation
  - Development of a child safe knowledge hub; and
  - A proposal for a child safe campaign.
- The Department of Communities and the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) will co-badge and develop a child safe knowledge hub to house exemplars, emerging practice and other resources to support implementation. The hub will be accessible to a breadth of organisations required to implement the National Principles.
- There have been some difficulties in moderating demonstrations and exemplars of national principles implementation, with a discussion still to be had around how benchmarking and feedback processes might be conducted sensitively and appropriately.
- A draft proposal has been developed for a child safe campaign to be held during Children's Week, 22 – 30 October 2022. The campaign will be aimed at organisations, children and young people and parent and carers with messages about child safety tailored to each group. A range of events and activities including the launch of the child safe knowledge hub, is planned as part

of the campaign. There is strong support to build on this campaign each year in a staged approach.

Members discussed the resource intensity that this work brings to agencies and organisations, particularly those with limited or stretched resources, and expressed their interest in further discussion and consideration of potential forms of support for organisations to implement the national principles, such as licensing costs for data dashboards.

## 4. Other Business

### 4.1 Whole-of-Government Data Linkage

Greg Italiano, Chief Information Officer and Natalia Kacperek, Director, Office of Digital Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, provided an update on the development of a whole-of-government data linkage model.

Members noted:

- A Data sharing and data linkage as key areas to improve analysis and community services' efficiency and effectiveness, was identified by the related report '[A review of Western Australia's data linkage capabilities](#)', section "Data collected by the not-for-profit sector" (pages 72 and 73).
- The Government has recently invested \$8 million in funding to deliver data linkage reforms and renewed capabilities across the public sector.
- The Office of Digital Government, together with the Department of Health, is facilitating the secure linkage of data in a safe, privacy-preserving environment to create an enduring linked data asset. This outcome is projected to be delivered in mid-2023.
- This linked data asset will be available for use for ethically-approved research and programs evaluated as being for public benefit by an interagency governance body of data custodians and community representatives.
- A dedicated team within the Office of Digital Government will work to streamline and simplify access to the linked data asset and work with potential stakeholders who do not yet have the necessary expertise and experience to use linked data.
- Not-for-profit organisations are expected to benefit from access to linked data services, including the ability to delivering more effective and better targeted services to the community.
- The funding includes the capacity to create enduring linkages for an additional four high-priority datasets per annum. These datasets can come from government, private or not-for-profit sectors and will be prioritised according to value for developing strategy, policy and service design.
- Forum members were invited to:
  - provide feedback on how to enable the not-for-profit sector to leverage linked data, both as data providers and data users; and
  - express interest in beta-testing of the linked data system with the Office of Digital Government.
- The Office of Digital Government will continue to engage with interested members of the Forum over the coming months.

Members sought clarification on data security, project timeframes, management plans for missing and incomplete data, and work being done to improve the quality of data at the point of collection. Members expressed interest in accessing data sets early on to demonstrate the effectiveness of early intervention and prevention programs.

## 4.2 Child and Adolescent Mental Health System Overhaul

**Jennifer McGrath, Commissioner, Mental Health Commission (MHC)**, provided members an update on the Children and Adolescent Mental Health System Overhaul.

Members noted:

- The McGowan Government has committed to implementing all 32 recommendations of the *Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents in WA Final Report*.
- The report recognises the need to reshape the system using a phased-in approach to ensure community care is at the centre of the child, adolescent and mental health system, and to prioritise early intervention.
- Phased, collaborative approach to reform, as recommended, will put community care at the centre and prioritise early intervention
- Members noted information about current governance arrangements, timeframes, and budget commitments related to the implementation of the recommendations from the Report.

Members discussed the importance of effective transition between the ICA system and adult system, capturing those caught between Commonwealth provisioned services and State Government provisioned services, workforce difficulties in regional Western Australia, access to funding for non-government service providers in the ICA mental health space, and intersection with the NDIS.

Members raised questions about pre-prevention and opt-in programs, and the intersections between the ICA Mental Health System overhaul and other priority areas of work such as the NDIS and FASD.

Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education, offered to present and provide an update on 'An Introduction to the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce' at the next Forum meeting.

## 5. Closing

Members welcomed the opportunity to hear more about the new Federal Government election commitments and priorities and its impact on State Government priorities at the next Forum meeting.

Members also expressed an interest to discuss the Forum beyond its term ending on 31 December 2022.

The Forum Co-Chairs thanked members and guests for their attendance.

**The meeting closed at 4:30pm**