



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Meeting #9 - Meeting Notes and Actions

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday, 17 May 2023
<b>Time</b>	10:00am - 12:00pm
<b>Location</b>	Dumas House, Level 4 – Yonga Meeting Room and MS Team option
<b>Members</b>	Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Sandy McKiernan, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis, Melissa Perry, Denver D’Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, Dr. David Russell-Weisz, Dr. Adam Tomison, Lanie Chopping, Ralph Addis, Lindsay Hale, Sharyn O’Neill, and Emily Roper.
<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>	Honourable Sabine Winton, Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services; Julie Armstrong (Minister Winton’s office); and Lara Connor (Department of Finance); Nicole O’Keefe (Department of Health); Erin Gauntlett (DLGSC); Ann Marie Cunniffe (MHC), Melanie Samuels (Communities), Gail Beck (Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA), Rachel Siewert (WACOSS) and Carol Innes (Danjoo Koorliny).
<b>Apologies</b>	Kate George, Louise Giolitto, Tricia Murray, Lindsay Hale, Dr. Adam Tomison, Dr. David Russell-Weisz and Lanie Chopping

### 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 noted apologies.

#### 1.3 Address by Honourable Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA, Minister for Community Services

The Honourable Sabine Winton, Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, attended the meeting to provide a summary of key State Budget announcements and direction for the Supporting Communities Forum (Forum).

The Minister briefly discussed key State Budget announcements, including cost of living support for households, increases to the Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme, \$52.5 million boost for family and domestic violence initiatives; and \$54.6 million in additional support for initiatives that reduce the number of youth and vulnerable people coming in contact with the justice system.

The Minister noted to members that she wishes to extend the term of the Forum by an additional six-months until 31 December 2023. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will undertake an expression of interest process to appoint members for the next iteration of the Forum beyond the six-month extension. Questions and queries relating to the expression of interest process should be directed to the Forum secretariat, DPC Community Policy Unit at [SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au).

Forum members discussed evaluation of the Target 120 program and invited the Department of Communities to provide an update to the Forum at a future meeting.

**ACTION: Communities to provide an update to the Forum on Target 120 with a focus on outcomes and achievements.**

#### 1.4 Confirm the meeting notes and actions from 22 March 2023

Members noted and confirmed the meeting notes from the 22 March 2023 meeting, noting there were no actions arising from the last meeting.

#### 1.5 Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts of interest were noted for this meeting.

### 2. WACOSS CONFERENCE

#### 2.1 Three-day WACOSS Conference

Carol Innes (Danjoo Koorliny) and Rachel Siewert (WACOSS) provided an update on the three-day WACOSS Conference on 1-3 May 2023. The Conference explored emerging themes of Gender Equality and the Value of Caring, Community Resilience, Preparedness and Wellbeing and the Power of Advocacy. The Conference represented an opportunity for community services organisations, Aboriginal organisations and Government to build better relationships and work together in partnership.

The focus for Day 3 was Closing the Gap, Self-Determination and Walking together. The half-day workshop centred around partnership between community service organisations and ACCOS moving to ACCO service delivery and learning from successful partnerships transitioning services to ACCOs.

Keynote Speaker Pat Turner AM, CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO), and the First Leader, talked about the importance of community services and ACCOs working together to Close the Gap. Other presenters included:

- Vicki O'Donnell OAM presented on the progress and objectives of the Council of Aboriginal Services WA, the new state-wide peak body for Aboriginal community services
- Richard Wally OAM facilitated a Yarning Circle exercise.

A panel conversation also explored examples of partnerships that worked well, transitioning services to ACCOS and succession planning.

### 3 STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

#### 3.1 Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce and Communicare Academy Tour Update

Lisa Rodgers, Director General, Department of Education provided an update on the progress of the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce. The Director General acknowledged and thanked Communicare for hosting Forum members and providing a tour of its Academy on 1 May.

Forum members acknowledged Communicare, noting that the Academy is a nurturing environment, offering an alternative experience to larger, mainstream schools. Forum members noted the opportunities to incorporate learnings from the Academy into Education's framework, to leverage Australian Government funding to the support development of wellbeing tools in WA public schools, and to connect with broader school communities to support student wellbeing.

#### 3.2 Federal Policy Priorities

Emily Roper, Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided an update on federal policy priorities, specifically those relevant to the Forum.

Forum members noted:

#### Health reform

- First Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to health as the priority for National Cabinet in 2023. To guide this, National Cabinet articulated their shared vision for **‘a patient-centred and sustainable Australian healthcare system that delivers the best outcome for our community’**.
- To support this, a range of tangible Strengthening Medicare measures that will make health care more accessible and affordable were agreed, including:
  - Supporting workforces to work at top of scope, including pharmacists and paramedics
  - Expanding the nursing workforce to improve access to primary care
  - Improving access to and delivery of after-hours primary care
  - Introducing MyMedicare to support wrap around care for patients registered with their local GP through new blended payment models
  - Providing flexible funding for multi-disciplinary team-based models to improve quality of care
  - Investing in digital health to improve health outcomes.
- First Ministers also endorsed the Independent Review of Overseas Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings Interim Report, led by Ms Robyn Kruk AO. The Interim Report recommends measures to immediately boost the health workforce and ensure Australia is a competitive destination for the global health workforce into the future, while maintaining high standards of quality and safety.

#### National Disability Insurance Scheme

- First Ministers committed to a NDIS Financial Sustainability Framework to ensure the NDIS can continue to provide life-changing outcomes for future generations of Australians with disability.

#### Renter's rights

- National Cabinet agreed to A Better Deal for Renters to harmonise and strengthen renters' rights across Australia.

#### Care and Support Economy

- National Cabinet discussed the development of a national strategy for the care and support economy. First Ministers agreed to work together to progress a first tranche of reforms to streamline worker screening, improve worker safety and grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander care and support workforce.

#### Establishment of a Net Zero Transformation Authority

- The Commonwealth is supporting communities towards net zero energy transition, and it is anticipated that Collie will be used as a test case for best practice.

#### Referendum on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition

- National Cabinet reaffirmed its Statement of Intent in February, of the unanimous support of State and Territory Leaders for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and listening to them to achieve practical outcomes to close the gap.

### **3.3 State Commissioning Strategy Implementation Plan**

Lara Connor, General Manager from the Department of Finance (Finance), provided an update on the State Commissioning Strategy (Strategy) Implementation Plan.

Forum members noted that the intent of the State Commissioning Strategy is to drive a holistic and sustainable community services system through a proactive and strategic approach to commissioning. Forum members also discussed the Strategy and the implementation of the Outcomes Measurement Framework as part of the broader implementation of the Strategy.

Members noted the Agency Commissioning Plan (ACP) Framework developed by Finance will guide government agencies in developing their ACPs and that five-year ACPs provide a mechanism to clearly communicate with the community services sector and government how line agencies are driving change

at a departmental, program and individual service level. Online training and information for the community service sector will be made available later in the year.

## **4 WORKING GROUP REPORT**

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

Erin Gauntlett, Deputy Director General from the Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) provided an update on the important work progressed by members of the working group to build the capacity and capability to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. At the working group meeting on 5 May 2023, Yorgum Healing Services, DLGSC, Communities and Parkerville Children and Youth Care presented on examples of implication of the National Principles to support shared learning across the sector.

Members noted current activities to support organisations implementing the National Principles. This includes the Child Safe Knowledge Hub which will provide a central location for organisations to access and stay up to date with information and resources; current work between the Department of Communities and the Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People to streamline access to resources; and development of a 2023-24 Campaign targeting organisations, children, young people, families and carers. The Campaign is being developed by Communities, supported by a sub-working group representing State Government agencies, peak bodies and organisations. Communities is also leading the development of a Child Safe Organisations Forum to take place during Children's Week in October 2023, in partnership with members of the Working Group.

## **5 OTHER BUSINESS**

Some members requested that the topic of Juvenile Justice be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of the Forum.

**The meeting closed at 11:53am.**