

District Leadership Groups in Western Australia

District Leadership Groups (DLGs) are a network of place-based groups that facilitate collaboration across human service agencies with community partners to deliver locally developed outcomes in Western Australia (WA).

They aim to identify and address local priorities, deliver strategic initiatives, coordinate services and provide feedback to the State Government and other partners.

DLGs evolved from Regional Human Services Managers Groups (RHSMGs), which were established in 2012 as a way for the State Government to engage with non-government service providers, local governments and the community.

In 2015-16, some RHSMGs became DLGs and eventually, all districts across WA developed their own DLGs.

There are 16 DLGs across WA. Each has representatives from the core human services agencies in the State Government – Departments of Communities, Education, Health and Justice and the WA Police Force.

Membership may also include representatives from local and Commonwealth governments, other State government agencies, the community services sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, industry, peak bodies and other appropriate organisations or individuals.

The primary role of DLGs across the State is to:

- identify shared local priorities
- develop strategies to address local priorities
- deliver collaborative initiatives to address local priorities
- provide a consultation and feedback forum for State Government and place-based initiatives, including the provision of timely and accurate local information to government and other stakeholders
- consult with local communities, coordinate joint services, measure impact and share expertise and resources in their region.

DLGs are place-based and, as such, variations in their development, operating model and governance will reflect their unique regional context.

In June 2022, the Human Services Directors General Group (HSDGG) endorsed the Department of Communities (Communities) as the lead agency for DLG development.

Communities is acting as the driver and facilitator for DLG development in WA by providing a program of support to each region, including in relation to governance, capacity development and strategic priority setting.

Communities is also providing support to DLGs in the South West Native Title Settlement (SWS) area. The SWS is an agreement between the Noongar people and WA Government across approximately 200,000 square kilometres of the South West region.

The SWS supports the WA Government to work in partnership with the Noongar people to elevate economic, social and community outcomes.

The SWS includes a Community Development Framework (CDF) and DLGs across the SWS area have been named in this as key regional engagement partners.

Under the CDF, DLGs are encouraged to build relationships with the respective SWS Noongar Regional Corporations to establish ways of working together.

Get in touch with the DLG Team via dlg@communities.wa.gov.au or visit www.wa.gov.au/dlg to learn more.