

COMMUNIQUE - Quarterly Meeting #1 – 23 April 2024

The first meeting of the Supporting Communities Forum (Forum) 2024 – 2025 term was held on 23 April, following Government's endorsement of the Forum's membership and priorities in March 2024.



Newly appointed Co-Chairs Lanie Chopping, Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and Dan Minchin, CEO of Chorus WA, welcomed the Honourable Sabine Winton, Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services to the meeting. The Hon. Minister Winton welcomed new and returning members of the Forum, expressed her

gratitude to the new Co-Chairs, and discussed the important role of the Forum in bringing together Government and the community sector to deliver meaningful outcomes for the West Australian community. Minister Winton also discussed her priorities for the Forum, which include:

- Implementation of the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#);
- Application of the [Carer's Recognition Act 2004](#) in WA; and
- Implementation of the [State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services](#).

Minister Winton emphasised her commitment to strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal and cultural and linguistically diverse people and organisations and encouraged members to apply this lens to the work of the Forum. Members introduced themselves and explored what had worked well during the two previous terms of the Forum and their hopes for the Forum in its 2024 – 2025 term. Members expressed their commitment to the Forum's three priority areas, and the importance of acting inclusively, collaboratively, and with a transparent and consultative approach was discussed, as was the need to ensure Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse voices were part of Forum discussions.

Members noted an update from the Department of Communities (Communities) on the application of the [Carer's Recognition Act 2004](#) in Western Australia, including the [Western Australian Carers Charter](#). Members acknowledged and discussed the critical role Forum members could play in enhancing the recognition, promotion and support of staff who are carers, and the benefits of doing so.

Communities also provided an update on implementation of [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#), including the work of the previous Child Safe Organisations Working Group (Working Group), convened by the Forum in its previous term. Members noted some of the key achievements of the previous Working Group as of December 2023, which included the launch of a Child Safe Organisations Knowledge Hub, Child Safe Organisations Campaign and Child Safe Organisations Forum; and discussed options to progress further work on this priority.

Members noted an update from the Department of Finance on the [State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services](#) (Strategy) and its [Implementation Plan 2022 – 2024](#) (Implementation Plan). With the current Implementation Plan concluding in August 2024, work is underway to update actions under each of the eight priority areas to deliver a 2024 - 2026 Implementation Plan in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Members agreed to establish an ongoing collaborative relationship with the [Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA](#) and the [Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council](#) and to invite the Councils to participate in future Forum quarterly meetings, due to important linkages in work being undertaken by each council group.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 19 June 2024. Meeting notes, once endorsed by the Forum, and Communiques from each Forum meeting are available on the [Supporting Communities Forum's webpage](#). Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider network. If you have any questions or would like to register to the Forum's mailing list, please email the Forum Secretariat at SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au.