Welcome!

Welcome to the June edition of the Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) Bulletin!

This edition includes information about the successful recipients of the 2016/17 Capacity Building Grants as well as information detailing how you can nominate to be a part of the FaCS Staff Exchange Program. We provide an overview of the Australian Government Productivity Commission's recently released report regarding the proposed reforms to human services and discuss ‘clawback’ under service agreements. Overviews are provided of the Service Agreement Management package refresh and the new Travel Management Services CUA for organisations eligible to use whole of government Common Use Arrangements (CUAs).

If you have any comments or would like to suggest future topics for the Bulletin, please contact fundingandcontracting@finance.wa.gov.au. All suggestions are welcome!

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FaCS Staff Exchange Program

FaCS has been running a successful Staff Exchange Program for over three years, where a Not-for-profit (NFP) organisation staff member spends a day with FaCS and a FaCS officer has a reciprocal visit with an NFP organisation.

Our visit with you is an opportunity in enhancing our understanding of the complexities and challenges of the current NFP business environment and any procurement-related assistance you may need. Equally beneficial, your visit with us will provide a member of your organisation with an insightful opportunity to learn about the work we do in supporting the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy.

This is an invaluable opportunity to share information, transfer skills, knowledge and experience and continue building productive and strong industry relationships between the government and the NFP sector.

If you think that your organisation may be interested in participating in the program, or if you have any questions, then please get in touch by emailing FaCS.
FaCS recently advertised a Capacity Building Grants program open to Not-for-profit (NFP) peak bodies (or similar organisations) for projects that develop the skills, knowledge or organisational strength of NFP organisations. This year, we asked that applicants design projects to help organisations improve in one of the following focus areas:

- Collaborative co-design of community services;
- Collaborative development and / or measurement of outcomes in community services procurement; and
- Enabling integrated services.

Twenty applications were received (an amazing effort!) proposing a range of innovative and exciting projects. Following an evaluation of the applications, we are very pleased to announce the four peak bodies that have received a total of $400,000 (GST inclusive) funding are:

- **Linkwest Inc. - ‘Co-Design for Thriving Communities Project: Phase 2’** $100,000
  This project aims to further strengthen the sustainability and capacity of place-based NFPs. Project activities include developing and delivering a face-to-face, train-the-trainer Community Engagement Package and developing an interactive train-the-trainer online course.

- **People with Disabilities WA - ‘Connect with me: Building a sustainable co-design network of people with disability’** $100,000
  This project aims to improve consultation and co-design with people with disability on all aspects of policy, services and facilities intended for use by people with disability. Project activities include establishing a co-design group, which includes people with disability, to research possible models of a co-design network and piloting the preferred model.

- **Western Australian Association for Mental Health Inc. - ‘Consumer Centred Service Integration – The What and How’** $100,000
  This project aims to develop a framework and set of principles for mental health service integration for use by service providers. Project activities include documenting the experience of two cohorts of mental health consumers in relation to service integration and undertaking research into approaches taken in other jurisdictions.

- **Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Inc. - ‘Leveraging Reform Engagement and Momentum’** $100,000
  This project aims to improve the collaborative relationships, co-design processes and reporting of four Regional Managers’ Forums responsible for implementing the Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms. Project activities include delivering a co-design workshop in each area and delivering an expanded co-design/assets-based community development process in one particular area.

Congratulations to each of these organisations! And a big thank you to all of you who submitted an application.
Productivity Commission - Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services

The Productivity Commission recently released its draft report into proposed reforms to human services. The proposed reforms introduce greater user choice, competition and contestability in six service areas: social housing; public hospitals; end of life services; public dental services; services in remote indigenous communities and government-commissioned family and community services.

Recommendations from the draft report include:

- Allowing sufficient time for providers to prepare considered responses (including the development of integrated bids across related services).
- Increasing default family and community contract terms to seven years, and ten years for human services in remote indigenous communities, with allowance for exceptions with justification.
- Better alignment of tender processes for related services.
- Allowing enough time for transition when new providers are selected.
- Ensuring that commissioning processes for human services in remote Indigenous communities have a strong focus on transferring skills and capability to people and organisations in those communities.

Comments on the draft report are open until Friday 14 July 2017 and a public hearing will be held on 31 July 2017 in Perth.

To review the draft report and find out more about the proposed reforms visit the Productivity Commission website.

Service Agreements Do Not Include ‘Clawback’ of Surplus Funds

Under the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy, a government agency must not seek repayment of any surplus funds if the services have been delivered to the quality and quantity specified in the service agreement. This applies to any service agreement established after 1 July 2011.

Agencies may request surplus funds are repaid for a grant agreement if any part of the funds allocated are not used for the specific purpose outlined in the grant.

‘Clawback’ of funds is not an option if an agency is faced with a reduced budget for a service agreement. In this instance, it is recommended that the reduced budget is discussed with the service provider as soon as possible to negotiate a suitable solution such as a reduction in services in line with the revised budget.

Service Agreement Management Package Refresh

FaCS are currently in the process of reviewing the Service Agreement Management (SAM) package which includes the Service Agreement Management template, guidelines and workshop.

The refresh will be undertaken in consultation with sector representatives and will ensure that the documents and workshop align with the partnership principles and behaviours detailed in the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy and will ensure SAM Plans produced offer value to the Service Agreement.
Important information regarding the new Travel Management Services

Did you know that Public Benevolent Institutions (PBIs) can apply to become an Approved CUA User? Once approved a PBI will have access to all of the Common Use Arrangements (CUAs) managed by the Department of Finance. These CUAs cover commonly purchased goods and services such as stationery, groceries and ICT related services. CUAs use an aggregated buying method to obtain benefits such as reduced pricing or better terms and conditions for WA Government buyers and other approved users.

If you are already an Approved CUA User then you may be using the current Travel CUA. Recently the new Travel Management Services CUA was awarded to Corporate Travel Management Group (CTM). This is an important change to note if you would like to continue to use the Travel CUA (and access the negotiated airline and hotel rates thereunder), as you will need to transition to the new arrangement. The new Travel Management Services CUA will commence on 1 August 2017. The existing Travel CUA with Carlson Wagonlit Travel has a final expiry date of 31 January 2018, with the last six months used for the purposes of transitioning CUA Users.

Information regarding the new CUA will be published on Contracts WA once it is available. If you have any queries regarding the new Travel Management Services CUA the team working on the transition will be more than happy to help. Please feel free to email Stephen.Koh@finance.wa.gov.au with any queries.

Associations Newsletter

The Department of Commerce, which will become the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety from 1 July 2017, issues an informative Associations Newsletter providing alerts and advice about the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (which commenced 1 July 2016). FaCS would like to encourage all organisations to subscribe to the Associations Newsletter to ensure you do not miss any important information that may impact upon your organisation.

Education and Training Update

Below are the upcoming FaCS workshops for 2017. Places fill up quickly, so make sure you register now to secure your spot!

- **Introduction to Community Services Procurement** ………... Tuesday 18 July 2017
- **Tendering for Outcomes** ………………………………………. Thursday 3 August 2017
- **Preferred Service Provider Process** ………………………. Tuesday 29 August 2017
- **What is a Community Services Request?** ………………….. Wednesday 13 September 2017

**While all workshops are open to both Government and the NFP sector, please check the website for more specific information.**

To book a place at one of our workshops, click on the workshop name or visit our Workshops and Events website.

If you have any questions about FaCS Education and Training, email proeducation@finance.wa.gov.au or phone (08) 6551 1363.
From the Stable Door -
An Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

Another big change that has stemmed from the recent election is the amalgamation of a number of departments who work in the community services sector into the new Department of Community Services, or the new ‘Super Department’ as we have affectionately named it in FaCS. With the new Department operating from tomorrow the FaCS team will be working closely with them to see how this may impact the community services sector.

The FaCS team are also very excited to announce a new addition to the team! Elizabeth Skelton has started as a Policy Support Officer and has joined us all the way from England. She is settling right in and Steve sure is happy to have someone here who understands his English wit!

On a personal note I have been taking a break from my horses after quite a serious fall last month. However, I am looking forward to being back in the saddle soon!

I hope everyone has wrapped up all of their end of financial year tasks and can enjoy the weekend.

Just like that the first half of the year is already gone, and if you are anything like the FaCS team the second half of the year looks to be just as busy. Much of the last few months has been taken up by working towards election commitments, and soon the FaCS team should be able to start communicating how the implementation of these commitments will affect you.

Want More Information?
For more information please visit the [Department of Finance website](http://finance.gov.au).
For general enquiries, phone (08) 6551 1515 or email FaCS.

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