Welcome to the final edition of the Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) Bulletin for 2017!

FaCS would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a relaxing break. We look forward to keeping you in the know with more exciting news and information in 2018!

We want the bulletin to contain information that is useful and relevant to you so if you would like to suggest future topics for the bulletin, please contact fundingandcontracting@finance.wa.gov.au.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Review and Update of the DCSP Policy
- Supporting Communities Forum
- FaCS Staff Exchange
- Education and Training Update
- From the Stable Door

Review and update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

To support the Western Australian Government’s Supporting Communities Election Commitments and to recognise improvements made since the implementation of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy in July 2011, a review and update of the DCSP Policy is being conducted. The review, including the stakeholder consultation process, is being led by FaCS unit.

The consultation process began with a survey circulated to both the not-for-profit (NFP) and government sectors. The survey sought feedback regarding how successful the DCSP Policy has been in achieving its aims; whether the DCSP Policy Partnership Principles and Behaviours have been followed; and what aspects of the DCSP Policy could be improved. The results of the survey were largely positive, shaping the agenda for the next round of consultations.

FaCS met with representatives of NFP peak body organisations and leaders of government community services procurement teams to discuss the findings of the survey and inform the next stage of consultation. Six key themes were identified from this consultation for further consideration. The six themes were Administrative Burden; Integrated Services; Outcomes; Planning – Needs analysis and data collection; Stakeholder engagement and co-design; and Sustainability. Two combined workshops with both sectors explored these key themes and developed recommendations for the DCSP Policy and for community services procurement practice.

Following the workshop, key themes and recommendations have been compiled to inform proposed amendments to the DCSP Policy. A draft revised DCSP Policy will be developed from the workshop discussions and recommendations for endorsement by the Supporting Communities Forum and Community Safety and the Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee for endorsement.

More detailed information regarding the survey findings can be found at the DCSP Policy Review page of the Department of Finance website. Any questions regarding the review can also be emailed to fundingandcontracting@finance.wa.gov.au.
FaCS Staff Exchange Program

FaCS has rounded out the year by participating in two more staff exchanges, with not-for-profit organisations Neami National and Silver Chain Group.

The FaCS Staff Exchange Program is a chance for up to two FaCS officers to spend a day at a not-for-profit organisation, learning about its day-to-day operations. FaCS then hosts staff from the organisation for a day, giving them a chance to meet the team and participate in activities to improve their understanding of current procurement issues.

On 3 October, Jennifer Dass and Kim Lateef visited Neami National, a mental health and wellbeing not-for-profit service provider. They visited Neami’s head office as well as a number of mental health service centres, including the Joondalup Mental Health Step Up Step Down service. They also learned about the work that goes into developing Neami’s Adult Community Mental Health workshops.

Silver Chain hosted Brendan Sykes and Melanie Walters from FaCS on 31 October. Having operated in WA for more than 110 years, Silver Chain provides a range of community health and care services to individuals in their home. Brendan and Melanie got the chance to see their 24-hour help centre at their Osborne Park premises, as well as learning about how Silver Chain manage their procurement and tendering processes and reporting, as well as their fleet of over 1100 vehicles.

FaCS hosted both organisations for the reciprocal exchange on 21 November, with Raj Ranjan and Peta Wootton representing Neami, and Dilini Premachandra and Lucy Kitching representing Silver Chain.

The visiting staff were introduced to the FaCS team, and participated in a range of activities that explored the preferred service provider process, TendersWA, and evaluation of tenders.

This was the first occasion where FaCS has hosted staff from two organisations at the same time, and it went off without a hitch. FaCS’s guests had the following to say about the day:

“Thank you FaCS for the staff exchange reciprocal visit which Neami National shared on 21 November 2017 with Silver Chain Group procurement and contract colleagues. This event was an unmissable opportunity to learn more about evaluation, procurement and technical processes and share a very generous morning tea. Wishing all a peaceful holiday season.”

Peta Wootton, Neami National

“The session was interactive, informative and a great opportunity to engage with colleagues from another NFP organisation. We learnt about the Department’s tender process and the importance of policy and found out about the Department’s community initiatives, such as the Aboriginal business directory and the disability enterprise procurement exceptions.”

Dilini Ramachandran, Silver Chain

“I found the exchange program to be really insightful. We discussed the importance of recognising a conflict of interest, remaining transparent and considering qualitative factors to achieve the most advantageous outcome. We are looking forward to putting some of the learnings from the day into practice to improve our tender process.”

Lucy Kitching, Silver Chain

The Silver Chain and Neami exchanges mark the end of another successful year of FaCS’s staff exchange program. If your not-for-profit organisation would like to participate next year, or you would like some more information, please email FaCS.
Supporting Communities Forum

The WA State Government has established the Supporting Communities Forum (the forum) to support the implementation of the Supporting Communities Election Commitments and other public sector reforms, building on the work of the Western Australian Partnership Forum.

The forum’s work will include making recommendations to break down barriers between government agencies and community organisations to improve service delivery, identifying opportunities to streamline community services procurement processes across government departments, supporting a collaborative funding trial and supporting the development of a framework to measure outcomes across the community services sector.

Members are appointed for a two year period, to December 2019. For more information on the Supporting Communities Forum, including member biographies, please visit the Supporting Communities Forum webpage or email scf@dpc.wa.gov.au.

Forum Membership:

Chairperson
Michelle Scott

Deputy Chairperson
Helen Creed

Community Sector Members
Pip Brennan
Suzi Cowcher
Jonathan Ford
Kate George
Louise Giolitto
Neil Guard
Dan Minchin
Tricia Murray
Vicki O'Donnell
Maria Osman
Carol Petterson JP
Julie Waylen
Ross Wortham
Debra Zanella

Government Agencies
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Department of Communities
Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Justice
Mental Health Commission

Education and Training Update

As we continue the process of reviewing and updating the DCSP Policy, we are also taking the opportunity to review our community services workshops. The workshops will return after the review is complete, in mid-2018. The Online learning modules remain available.

For enquiries, please contact Procurement Capability and Development at proceducation@finance.wa.gov.au.
While it’s important to look back and reflect on the past it’s also important to make plans for the future. The new year looks to be another big one for the FaCS team with the implementation of many of the Supporting Communities election commitments. The updated DCSP Policy will be released and to accompany this a new suite of templates and training sessions will be developed. FaCS will also work to create a greater focus on individual outcomes for the end users of community services and will support the development of a whole-of-government outcome measurement framework. And lastly the Supporting Communities Forum, which replaces the Partnership Forum, starts its work with the FaCS team eagerly awaiting what will emerge from this new and dynamic group.

However, before taking on these new challenges it’s time for a break. I hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and New Year’s surrounded by friends and family. I look forward to working with you all again in 2018!

From the Stable Door - An Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

In the last Bulletin I mentioned my plans to compete in the Australian International Three Day Event so I thought I would begin with an update. The big trip across the Nullarbor was a success and marks the end of my 2017 competition season. The competition horses are now out on spell and the young horses are soon to commence summer boot camp.

With the end of the season comes reflection of the year: the successes, such as winning the international event run at Fairbridge in September; and the challenges, such as having my first very serious fall in May that resulted in a stay in hospital, a collapsed lung and some broken ribs. What a year it has been and that was just in regards to my horses!

It’s also been an enormous year for the FaCS team, with the change in government early in the year resulting in the team working on the Supporting Communities election commitments. Some of the main items which have kept the team busy include:

- Commencement of work surrounding the ‘Improve procurement processes’ commitment within the Supporting Communities election commitments
- Consultation surrounding the proposed updates to the DCSP Policy
- Running the pilot program for a Certificate of Engagement course delivered by a practitioner accredited by the International Association for Public Participation Australasia
- Assisting agencies through the Machinery of Government changes implemented by the new government

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FaCS
Level 4, Optima Centre
16 Parkland Road
Osborne Park WA 6017
PH: 08 6551 1515

Want More Information?
For more information please visit the Department of Finance website.
For general enquiries, phone (08) 6551 1515 or email FaCS.

Please note that our office will be closed from 4 pm on Friday 22 December and will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2018.

Merry Christmas!