Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the FaCS Bulletin for 2018!

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Review and Update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

To support the Western Australian Government’s Supporting Communities Election Commitments, FaCS is undertaking a review and update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy.

The stakeholder consultation process for the review 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. Summaries of the survey findings and workshop feedback can be found at the DCSP Policy Review page of the Department of Finance website.

Recommendations proposed at the workshops are being used to develop a draft DCSP Policy. Once finalised, the draft DCSP Policy will be presented to the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee for endorsement. A copy of the draft DCSP Policy will be uploaded onto the DCSP Policy Review page in March.

Thank you to all those who responded to the survey and/or participated in one of the meetings or workshops; your feedback has been invaluable.

If you have questions regarding the review, please email FaCS.
The role of the FaCS unit is to provide ongoing policy and practice advice and support to both government agencies and not-for-profit (NFP) organisations in their implementation of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy. At a practical level, the focus of FaCS is to support capacity building of both the government and NFP sectors by:

- Maintaining a suite of standardised procurement templates and guides;
- Assisting government agencies with procurement, capability, planning and strategy, and in facilitating sector engagement, collaboration, and partnership;
- Assisting with dispute resolution and complaints regarding community services procurement;
- Meeting with government representatives and NFP organisations one-on-one to discuss the application of the DCSP Policy and wider sector considerations;
- Providing a range of education and training initiatives to raise the awareness and understanding of procurement policy and best practice; and
- Developing sector support initiatives such as the FaCS Staff Exchange programme, to build strong relationships with, and improve the capability of the NFP community sector.

FaCS is available to assist at any time. If you would like to speak with a FaCS officer, please contact us on (08) 6551 1515 or email FaCS.

Aboriginal Procurement Policy Announced

The Minister for Finance released a Media Statement on 19 December 2017 announcing the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (the Policy).

The Policy implements a commitment outlined in the WA Labor Plan for Jobs and sets progressive targets for government agencies to award contracts to registered Aboriginal businesses commencing at one per cent of contracts from 1 July 2018, two per cent from 1 July 2019, and three per cent from 1 July 2020.

All government agencies and Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs) will be required to meet these targets when purchasing goods, services, community services and works. You can download the Policy from the Department of Finance website.

To assist with the implementation of the Policy, FaCS’ Social Procurement Initiatives (SPI) team released a draft implementation guide for public comment. The team is now considering the feedback provided and will update the content as required. SPI is hosting an Aboriginal Business Expo on 29 March 2018 to build connections between state government buyers and Aboriginal businesses, and will provide an education and training program in metropolitan and regional locations.

If you are an Aboriginal business, make sure to register your business on either the Aboriginal Business Directory Western Australia and Supply Nation’s Indigenous Business Direct.

For further information, please contact the Social Procurement Initiatives team on spi@finance.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2475. goods, services, community services and works. You can download the Policy from the Department of Finance website.
2018 Capacity Building Grants

Now in its sixth year, FaCS’ very popular Capacity Building Grants program is back! Not-for-profit (NFP) peak body organisations are eligible to apply for a Capacity Building Grant for projects that build the capacity of NFP community sector organisations.

Building the capacity of the NFP sector is a key objective of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy.

It is expected that the 2018 Capacity Building Grants program will have $450,000 available to fund NFP peak body organisations. NFP peak body organisations successful in previous Capacity Building Grant programs can be found at Successful Grant Submissions.

The 2018 Capacity Building Grants will be advertised on Tenders WA in March, so please ensure you check Tenders WA for the details. Successful parties will be notified in May, with grant payments commencing in June.

What’s Happening in the Sector?

FaCS is introducing a new section in the Bulletin to inform readers of upcoming events or information you might be interested in. If you would like to suggest an item for inclusion in future issues of the Bulletin, please email FaCS.

Here’s what’s happening in the upcoming months:

- The Community Services Excellence Awards (CSEA) to celebrate WA’s unsung heroes will take place in May. Get your nominations in before they close on 16 March 2018.
- On behalf of the Mental Health Commission and the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, the Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Conference Leading the Way: Embracing New Opportunities in Alcohol and Other Drug Sector will be held on 20 – 21 March 2018.
- The Department of Finance’s Social Procurement Initiatives team has organised an Aboriginal Business Expo for 29 March 2018 to support the Aboriginal Procurement Policy.
- Nominations are now open for the 2018 Attorney General’s Community Service Law Awards. Nominations must be received by the Department of Justice by 17 April 2018.
- The WACOSS Conference 2018 is based on the theme ‘Making Place’ and will be held 1 – 3 May 2018.

Education and Training Update

Register now for the FaCS Costing and Pricing workshop on Thursday 12 April 2018, before spaces fill up!

All of our other workshops are currently on hold as we review workshop content in line with the review and update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy. The workshops will return after the review is complete, in mid-2018.

Online learning modules remain available.

For enquiries, please contact Procurement Capability and Development at proeducation@finance.wa.gov.au.

In the meantime, peak bodies including WACOSS, Linkwest, YACWA and NDS organise a range of training options and also advertise training organised by other not-for-profit organisations.
From the Stable Door -
An Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

Well it might be February already, but Happy New Year everyone! I hope that everybody is back into the swing of things after your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

The year ahead is looking like a very exciting one for FaCS. As I’m sure most of you are aware, FaCS is busy drafting a revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy, using feedback many of you provided during our stakeholder consultation process last year. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to the review, whether through the survey or one of the workshops. We gained some really meaningful feedback that has helped shape the revised Policy.

At the DCSP Policy Review workshops we also asked attendees for their thoughts on the role of the FaCS team. We were pleased to hear positive feedback on the importance of FaCS’ role, as well as some useful recommendations for how we can make ourselves more visible to the not-for-profit sector. These recommendations come at the same time as the Department of Finance launches its new Strategic Directions for 2018-2022, which outline our Department’s aspirations for the next few years. So this is a great time for FaCS to take the workshop learnings on board and prepare for the year ahead with clear direction. The exciting news for you guys is that the Strategic Directions come with new Department of Finance colours, and consequently a change in colours for the Bulletin!

During February the FaCS team welcomed some new team members and also said goodbye to one. We are pleased to welcome Carmen Lim - some of you might have met Carmen when she helped out as a scribe at the DCSP Policy Review workshops, as part of the Department of Finance Graduate program. She did such a good job that we didn’t want to let her go! We also welcome Tegan Litsoev into FaCS’ Social Procurement Initiatives (SPI) team. Tegan has worked in Government Procurement (GP) since 2014 and we are very lucky to have her join our team as SPI’s work on the Aboriginal Procurement Policy ramps up. Unfortunately the SPI team says goodbye to Elysia Washer as she takes up an exciting opportunity in GP’s Education and Training team. We will miss her but wish her all the best in her new role. It’s all change here!

Just as FaCS’ work is ramping up, my training schedule is also ramping up as I prepare my horses for this year’s competition season. The first competition occurred last weekend. My good horse competed in the top class and came 2nd, which means he is now qualified for the top class at Melbourne International Horse Trials in June this year. This was also the first competition for one of my home-bred horses (the black one in the photo below). She came in fourth at her first ever competition – I was so proud, having watched this fur kid grow from a foal!

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For more information please visit the Department of Finance website.

For any general enquiries please phone (08) 6551 1515 or email FaCS.

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