Welcome!

Welcome to the April 2018 issue of the FaCS Bulletin!

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From the Stable Door

Successful Aboriginal Business Expo

The Minister for Finance announced the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP) in December 2017. The APP 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. The targets commence 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. The targets will apply to community services contracts.

On 29 March 2018 the FaCS Social Procurement Initiatives (SPI) team hosted an Aboriginal Business Expo (the Expo) at the Optus Stadium. The Expo was a huge success, with 70 Aboriginal businesses attending to showcase the range of quality goods and services their businesses have to offer. Over 250 government representatives attended the event and took the opportunity to build connections with the Aboriginal business sector.

The Hon. Ben Wyatt, Minister for Finance, Energy, Aboriginal Affairs and Treasurer attended the Expo to formally launch the APP. The Expo included a panel discussion between government leaders, highlighting initiatives and collaborations between government agencies and the Aboriginal business sector.

The SPI team has commenced an education and training program, which is being implemented in both metropolitan and regional locations. See our Education and Training section for more details.

For more information on the APP, or to register for an education and training session, check out the Aboriginal Business Procurement webpage on the Department of Finance website. Alternatively, please contact the Social Procurement Initiatives team on spi@finance.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2475.
Thinking about outcomes measurement?

Under the Supporting Communities Policy, the State Government has committed to developing an outcomes measurement framework (framework) for the community services sector. The framework will provide a more consistent approach to developing and measuring outcomes in community services in Western Australia.

To achieve the best outcome, the framework will be developed in collaboration with both the government and community services sectors. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and the Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOSS) will be working closely to progress the framework. Development of the framework is supported by a grant of $100,000 from FaCS to support a consultation with the community sector and government agencies.

The framework will:
- Identify outcome domains and outcomes across community services;
- Identify key indicators to measure the achievement of outcomes; and
- Include tools to support implementation.

The Supporting Communities Forum has established a working group to provide advice on the framework.

For more information about the outcomes measurement framework, contact Sarah Norton at Department of the Premier and Cabinet at sarah.norton@dpc.wa.gov.au

FaCS Staff Exchange Program

FaCS has been running a successful staff exchange program for over three years, where an employee/volunteer from a community service organisation and a FaCS officer swap places for two days.

Our visit to your workplace is an opportunity to enhance our understanding of the complexities of the community services business environment, such as operational service provision, corporate support and administration. This allows us to be better placed to advise and assist you in procurement activities. Equally beneficial, your stay with us will provide a member of your organisation with an insightful opportunity to learn about the work we do in supporting the DCSP Policy.

This is an invaluable chance for us to share information, transfer skills, knowledge and experience and continue building productive and strong industry relationships between the government and community services sector.

In light of the launch of the APP, we especially encourage registered Aboriginal businesses to participate in upcoming FaCS exchange programs.

If you think that your organisation may be interested in participating in the program, or if you have any questions, then please do get in touch by emailing us.
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 WACOSS Conference 2018 is being held on 1 – 3 May 2018 at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- The Social Impact Festival 2018 run by Centre for Social Impact UWA will be held in July 2018.
- Submissions are now open for 2018 Resilient Australia Awards. Nominate an initiative that build resilience, make communities safe and better prepared for natural hazards or emergency before 3pm, 31 May 2018.
- Lotterywest is running the 2018 Grants Information Sessions on the Lotterywest grant program. Visit their website for more information and to register.

Education and Training Update

Aboriginal Procurement Policy Education and Training Program
The APP Education and Training Program offers workshops and briefing sessions for both Aboriginal businesses (private sector) and agencies (public sector). Sessions vary in length and will be available in both Perth metro and regional areas.

The focus of the sessions will be the APP, and will cover topics such as:

- The government procurement process and relevant policies
- Considerations for submitting a quote or tender
- How to connect with the WA Government
- Additional information and support available.

See the web pages below for more information, session details, and registration:

- Aboriginal business training for suppliers (private sector)
- Aboriginal business procurement training for government agencies (public sector)

Other Community Services Training
Register now for the FaCS Costing and Pricing workshop on Wednesday 27 June 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 DCSP Policy. The workshops will return in mid-2018, after the review is complete.

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

In the meantime, WACOSS and NDS organise a range of training options and also advertise training organised by other not-for-profit organisations.

The University of Western Australia’s Centre for Social Impact also has an upcoming Professional Development in Outcomes Measurement training session.
From the Stable Door -
An Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

The FaCS team continues to work towards the launch of the revised DCSP Policy. In addition, the team is busy working through all of our guides, templates, training materials, and the content on the Department of Finance website. The whole suite of tools will be updated to align with the revised DCSP Policy - a huge task, but that doesn’t faze the FaCS team!

FaCS is excited to be involved in the new procurement working group that the Supporting Communities Forum (the Forum) has established. This working group will be co-chaired by a government and a community services representative from the Forum, and will focus on supporting procurement reforms and identifying opportunities to build the capacity of the community services and government sectors.

The FaCS SPI team has also been extremely busy supporting the launch of the APP. Thank you to all Aboriginal businesses and government representatives that attended the Aboriginal Business Expo at the Optus Stadium in March. The day was a great success and we have received some fantastic feedback from both sectors. I would like to say a huge well done to the SPI team who accomplished the massive feat of organising the Expo. And the work doesn’t stop there! The SPI team have now commenced a metro and regional training and education program. I will personally be delivering the training sessions in Karratha and Port Hedland in May, and so I look forward to seeing some of you there.

Luckily for FaCS, this busy period is a great time to welcome back Sophie Parnell from maternity leave. Sophie is back part-time with FaCS and, although missing her gorgeous little boy, she’s enjoying having a bit of adult interaction back in her life!

Outside of work, my good horse is competing in his first event in Moora this weekend since recovering from an injury, while my other home-bred horses take a couple months break. Well deserved after their super performances lately! I have also had a new and very cute addition to the Ingham clan—an 8 week old Kelpie!

This month holds a special significance to me, as it sees the birthday of my best friend, who sadly passed away a decade ago in a horrific car accident. This has given me reason to reflect on life, where I am at, and the amazing family and friends that I share my life with. I feel truly blessed to have the life I do, and I challenge each of you to make time to slow down and reflect on where you are at, and remember to tell the special people in your life what they mean to you.

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Want More Information?
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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