Welcome to the June 2018 issue of the FaCS Bulletin!

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Capacity Building Grants 2017/18 - Successful Recipients

FaCS recently advertised a Capacity Building Grants program open to not-for-profit peak bodies for projects that develop the skills, knowledge or organisational strength of NFP organisations. This year, we asked applicants to design projects to build capacity in one of the following focus areas:

- Costing and pricing (sustainability);
- Empowering service users in the planning and co-design of services; and
- Not-for-profit collaborative arrangements.

Nineteen applications were received proposing a range of innovative and exciting projects. Following an evaluation of the applications, we are very pleased to announce the five successful peak bodies awarded a total of $434,622 (GST inclusive):

- **Community Legal Centres (WA) Inc. – Strategic engagement of service users in Community Legal Centres** $40,000
  
The project aims to gather learnings around different ways that Community Legal Centres (CLCs) can empower their service users to engage in co-design for the planning and delivery of services. It also includes the development of resources to assist CLCs in engaging with their service users with three CLCs being directly involved. Learnings will be shared amongst CLCs, which will continue to build CLCs capacity and feed into collaborative planning.

- **People with Disabilities (WA) Inc. – Connect with me: Building a sustainable co-design network of people with disability – Phase 2** $100,000
  
  This project focuses on marketing the co-design model and toolkit for people with disability developed in Phase 1, and improves the capacity of people with disability to be co-designers or participants in co-design.

- **Shelter WA – Building the co-design skills of people who have or are experiencing housing precariou...** $98,482
  
The project focuses on empowering service users who have experienced homelessness to effectively participate in consultation and co-design in the planning of housing policy and service design. The project will create a co-design training resource, framework and principles for engagement of service users and providers.

(To be continued)
• Western Australian Association for Mental Health Inc. – Designing consumer centred collaborative arrangements: lived experience participation from rhetoric to reality $96,140

This project aims to embed consumer (service users and/or their representatives) engagement as an integral part of collaborative arrangements. The project will develop a framework and principles to assist government agencies to plan, implement and evaluate consumer-centred collaborative engagements.

• Western Australian Council of Social Services – Partnering with Aboriginal Community controlled Organisations to deliver trusted services with stronger outcomes for Aboriginal people $100,000

This project aims to improve engagement and partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). A framework, principles and associated resources for each sector will be developed for use in a series of roundtable forums to build closer relationships with ACCOs.

Congratulations to each of these organisations! And a big thank you to all of you who submitted an application.

2018-19 Indexation Rate for Community Services

The Western Australian Government Indexation Policy for the Non-Government Human Services Sector 2008 (Indexation Policy) applies to service agreements for community services undertaken in accordance with the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy. From 1 July 2018, the indexation rate for service agreements is the Perth Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The price index used is the latest available actual data for the Perth CPI as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The Indexation Policy applies to service agreements between State Government agencies and NFP community services service providers for the purchase of community services. Where service agreements are part-funded by the Commonwealth Government, the Indexation Policy applies to the State Government funded component of these service agreements. Where service agreements have pricing frameworks designed to facilitate individualised funding agreements, the Indexation Policy applies to the unit prices or similar pricing mechanisms.

The Indexation Policy does not apply to grant agreements or arrangements not for community services as defined by the DCSP Policy.

Updated Frequently Asked Questions are available on the DCSP Policy page of the Finance website. Please contact your service agreement manager to discuss how indexation will be applied to your service agreement, and contact FaCS for queries regarding the Indexation Policy.

Service Providers - Do You Know the Recordkeeping Requirements for Your Service Agreements?

Government agencies have obligations regarding the keeping of State records under the State Records Act 2000 (WA). This may include records created or received by a service provider during the life of a service agreement, as part of delivering services on behalf of a government agency. Government agencies are required to ensure that service providers keep records in accordance with legislation and policies, and for service agreements to establish control, ownership and access to the records for the duration of the service agreement and following completion of the service agreement. This includes specifying which records will remain the property of the service provider at the completion of the service agreement, and which will be returned to the government agency.

Specific recordkeeping requirements may be included in the request document where appropriate, and FaCS recommends discussion of recordkeeping as part of service agreement management and transition-out planning. If specific recordkeeping requirements are not detailed in the request document, section 13.2 of the General Provisions for the Purchase of Community Services by Public Authorities requires the service provider to keep accurate, complete and current written records in respect of the service agreement.

Please contact your government agency service agreement manager if you wish to discuss your recordkeeping plan and obligations.
Report into Mergers and Acquisitions in the Not-for-profit Sector

RMIT University and CPA Australia recently completed a joint research project into mergers, amalgamations and acquisitions (M&A) in the Australian human services not-for-profit (NFP) sector. The findings were published in a report released in March this year which looks at the motivations, risks, barriers and opportunities that NFP organisations face when undertaking M&As. The report concluded that, while M&As offer benefits through combining resources to form larger organisations, associated complexities and costs should be considered when developing a strategy, as well as when embarking on a M&A.

Based on data collected from interviews with key personnel of NFP organisations, the report makes recommendations for better practice when undertaking M&As with regards to purpose, people, process and policy. The report also provides an overview of the economic environment that NFP organisations are facing in the human services sector, as well as the different forms that M&As can take. It includes case examples to further illustrate learnings based on lived experience.

You can read the Mergers, Amalgamations & Acquisitions in the Australian Not-for-profit Human Services Sector report on the CPA Australia website. Pro Bono Australia has also published a summary of the report that can be accessed on their website.

Review and Update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

FaCS has developed a draft revised DCSP Policy 2018 (draft Policy) based on feedback and recommendations received from both the government and community services sector as part of the stakeholder engagement and consultation process.

The draft Policy was available on the DCSP Policy Review webpage on the Department of Finance website in May, giving stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback. The feedback received has been considered and FaCS has updated the draft Policy. Thank you to all those who provided valuable feedback, in particular the following organisations:

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
- Children and Adolescent Health Service
- Carers WA
- Community Employers WA
- Consumers of Mental Health WA
- Diabetes WA
- Department of Health
- Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
- Life Without Barriers
- Mental Health Commission
- National Disability Services
- Peel Development Commission
- South West Counselling Inc.
- UnitingCare West
- Western Australian Council of Social Services
- Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies

The draft Policy was presented to the Supporting Communities Forum earlier this month, where further feedback was received. The Policy will then be submitted to the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee for endorsement. Regular updates can be found on the DCSP Policy Review webpage, or contact FaCS if you have any questions relating to the review of the DCSP Policy or the stakeholder consultation process.

What’s Happening in the Sector?

FaCS has introduced 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 Social Impact Festival 2018 run by the Centre for Social Impact UWA will be held in July 2018.
- Lotterywest is running 2018 Grants Information Sessions on the Lotterywest grant program. Visit their website for more information and to register.
Education and Training Update

All of our 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 after the review is complete. For enquiries, please contact Procurement Capability and Development at proceducation@finance.wa.gov.au.

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

The first half of the year has just flown by, a good sign of how busy it has been for FaCS! The feedback on the draft revised DCSP Policy has been reviewed, and was recently presented to the Supporting Communities Forum and Procurement Working Group – thank you to everybody that has taken the time to provide feedback. Your contribution to shaping the revised Policy is greatly appreciated! We are on track for a September release of the updated Policy, which would not have been possible without the hard work of the FaCS team – massive thanks to Steve, Chana, Jen, Sophie, Lizzie and Carmen who continue to work tirelessly on the Policy.

FaCS has also been busy with the Capacity Building grant applications for 2018, which have recently been awarded. The quality of submissions this year has been amazing, and I am very excited to watch the awarded projects unfold.

The Aboriginal Procurement Policy regional training program has almost come to a close. FaCS’ Social Procurement Initiative team has worked closely with our colleagues in Building Management and Works to deliver training to nine regional locations, which have received great feedback. An additional session has been scheduled for Kalgoorlie on 17 July, so keep an eye out for details on our website!

On a personal note, I have managed to squeeze in some time off in this busy period. I’ve just returned from two weeks leave, which was supposed to be a horse adventure over east but sadly the horses weren’t ready. I opted for a quick trip to Bali instead and absolutely loved it! I urge you all to make time to get away, relax, and enjoy life. We are all passionate about what we do, but the risk of having work dominate our lives is that we can lose perspective – making time to step back from work and enjoy the other parts of your life will help to bring a positive, well-rounded view back into the office. And that can only lead to better outcomes!

It hasn’t been all quiet on the horse front for me though, I managed to go from winning a big event at the State Equestrian Centre two weeks ago, to falling off my horse at Dryandra (Narrogin) Equestrian Centre on the weekend in a rather spectacular way. The highs and lows of the sport all within a couple of weeks! But that’s why I love this sport, it helps you to build resilience and stay real. And when things don’t go to plan, to learn more from them than when you win.

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

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