Welcome to the August 2018 issue of the FaCS Bulletin!

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Supporting Communities Forum Update

The Supporting Communities Forum (the Forum) was established in late 2017 to support the implementation of the State Government’s Supporting Communities policy which is focused on improving the quality of services provided to vulnerable Western Australians. The Forum met for the first time on 19 March 2018, with the second quarterly meeting held on 18 June 2018.

Seven working groups were established at the Forum’s inaugural meeting to address the priorities of the Forum as identified by the Premier. A list of working group topics and members is available on the Forum’s webpage. Each working group is finalising a project plan, which are expected to be released shortly.

The work of the Forum is informed by a number of public sector reform processes currently underway in Western Australia. At its March meeting, the Forum was briefed by Michelle Andrews, Deputy Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on the recommendations from the Service Priority Review. This was followed by an update from the DPC’s Public Sector Reform Unit at the June meeting about initiatives to shape the reform process. The slides from this presentation are available here. Grahame Searle, Director General of the Department of Communities also presented to the Forum at its June meeting, providing an overview of the new Department’s reform agenda and new ways of working. The slides from this presentation are available here.

A range of commitments of the Supporting Communities policy are aimed at improving and streamlining government community services procurement practice and processes. At its June meeting the Forum discussed the draft revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy and provided feedback for consideration by Government. The slides from this presentation are available here.

The Forum’s Chairperson, Ms Michelle Scott, welcomes opportunities to meet individuals and organisations to gain insight on how the Forum can engage with stakeholders, and build relationships across government agencies and community organisations. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Forum secretariat in the first instance to arrange this.

The Forum’s next quarterly meeting will be held on 17 September 2018. Further information can be found on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website or by emailing the Forum secretariat at SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au.
People with Disabilities WA (PWdWA) recently launched ‘Connect with me’, a model for co-designing services with people with disability. Connect with me enables the co-design of services for people with disability, with people with disability.

In its media release announcing the launch of Connect with me, PWdWA noted that co-design can be used to review a service, improve existing services or design new service offerings. Co-design can also be used to improve customer experience, improve communication or any other continuous improvement activity. Co-designing services with service users, as well as service providers and other key stakeholders, results in better services that achieve improved outcomes for users.

PWdWA has developed a Co-design Guide and Toolkit Training to support Connect with me. The Co-design Guide and Toolkit can be accessed on PWdWA’s website.

Connect with me has been developed using a capacity building grant from Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS), Government Procurement, Department of Finance. PWdWA is now moving forward with building the capacity of people with disability to work as co-designers and promote the use of co-design to service providers in WA.

For enquiries about Connect with me, contact the PWdWA project team on codesign@pwdwa.org.

Review and Update of the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

FaCS has developed a draft revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy 2018 (draft Policy) based on feedback and recommendations received from both the government and community services sectors 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, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback. 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.

FaCS has updated the draft Policy in accordance with the feedback received. Practice-related feedback received during the consultation process will form part of an updated suite of guides and training that FaCS is developing in conjunction with the draft Policy.

The draft Policy was presented to the Supporting Communities Forum in June, where further feedback was received and incorporated. The draft Policy was submitted to the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub-Committee in mid-August and will be submitted to Cabinet 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.
Public Sector Reform Program

The State Government is undertaking major reform of the public sector to create a more efficient, collaborative and high-performing public sector that delivers better services to the Western Australian community.

The reform is shaped by the recommendations of three independent reviews and also by the recommendations of CEO Working Groups on ways to reduce costs, duplication and red tape across the public sector. The working groups comprised of directors general from a number of government agencies.

Government agencies are working to progress a number of reform initiatives aimed at delivering better services for the community and improving the way the public sector operates.

Aboriginal Procurement Policy

Over the last few months, the FaCS’ Social Procurement Initiatives (SPI) team has been busy delivering the training program to support the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP). Sessions were held for Aboriginal businesses/organisations and government buyers in Perth and ten regional destinations.

The State Government is committed to supporting Aboriginal owned businesses and organisations through the introduction of the APP. Effective from 1 July 2018, 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.

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

If you are an Aboriginal not-for-profit organisation, make sure to register on either the Aboriginal Business Directory Western Australia and Supply Nation’s Indigenous Business Direct.

For more information, please contact the Social Procurement Initiatives team on spi@finance.wa.gov.au or (08) 6551 2475.

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:

1. The McGowan Government is seeking input for a new Aboriginal organisation to hold government accountable for the way it works with Aboriginal people. For more information click here.

2. The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia Un-Fair Ground Conference 2018 will bring local and national thought-provoking ideas to tackle statewide issues impacting young people and the youth sector. For more information on the October conference, click here.
Education and Training Update

All of our workshops are on hold as we review workshop content in line with the review of the DCSP Policy. The workshops will return later in the year after the review is complete.

Online learning modules remain available.

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

In the meantime, please note that a range of training options are organised by WACOSS and NDS and also by other not-for-profit organisations.

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

The FaCS team has been hard at work for the past few months, preparing new and updated procurement guides and templates to support the revised DCSP Policy. The new DCSP Policy, once it is endorsed by Cabinet, is an opportunity for government agencies and service providers to embrace a new depth of partnership and to improve our standard of community services procurement practice. I am especially pleased to see the increased emphasis on planning in partnership and collaborative service design reflected in our guides.

As well as redeveloping our guides and templates, we’re developing an updated suite of FaCS workshops which we are planning to roll out later this year. The workshops will provide step-by-step best practice advice on each stage of the community services procurement process, and are a great opportunity to form new connections between the sectors.

FaCS welcomed Jane Azzopardi to our team this month. With a wealth of experience from across sectors, we are sure that Jane will be of tremendous value to our team.

August has been a huge month for me with my horses. I competed in the Bates International Horse Trials at Woorooloo, and with Asti Aspiration came first in the Olympic-equivalent level of competition. It was a personal win in my partnership with this horse in getting his confidence back with jumping into water. Meanwhile my home bred babies, Asti Hera and Asti Zodiac, finished second and fourth in the introductory level competition. They’re showing so much promise and I’m proud of them!

My reflection on this event is that I need to enjoy this success and not be too quick to move onto the new competition and goal. This is something many of us could apply to our day to day lives – make sure you enjoy the good times because they prepare you to take on the more challenging times.

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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