Good Procurement Practices Report

On behalf of the Procurement Reform Working Group of the Supporting Communities Forum, the Department of Finance has produced the Good Procurement Practices Report (the Report). The Report is based on research regarding best practice procurement and consultation with government agencies and not-for-profit service providers. It outlines examples of good procurement practice, barriers to good practice and capability gaps, and suggests approaches to strengthen community services procurement practice. The Report makes seven recommendations for government and service providers to improve procurement practice across Western Australia.

The Report has been endorsed by the Supporting Communities Forum and will now be submitted to the Directors General Implementation Group and Community Safety and Family Support Subcommittee for consideration and implementation. The Procurement Reform Working Group is finalising an implementation plan for the recommendations of the Report, with clearly defined responsibilities for government and the sector working collaboratively to improve procurement practice.

Increased funding to support sector sustainability

The State Government has announced it will provide additional funding to the community services sector to support wage increases that are a direct result of the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO). The additional funding is targeted at ensuring sustainable service delivery to vulnerable members of our community.

The Peak organisations have engaged with the Department of Finance, Treasury and Communities on multiple occasions to discuss the impact of the ERO on the community services sector. Following the release today of the Mid Year Review by the Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Lands the Honourable Ben Wyatt and subsequent Media Statement by the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services the Honourable Simone McGurk, Finance, Treasury and Communities will be engaging further with CEWA, WACOSS and Shelter WA to discuss how this commitment from government can best be progressed in a timely manner.
Agencies procuring community services smash their Aboriginal Procurement Policy targets!

The Aboriginal Procurement Policy First Year Performance Report was published on 12 December 2019 and reveals huge success for government agencies who procure community services!

Under the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP), Western Australian government agencies needed to award a minimum of one per cent of contracts to Aboriginal businesses or not-for-profit organisations in the 2018-19 financial year. The target increases to two per cent for 2019-20 and will be three per cent for 2020-21.

According to the First Year Performance Report, 4.77 per cent of all state government contracts were awarded to Aboriginal organisations, smashing the first year target of one per cent! Many government agencies with varying procurement needs achieved the APP’s 2018-19 target. Of note in the community services space, the Department of Communities (17.42 per cent), Department of Education (3.78 per cent), WA Country Health Service (13.70 per cent) and Department of Justice (5.08 per cent) were all in the top 10 agencies for numbers of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses, and well exceeded the target.

The efforts by agencies to meet the APP target has improved opportunities for Aboriginal businesses to contract with government agencies, contributing to the development of the Aboriginal business community. A total of 179 contracts were awarded to 92 different Aboriginal businesses, tripling the number of contracts awarded prior to the implementation of the APP.

Of the contracts awarded, there were five community services contracts worth over $7 million. Other types of contracts in the goods, services and works spaces ranged from building maintenance to public relations to horticulture, demonstrating the diversity and capability of the Aboriginal business sector.

Congratulations to all agencies that exceeded their obligations, and for using procurement as an opportunity to improve economic outcomes for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.
Help us improve our new website search function

Finance has transitioned its web content from finance.wa.gov.au to WA.gov.au. Unlike our old website, our information now sits in a search-based whole of government pool. To find information you can search by keywords using the ‘search WA.gov.au’ bar in the top right corner, or you can navigate from the procurement landing page.

To continue improving customer experience, if you do not find what you are looking for, please let us know:

1) What you searched for
2) What results you expected
3) What results you received

Remember to update any links or bookmarks as our old website will be decommissioned in the near future – and remember if you have any questions, FaCS is here to help!

Supporting Communities Forum
To view updates and communique from the Supporting Communities Forum meeting, please follow this link.
FaCS is refreshing its training — tell us what you’d like!

Do want more help with service reviews and preferred service provider assessments? A workshop focused on writing procurement plans? Advice on how to develop qualitative criteria?

Over the Christmas and New Year period, we will be planning our training schedule for 2020 and refreshing our training workshops to reflect best practice and sector needs. This is your opportunity to let us know what you’d like to see. Please contact us with your feedback by email.

Merry Christmas &

a Happy New Year!

From the FaCS team

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

Please feel free to distribute this Bulletin. If you would like to register for our mailing list, please subscribe here.
From the Stable Door
Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

You never know how strong and genuine a partnership is until it is tested. It's fair to say that the latter half of 2019 has tested the relationship between government and the community services sector on a few occasions but what is heartening is that we are all still at the table, we are all still listening, and we all want to achieve the best possible outcomes we can.

Closer to home, I recently had to farewell Steve Hill. I am very excited to say that Steve is responsible for clarifying Finance's service offering in the new world now that we are Procurement Functional Leaders; this includes figuring out our service offering in the community services space. Now while many of our external stakeholders may not have met Andrew Davy (aka Davy) he has bravely moved into a policy role having previously been engaged in organisation change, capability development and data and reporting. Davy has stepped into the FaCS role at a very challenging time and he has demonstrated a strong commitment to working through challenges to find workable solutions. Thank you Davy.

I’d also like to welcome Victoria Gray, who is joining us for her final rotation of the Department of Finance graduate program – welcome Victoria!

2019 saw the first year of the Aboriginal Procurement Policy (APP) deliver some amazing outcomes, with 179 contracts going to Aboriginal businesses. The Social Procurement Initiatives Team managed a huge amount of data, and supported government agencies and the Aboriginal business sector to implement the APP. Both our SPI and FaCS teams hit the trail across WA to deliver training about the APP and DCSP Policy in towns far and wide; thanks to everyone who came along to our training.

Thanks also to everyone who provided us with feedback for the Good Procurement Practices Report – we are looking forward to working with the sector to improve the way we support you and government agencies to better deliver services for the community. One great outcome from this report has been putting a group of community services procurement practitioners through the International Association for Public Participation Certificate of Engagement. We hope that upskilling procurement practitioners with stakeholder engagement skills will lead to better co-design processes. (continued on page 6)
From the Stable Door
Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham
(continued)

For those who have not worked with me before, you may be surprised to know that I am a member of the State level eventing squad, Event Director for Alcoa international Horse Trials, Rider Representative for the state governing body of the sport and Operations Manager for Equestrian in the Park. The last one is the large scale horse event/festival run on the Swan River foreshore on the last weekend in November. Equestrian in the Park welcomes thousands of people through its gates and provides a platform for junior riders, professional riders, Olympians and international riders to compete on the same level.

I am not only the Operations Manager for Equestrian in the Park, I also managed to commentate and MC the event in the middle of the day, again, for anyone that knows me, giving me a microphone can be risky….. but I was mostly well behaved. Somehow, I managed to squeeze in riding my own horse, finishing second (by less than a second) in the first round and 5th overall, coming home with a variety of exciting and useful prizes.

That event marks the end of my competition year, which now provides me more free time to catch up with friends and family as we head into Christmas. I want to thank the FaCS team for their passion and commitment to community services procurement. I am surrounded by such high-quality people, and I am so incredibly grateful that I have had the privilege of working with this team.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and enjoyable New Year.