Equal Remuneration Order:

The Government has approved a provisional financial allocation to provide supplementary funding for the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO). The distribution of this funding will target contracts that were established prior to the ERO.

The Departments of Finance, Treasury and Communities have been working with community services sector peak bodies to finalise the eligibility criteria and process for the supplementation.

Approval of the ERO supplementary funding is expected by April 2020, with funding expected to be distributed to eligible organisations from April 2020.

Finance would like to thank the government agencies, peak bodies and community services organisations who have worked collaboratively to assist the sustainability of the community services sector in Western Australia.

Do you have questions about grants for community services?

Are grants subject to State Supply Commission policies and the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy?

Grants for community services aren’t subject to State Supply Commission policies, but they are governed by the DCSP Policy. Government agencies are able to develop their own grants practices in line with the DCSP Policy including the Partnership Principles.

Do grants need to be published on Tenders WA?

No, but some agencies, including Finance, choose to publish the details of awarded grants on Tenders WA. All agencies must publish details of awarded grants in their annual reports.

What if I have an issue with a grants process?

If you have an issue with a grants process that can’t be resolved with the government agency issuing the grant, please contact FaCS for assistance.
What’s the difference between a contract extension and an ‘extension beyond term’?

When a service agreement is awarded, a contract term is specified in the Request and letter of acceptance. This contract term often includes extension options. The Request asks potential service providers to nominate sustainable pricing for the entire contract term, inclusive of the contract extension options. Contract extension options are exercised at the discretion of the government agency; service providers have already agreed to these extension options as part of the Request and Offer process.

An extension beyond term is an extension additional to any extension options specified in the Request. Extensions beyond term are a variation to the service agreement, and both parties to the contract (the service provider and government agency) must agree to them for the variation to take effect. In many cases an extension beyond term will require renegotiation of contract pricing to reflect changes to the cost of service delivery since the services commenced. An extension beyond term is sometimes referred to as a contract rollover.

If you would like assistance understanding community services procurement terminology, please contact FaCS or register for our free workshops.

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2019 Progress Report

The McGowan Labor Government has progressed work on 95% of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, through the allocation of $5.7 million dollars in this year’s budget.

The experiences, and the courage shown by those who bravely stepped forward to the Royal Commission, cannot and will not be ignored.

- It is why we have prioritised this important work across Government, with direct oversight by Cabinet.
- It is why we have prioritised healing past hurts
- It is why we have prioritised protecting children now
- It is why we have prioritised preventing further harm

To download the 2019 Progress Report, click here: https://bit.ly/2EI1Yjm
Retaining records relevant to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that guidance be provided to all government agencies and non-government organisations on identifying and retaining records that may become relevant to an actual or alleged incident of child sexual abuse.

This guidance can be voluntarily adopted by service providers.

Information Management Advice: Guidance for identifying and retaining records which may become relevant to an actual or alleged incident of child sexual abuse is available on the State Records Office website.

Congratulations to the new members of the Supporting Communities Forum!

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has announced new membership of the Supporting Communities Forum for 2020-21. Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) is excited that the Director General of the Department of Finance, Jodi Cant, will be joining the Forum as the new Co-Chair. Michelle Scott, Director of the McCusker Centre for Citizenship, continues as Co-Chair.

FaCS would like to thank all of the new members of the Supporting Communities Forum and thank the outgoing members for their hard work on crucial community services policy areas. A full list of new members can be found on the Supporting Communities Forum page.

Tenders WA: how can it help service providers?

Tenders WA is a source of useful information for service providers, such as details of your service agreements and other awarded service agreements in which you may be interested. Information posted on Tenders WA includes the name of the successful service provider, service agreement term and estimated value.

You can register on Tenders WA to nominate fields of interest for your organisation and automatically receive notifications for publically advertised tenders in your nominated fields.

If you require help getting started with Tenders WA, please see the help guides or request support.
Upcoming training workshops

All FaCS workshops are free of charge however registration is essential.

Introduction to Community Services Procurement

Aimed at government agency staff new to community services procurement, this workshop includes engaging in the Request process, evaluating offers and understanding relevant procurement policies and how to apply them.

Perth – Thursday 5 March 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Optima Centre B | 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Developing Procurement Plans and Requests

This workshop includes an overview of the development of community services procurement plans and Requests, offering practical skills in developing key procurement documents.

Perth – Wednesday 1 April 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Optima Centre B | 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Evaluating Offers and Writing Evaluation Reports

This workshop covers key tasks involved in the evaluation process. This includes an overview of the community services evaluation process, offering practical skills in evaluating offers and developing evaluation reports.

Perth – Thursday 30 April 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Optima Centre B | 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Contract Management Essentials for Community Services Procurement Practitioners

This session is designed for agency staff involved with management of service agreements as part of, or all of their role. Presented by Scope Training.

Perth – Tuesday 26 May 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Optima Centre B | 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

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Upcoming training workshops (continued)

Training for service providers:

Costing and Pricing

This workshop will provide an overview of what to consider when developing an offer price for community services in WA. It will address governance principles, understanding financial statements, pricing for financial sustainability, and costing of services. This session is for organisations that are interested in tendering for community services in WA and is presented by 2020 Global.

Perth – Wednesday 25 March 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Albert Facey House | 469 Wellington Street, Perth

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Tendering for Community Services

This workshop offers a practical understanding of the tendering process, with a focus on the Request and the development of offers.

Perth – Wednesday 20 May 2020

Location: Training Room 2, Optima Centre B | 16 Parkland Road, Osborne Park

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Sustainable pricing in practice: have you wondered why some Requests have a ‘fixed budget’?

Government agencies are required to purchase community services at a sustainable price, and service providers are required to price their services in a sustainable way. To enable service providers to price services sustainably, potential service providers set their own ‘unit price’ (price per unit of service) when responding to a Request document.

As a service provider, setting your own unit price can work in either of two ways:

1. The Request specifies the fixed budget for the service, and you nominate the volume of services you can sustainably provide for that budget. An example of this could be a service for which the annual budget is $300,000, and service providers can outline how many clients they can provide services for at that price.

(Continues page 6)
Sustainable pricing in practice: have you wondered why some Requests have a ‘fixed budget’? (continued)

2. The Request specifies the volume of services required, and you nominate the price for which you can sustainably provide the services. An example of this could be a Request detailing the expected number of clients for a service, and service providers nominating the price they would charge to provide the service.

If you would like more information on sustainably pricing services, please register for our next Costing and Pricing Workshop.

From the Stable Door – Update from FaCS Director, Kate Ingham

I hope you have all enjoyed the warm sunny weather. Things never really quietened down for FaCS over the break and we have been flat out working on the contract audit for the Equal Remuneration Order, attending Out of Home Care co-design workshops and board meetings, and developing a new education and training program.

The Aboriginal Business Expo is almost upon us. We have spent the last couple of months preparing for the event and we are very excited to welcome the Aboriginal business sector and government representatives to connect and find out about upcoming opportunities. We hope to see you there!

FaCS said farewell this month to Rachael Mounfield, who you may know from your dealings with all things Aboriginal Procurement Policy. Rachael is moving on to the procurement reform team where she will be helping to continue the work to streamline the procurement framework and align works, goods and services, and community services procurement. All the best Rachael!

Personally, I am very excited for the start of pre-season training with my horses. Even better, I might be hearing the pitter patter of tiny hooves later this year - I will keep you updated on that!