



We're working for  
Western Australia.

## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM COMMUNIQUE - MEETING 9 SEPTEMBER 2019

---

Ensuring everyone in Western Australia has a safe place to call home and is supported to achieve stable and independent lives was the main focus discussed at the latest Supporting Communities Forum meeting.

The 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness includes four focus areas, namely, improving Aboriginal wellbeing; providing safe, secure and stable homes; preventing homelessness; and strengthening and coordinating our resources, informed by a strong-evidence base resulting from extensive public consultation and good collaboration between the community services sector, peak bodies, government, and people with lived experience throughout the metropolitan and regional WA.

The ["When there's no place to call home: Stories of people who have experienced homelessness in WA" book](#) available on the Communities website is a collection of stories by people who have experienced life without a home in WA. The Strategy has the potential to positively impact on a number of the *Our Priorities: Sharing Prosperity* whole-of-government targets. The Homelessness Working Group discussed the key lessons learned throughout consultation and development of the Strategy noting that getting the right help at the right time for individuals experiencing homelessness is vital and makes a huge difference towards improving individual outcomes.

The draft Strategy endorsed in-principle by the Forum at the 9 September meeting, is a significant achievement that will require ongoing discussions and consultation with the Aboriginal community, government and community services sector. The final Strategy will be considered for endorsement by the Forum out of session.

The Procurement Reform Working Group discussed the final 'Good Procurement Practices' report which was developed as a result of extensive stakeholder consultation and feedback received from the Forum. The report highlights key elements of good procurement practice including strategies to strengthen procurement practice through: meaningful stakeholder engagement and effective co-design training; capacity building of contract managers; as well as the need to provide support to and invest in training for contract managers and procurement specialists.

Following endorsement at the June meeting, continued work on the Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework is underway to develop and finalise a proposed implementation plan. The plan will outline a continuum of implementation options to further develop and implement the Framework.

The Data Sharing and Linkage Working Group discussion on the ['Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing – Discussion Paper'](#), open for public comment from

5 August for three months, outlines the proposed legislative arrangements to protect privacy and use information responsibly to deliver better outcomes and services to the community. Consultation closes on Friday 1 November 2019. [Information sessions](#) across the metropolitan and regional areas, as well as roundtables and workshops are providing an opportunity for Western Australians to ask questions and provide feedback about the best approach for WA.

Other significant matters discussed included discussions on the cultural competency and awareness programs and initiatives currently pursued across the WA public sector; and the community sector networking day organised by WACOSS as part of its Conference to be held next year May, as an ideal platform to showcase the work of the Forum.

[Minutes](#) for every meeting are available on the Forum's webpage.

As the two-year term of the Forum concludes mid-December, the Forum will have its final meeting on 2 December to discuss comments and feedback received on the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing - Discussion Paper; discuss opportunities for procurement co-design; and the final Collaboration report which will synthesise literature review findings and identify the attributes, enablers and barriers to collaboration.

Please feel free to distribute this Communique to your wider networks.

If you would like to register to the Forum mailing list or have general enquiries please email the Forum Secretariat at [SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au).