Department of Communities

Update on Reforms for the Supporting Communities Forum

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Michelle Andrews, Director General, Department of Communities

Reform Update

- 1. External Review
- 2. Out-of-Home Care reform



External Review of Communities

- Commissioned to complement the internal Agency Capability Review (ACR) completed in May 2019
- Conducted by public sector reform expert lain Rennie
- Builds on ACR and is informed by the staff cultural assessment survey and engagement workshops undertaken in 2018-19
- Focused on engagement with external stakeholders to capture their perspective on our current performance and future opportunities

Themes and focus areas

Themes from the ACR and staff culture work align closely with external feedback.

Three areas of focus for the immediate future:

- 1. improving outward focus;
- 2. strengthening people; and
- 3. enhancing systems and processes (or "ways of working").

There is an Aboriginal stream that cuts across all three areas.

Priority actions

- Appoint a chief people officer
- Strengthen mechanisms for external stakeholder engagement
- Establish an Aboriginal elders council to support co-design and shared decisionmaking
- Appoint a chief data officer
- Establish an expert panel to advise on our stewardship of the child protection system and ongoing improvement in professional practice

Out-of-Home Care Reform



Advice and support

Department of Premier and Cabinet – Aboriginal Policy and Coordination Unit

Department of Treasury

Department of Finance

Advisory Supports

OOHC Program Governing Body

Department of Communities Service Delivery Program Board Advisory and Collaborative Support

Independent Reference Group (Co-chairs, Professors M Harries and D Bessarab Noongar Family Safety and Wellbeing Council

Aarnja

Alliance for Children at Risk

Children's Policy Advisory
Council

CREATE Foundation

WACOSS

Engagement and Collaboration



Aboriginal Cultural Engagement Subgroup – focus on inclusion of regional and remote Aboriginal regional communities and organisations



Service Solutions Sub-group – focus on addressing existing system pressures



Finance Sub-group – focus on financial models and costings



Building a Better Future

Increasing role and responsibility of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

Implementing place-based, services focussed on the needs of the child and their family

Creating an equitable, sustainable, responsive service system

