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Western Australia.*

## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM**

### **COMMUNIQUE – FOUR MEETINGS IN OCTOBER 2020**

The Supporting Communities Forum continues to play a critical advisory role in guiding and informing the Western Australian (WA) Government's approach to supporting the State's social and economic recovery from COVID-19, as well as outbreak response planning and preparedness.

The Forum provided key input into the WA Recovery Plan and Impact Statement during the Ministerial Roundtable discussions that were held in June 2020.

In August 2020, the Forum's initial discussions and input on WA's Recovery Plan helped shape the Forum's work plan for the next several months, with a thematic approach to meetings.

Three virtual meetings were conducted in October on specific recovery-related themes. The meetings focused on learnings from COVID-19 shared by the community services sector with Government, as well as shaping outcomes in digital inclusion, and development of a Young People Priority Framework by the Mental Health Commission. The Young People Priority Framework is expected to be released by the Commission before the end of 2020. Members also provided valuable feedback to presentations by the Departments of Communities and Health in their response planning and preparedness for another outbreak.

At the Forum's fourth meeting in October, which involved a plenary face-to-face and virtual meeting, the Department of Communities provided an update on implementation of the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness and WA State Housing Strategy released on 14 October, with advice provided by the Forum on how implementation of the Homelessness Strategy can be adapted to respond to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Additionally, the Forum considered, an update by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Recovery Implementation Support team on the priorities in implementation of the WA Recovery Plan which involves 500 plus projects across the public sector, with advice and guidance provided by the Forum to drive outcomes that benefit impacted communities and individuals, including, women, youth, Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people in the regions; an update by the Department of Finance on work underway on the Outcomes Measurement Framework to ensure it will meet the needs of both the Government and community services sectors, with in-principle support provided by the Forum to continue work on the Framework; and an update provided by the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA on partnering with Government on key initiatives including the Closing the Gap priorities.

At the final meeting for 2020, on 23 November the Forum will continue discussions on WA's Recovery efforts, with a focus on the Care Economy. The Forum will also consider future priorities and opportunities to build a collaborative partnership between the Forum and the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA and the Multicultural Advisory Group.

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

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