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Western Australia.*

## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM**

### **COMMUNIQUE – MEETING ON 23 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Forum held its final meeting for the year on 23 November 2020, continuing discussions to inform the Western Australian (WA) Government's approach to social and economic recovery from COVID-19.

The Forum received an update by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's (DPC's) Recovery Implementation Support team on the recovery projects being implemented to support women, youth, Aboriginal people, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and people in the regions. This was followed by a presentation by the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) on the recovery projects relating to skills and workforce development opportunities. This includes efforts to build new workforce pipelines, including in care work. This stimulated good discussions and plans for ongoing engagement between DTWD and the Forum as part of the Forum's interest in the care economy.

In response to the Forum's interest in the positive contribution of care sectors to the WA community and economy, a scoping paper on WA's care economy was presented by DPC's Community Policy Unit with input from the Department of Treasury. This promoted good discussion on what sectors and industries constitute the 'care economy'; the current and emerging issues impacting these sectors; opportunities to strengthen the care economy; and next steps to consider potential opportunities in more depth. As an immediate next step, the Forum endorsed convening a workshop at the end of January 2021 on the care economy.

Members welcomed Ms Gail Beck Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA who provided valuable insight and input to all agenda items from an Aboriginal perspective, followed by members noting and discussing the Council's recent work on its strategic priorities. This included, the importance of how the future priorities of the Forum should take into account and align with the 'Closing the Gap' agreement and its targets. Members also noted a presentation by the Multicultural Advisory Group Secretariat and the Office of Multicultural Interests on the Multicultural Policy Framework launched in March 2020. With support by OMI, government agencies are progressing the development of their respective agency multicultural plans, which are due by 31 January 2021. These plans will enable implementation of the Multicultural Policy Framework.

With an ongoing focus on WA Recovery, members considered other priorities as well as opportunities to build a collaborative partnership between the Forum and the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA and the Multicultural Advisory Group. There was also interest in contributing to, and connecting effectively with significant reform work, including the Sustainable Health Review. Information on the future direction of the Forum will be shared in the second quarter of 2021.

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).