



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Role in Western Australia's Recovery Meeting #4 (of #5) - Draft Meeting Notes and Actions

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<b>Date</b>	Monday 19 October 2020
<b>Time</b>	10:00am to 12:30pm
<b>Location</b>	Yonga Meeting Room, Level 4, Dumas House, 2 Havelock St, West Perth
<b>Members Present</b>	Michelle Scott, Jodi Cant, Louise Giolitto, Tricia Murray, Ross Wortham, Felicite Black, Justine Colyer, Debra Zanella, Emma Jarvis, Kate Chaney, Kelda Oppermann, Denver D'Cruz, Julie Waylen, Michelle Andrews, Rebecca Brown, Jennifer McGrath
<b>DPC</b>	Bronwyn Grieve and Jennifer Dass
<b>Invited Guests</b>	DPC - Ryan Sengara, Annabel Keogh, Tracey Ninnette; Department of Health – Dr. Paul Armstrong, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Public Health and WA Chief Human Biosecurity Officer; Department of Communities – Emma Colombera, Julia Prior and Monica Nichevich; Department of Finance – Lara Connor, Steven Hill and Michael Lenanton; Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA - Jonathan Ford.
<b>Member Apologies</b>	Kate George, Melissa Perry, Maria Osman, Dan Minchin, Dr Adam Tomison, Dr David Russell-Weisz, Ms Lisa Rodgers, Mr Duncan Ord, Ms Sharyn O'Neill, Ms Susan Hunt

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The meeting started at 10:30 am

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND THEMES

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of country, welcome, apologies and introductions

The Supporting Communities Forum (SCF) Co-Chairs acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region, including the strength and resilience of the Whadjuk Noongar people in this land.

The Co-Chairs welcomed members, guest presenters and noted member apologies.

#### 1.2 Outbreak Planning and Preparedness (continuing from Meeting #1 on 5 October)

##### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and the *Public Health Act 2016*, the Department of Health (Health) is responsible for the planning, management and ongoing preparedness for Western Australia's (WA) response to matters related to public health, including COVID-19 outbreaks.
- Dr Paul Armstrong, Deputy Chief Health Officer, delivered a presentation to the Forum on Health's response to COVID-19 outbreak response planning and preparedness. The presentation is published on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) - SCF webpage.
- Forum members noted the presentation which stimulated robust discussion and information sharing.

- Members noted the 24 September 2020 [‘Transparency Report: Current Status of WA Health’s COVID-19 Response Preparedness’](#) report by the Office of the Auditor General for submission to Parliament. The objective of the review is to provide information to Parliament and the public on the status of WA Health’s COVID-19 response preparedness.
- The report indicates WA Health is well prepared for a potential outbreak of COVID-19. The information presented shows that surge planning and preparations have been made in the 3 key areas of PPE, ventilated bed capacity and staffing. Health has also made good progress on developing outbreak plans and working more closely with various community sectors, including aged care. An increased focus on testing and contact tracing capability is also evident in the information presented in the report.
- Members discussed:
  - the importance of ensuring Health advice guides the response to another outbreak, informed by what is happening in other States. An understanding of broader roles and responsibilities for managing different aspects of an outbreak is important;
  - the need for workforce management issues to be at the forefront of consideration;
  - that Commonwealth actions and decisions impact on the work of the State, which requires different levels of engagement. The cultural aspect of continuous learning is equally important;
  - the process of outbreak planning and preparedness should build in continuous learning and improvement, with a need to stay connected and integrated. The totality of what WA does is what works and makes a difference;
  - that testing time turnaround is critical; payment for people waiting for a test; and working through the implementation and administration process, is important;
  - the need for the community (public) to be educated about quarantine and rules around quarantine, to build a sense of responsibility; and
  - the HealthyWA website as playing a critical role in communicating with the Community.
- Members noted information on webinars delivered by Health on its work in outbreak response planning and preparedness. Health is happy to work with WACOSS to organise a webinar for the community services sector.

**ACTION 1:** SCF Secretariat to share feedback from SCF members to Health to inform work on Outbreak Planning and Preparedness.

### **1.3 Social Housing and Implementation of the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020 - 2030**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES**

- Members noted the Department of Communities (Communities) Leadership Structure and appointments to be confirmed by November 2020.
- Emma Colombera, A/Director, Housing and Homelessness provided an update on the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020 – 2030 (the Strategy) and its implementation. Members noted that the Strategy was released in December 2019, with the first five-year Action Plan for the Strategy released during Homelessness Week in August 2020. Ruah Community Services has been appointed as the system coordinator for the Housing First Homelessness Initiative.
- Communities is working with the sector to create a ‘Service System Roadmap’ which will set out how to realign the current homelessness service system to achieve the outcomes of the Strategy.
- Communities is looking at options for the creation of a ‘cross-sector working group’ to guide implementation of the Strategy and to coordinate public facing reporting against the Strategy and the Action Plan 2020-2025.
- Members provided valuable advice and feedback to Communities on how implementation of the Strategy can be adapted to respond to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Further,

some members (also members of the previous SCF's Homelessness Strategy Working Group) offered to meet with Communities to discuss how the Forum can in an ongoing manner contribute to delivering the 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness.

- Monica Nichevich, Program Director, Assets provided an update on the \$319million stimulus for the Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP), and the WA State Housing Strategy released on 14 October 2020. To support implementation of the WA Housing Strategy, Communities is developing a Social Housing Framework to guide the journey from WA's current social housing system to social housing in 2030 that provides the right house at the right time and with the right supports.
- Members noted that:
  - modelling undertaken by the COVID-19 Taskforce on Homelessness indicates that if unemployment reaches 12% by December 2020, 8,400 new households are likely to be jobless and in rental accommodation; and
  - the refurbishment of existing properties and the construction of new social housing through the SHERP will play a central role in the State's social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to create jobs in the building and construction industry while also increasing the supply of homes for people in need.

**ACTION 2:** SCF secretariat to share the Department of Communities presentation to members for their information, and to publish the presentation on the DPC-SCF webpage.

## 2. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### 2.1 Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA (Council) Update

- The newly appointed members of the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (Council) held their first meeting in December 2019. A list of all members of the Council is available at <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au>. In accordance with section 18(3) of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972, at the commencement of that meeting, the members appointed Ms Gail Beck and Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado as Co-Chairpersons of the Council to reflect the required gender balance.
- The Council nominated Ms Gail Beck and Mr Jonathan Ford as the Council representatives to present to the Forum.
- Jonathan Ford provided members a brief update on the Council's focus on:
  - partnering with Government on key initiatives;
  - providing input to discussions on SCF agenda items from an Aboriginal perspective on behalf of the Council; and
  - the Closing the Gap priorities underpinning the work of Government and the sector going forward.
- The **National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) came into effect on 30 July 2020**, and is an historic agreement, developed in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens, through their representatives on the national Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations.
- The National Agreement sets out:
  - four priority reform areas intended to establish a new way for governments to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
  - 17 ambitious socio-economic targets for improving life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander citizens (and three to be developed within twelve months); and
  - a number of reporting and review mechanisms.

- The Priority Reforms are:
  - One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making
  - Two: Building the Community Controlled Sector
  - Three: Transforming Government Organisations
  - Four: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level
- The WA Government, led by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and in partnership with the Council, will develop a Jurisdictional Implementation Plan to be submitted to the Joint Council in July 2021.
- The Implementation Plan will be aligned with the actions required to implement the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy (once finalised).
- DPC is engaging with State Government agencies through a senior officer group, and bilaterally on subject-specific areas.

### Morning Tea (15 mins)

## 2.2 WA Recovery – Status Update

### DEPARTMENT OF THE PREMIER AND CABINET – RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

- The WA Recovery Plan was released on 26 July 2020 and provides an overview of the State Government's \$5.5 billion investment and over 500 initiatives that will be implemented to support the State's economic and social recovery from COVID-19. The Plan reflects the wide-ranging impacts of the pandemic, following significant engagement through Ministerial roundtables, the State Recovery Advisory Group, and stakeholder engagement by agencies.
- An intensive period of planning regarding implementation of the WA Recovery Plan has recently been completed, with capture of baseline information for all recovery projects and endorsement of an overall implementation strategy by the Public Sector Leadership Council (PSLC).
- As part of this baseline capture, agencies were asked to identify if and how their projects would contribute to the four overarching recovery outcomes:
  - business and consumer confidence;
  - employment;
  - COVID-19 readiness; and
  - supporting people and communities in need.
- Agencies were also asked to identify how their projects would realise a series of cross-cutting policy objectives, with a strong focus on addressing the economic and social impacts of COVID-19 on women, youth, Aboriginal people, CALD communities, and people in the regions.
- Agencies are responsible for project delivery.
- Implementation will be overseen by the 'State Recovery Controller' through the PSLC, and coordination by DPC's Recovery Implementation Support Team.
- A Program Control Network (PCN) of Director General-nominated senior officers has been established to support program implementation and monthly reporting to the PSLC and State Recovery Controller.
- Members discussed:
  - the importance of building in broader outcomes into the deliverables of each project;
  - the opportunity to use existing policies and levers, and implement policies in a consistent manner; and
  - that successful implementation of the WA Recovery Plan is centred on effective delivery of projects, alongside achievement of the overarching recovery outcome areas, ensuring there is a sustained legacy of outcomes for women, youth, Aboriginal people, CALD communities,

and people in the regions.

### 2.3 Outcomes Measurement Framework Update

- The Department of Finance (Finance), is undertaking further development and implementation of the Outcomes Measurement Framework (Framework) in relation to procuring and delivering community services.
- Finance is currently developing the primary set of indicators and outcomes aligned with the Framework domains, with a focus on ensuring they are fit-for-purpose and will meet the needs of both the government and community services sectors.
- Members noted, over the coming months, Finance will:
  - gather stakeholder input on Service Agreement Outcomes and develop the associated Primary Indicator links to the Framework Domains and Outcomes Statements;
  - develop the Primary Indicators with stakeholder feedback; and
  - continue to engage with the community services sector and government agencies to ensure a shared understanding of the scope and process for the Framework.

### 2.4 Funding and Contracting Update

- As procurement functional leader, Finance provides services to support and improve community services procurement policy and practice across the public service.
- The State Government acknowledges the essential role of the community services sector in supporting the most vulnerable members of our community and the importance of community services continuing to support the people of WA during this challenging time.
- Finance is working with line agencies to manage the potential impact of expiring contracts on the community services sector, in a way that is in line with the Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy principles of sustainability and ensuring the needs of the service user are central to policy settings and system and process design and implementation.
- Members noted, Finance is:
  - assisting government agencies with forward procurement planning for community services contracts expiring in the medium term;
  - providing advice and input to the new Procurement Rules which are expected to come into effect early January 2021 in relation to community services procurement;
  - co-chairing (with the community service sector) and facilitating the new DCSP Working Group to engage both sectors in shared responsibility for the DCSP Policy; and
  - building community services procurement capacity and capability of government agency procurement practitioners, with a focus on improving co-design and procurement planning activities.

**The meeting closed at 12:50pm.**