



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Meeting #3 - Meeting Notes and Actions

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| <b>Date</b>           | Monday 22 November 2021  |
| <b>Time</b>           | 2:00 – 4:30pm  |
| <b>Location</b>       | Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Conference Room, Ground Floor, 246 Vincent Street, Leederville WA 6007  |
| <b>Members</b>        | Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Maria Osman, Julie Waylen, Ross Wortham, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Kate Chaney, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis, Melissa Perry, Denver D'Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, David Russell-Weisz, Adam Tomison, Lanie Chopping, Jeremy Hubble, Jennifer McGrath, Sharyn O'Neill, and Emily Roper. |
| <b>Secretariat</b>    | Community Policy Unit - Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)<br><a href="mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au">SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>  |
| <b>Invited Guests</b> | Kate Ingham and Lara Connor (Department of Finance); Chad Stewart and Caron Irwin (Department of Communities); Sue Kiely (Department of Health); Sandy McKiernan (YACWA, proxy for Ross Wortham); Tracey Ninnette and Nicholas Duff (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); Olwyn Williams (Minister McGurk's office); Karen Ho and Kathy Hoare (Department of Training and Workforce Development).                                     |
| <b>Apologies</b>      | Sharyn O'Neill, Emily Roper, Adam Tomison, Jennifer McGrath, Jeremy Hubble, Dan Minchin, Maria Osman and Denver D'Cruz   |

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**The meeting started at 2:00pm**

### 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

#### 1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

Lanie Chopping, acting Director General, Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and welcomed Forum Members and guests to the DLGSC Office.

#### 1.2 Welcome (opening remarks, introductions and apologies)

Forum Co-Chairs Michelle Scott and Jodi Cant welcomed Forum Members, guests and acknowledged apologies and proxies.

#### 1.3 Confirm the meeting notes and actions from 13 September and 27 October Meetings

Members noted and confirmed the meeting notes from the 13 September and 27 October Meetings.

#### 1.4 Conflict of Interest Declaration

Justine Colyer, CEO, Rise, declared she is currently on secondment part time with the Department of Communities until further notice.

### 2. STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

#### 2.1 WA Skills Summit

Karen Ho, acting Director General of the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) provided members with an update on the WA Skills Summits and other initiatives to build new workforce pipelines, including for WA's Care Industry.

Members noted:

- the outcomes of the Perth and Regional Skills Summits, including expanding skilled migration opportunities; providing support for job seekers to obtain drivers licenses; further expansion of lower fees local skills; and reduced fees for existing worker trainees;
- WA's training responses for the Care Industry;
- increased enrolments in qualifications and skill sets;
- ageing and disability sector job ready pilots to grow the pipeline of aged care and disability care workers in WA;
- current costs and incentives for selected aged care traineeship qualifications; and
- work with the Departments of Health, Communities and Mental Health Commission on specific employment and workforce training and development opportunities.

Members confirmed that apprenticeships and traineeships were being taken up across the community services sector, however, structural issues have in some cases resulted in more casualised workforces.

Members discussed:

- difficulties faced by the community services sector to attract and retain staff;
- onerous compliance issues in the disability sector and the potential for skills passports;
- opportunities to further refine and support workforce planning in majority Aboriginal communities particularly in the regions; and
- interest in a communications package for Peaks to help promote more broadly workforce opportunities and initiatives discussed by DTWD. DTWD will be in touch with Forum members to maximise opportunities to promote more broadly workforce initiatives.

**ACTION 1:** DTWD will meet with Deputy Chair Kate George and the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA (AACWA) Co-Chair Gail Beck to discuss Aboriginal workforce planning and development opportunities and strategies, particularly in the regions.

## 2.2 Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

Tracey Ninyette, Director, Aboriginal Engagement Directorate (AED) at the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) provided members an update on the WA Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

Members noted:

- the current status and progress on implementation of the Closing the Gap (CTG) National Agreement in WA;
- that a key task of the AED is to create visibility of Aboriginal affairs across Government to ensure joined-up leadership efforts;
- the Joint Council on CTG will meet on 3 December to consider and seek endorsement of health and, early childhood care and development, strengthening plans; and
- the Coalition of Peaks have clear expectations on how implementation will be undertaken at a National level.

It was agreed that a meeting would be convened between interested members of the Forum and the AED to support the work on implementation of the CTG Priority Reforms.

## 3. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

### 3.1 Implementation of the 10-year Homelessness Strategy 2020-2030

Members noted an update and discussion by the **Homelessness Strategy Working Group**, which is co-chaired by **Mike Rowe** and **Debra Zanella**.

Members noted:

- the Working Group has appointed a third Chair, Tina Pickett, Managing Director Noongar Mia Mia, to provide valuable cultural insight and connection to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs);

- the Working Group provides an aligned but separate role and function from that of the Ministerial Advisory Western Australian Council on Homelessness, and will advise on the implementation of the First Action Plan 2020 – 2025 that focuses on ending rough sleeping, building a No Wrong Door approach to service delivery, increasing low-barrier crisis responses and supporting innovation.

### 3.2 Monitoring the further development and implementation of the State's Community Services Outcome Measurement Framework

Members noted an update and discussion by the Department of Finance (Finance), on the work to further develop the State's Community Services **Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF)**.

Members noted:

- In 2020, Finance established a cross-sector Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy Working Group and its OMF sub-group to help progress work on the OMF. Membership of the DCSP Working Group includes state agencies and community services sector organisation representatives. Four members of the Forum, Louise Giolitto, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis and Julie Waylen sit across both the DCSP Working Group and its OMF sub-group;
- following a review of best practice outcome measurement frameworks from other jurisdictions, the OMF sub-group has further developed:
  - primary indicators and measures of outcomes across population levels for ease of use and functionality; and
  - an OMF user guide to practically assist state agencies to implement the OMF.
- further development and implementation of the OMF will require:
  - finalizing key elements of the OMF;
  - building awareness of the OMF across government and community services sectors;
  - consistent application and ongoing management of the OMF; and
  - alignment with the CTG Implementation Plan, Agency Commissioning Plans and the State Commissioning Strategy, which is currently in development.

### 3.3 Building Capacity and Capability to Implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Members noted an update and discussion by the **Child Safe Organisations Working Group**, which is co-chaired by Lanie Chopping and Tricia Murray.

Members noted:

- The Working Group is furthering work identified by the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#);
- In its recommendations, the Royal Commission provided a blue-print for supporting healing and providing redress for survivors; protecting children now who are at-risk of child sexual abuse; and preventing harm into the future;
- the Working Group has developed a project plan to deliver on this priority, however, have suggested amendments to the priority Terms of Reference to build the capacity and capability of a wide range of organisations to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in Western Australia;
  - the Forum supports the amendments and made suggestions for redrafting to further structure the Terms of Reference in light of feedback from Forum members.

**Action 2:** The Forum Secretariat will:

- further update the proposed amendments to the priority Terms of Reference to reflect the feedback provided by Forum Members; and
- provide the updated Terms of Reference to Minister McGurk for her consideration and endorsement;

**Action 3:** Working Group Co-Chairs discuss 'Children in the disability sector' with Forum member Julie Waylen and include this plus any outcomes in the Working Group Project Plan and Deliverables.

### 3.4 Roll-Out of COVID-19 Vaccinations to Vulnerable People and the Community Services Sector

Members noted an update and discussion by the **Roll-out of the COVID-19 Vaccinations Working Group**, which is co-chaired by **Vaccine Commander Chris Dawson** and **Louise Giolitto**.

Members noted:

- the Working Group meets weekly and has developed a project plan to deliver on this priority;
- the Working Group is working on strategies to reach out to targeted cohorts from cultural and linguistically diverse communities, people living with disability and Aboriginal people who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are experiencing barriers to accessing a COVID-19 vaccination. An Aboriginal tool kit has been developed;
- the Working Group is working to identify specific barriers and gaps in current engagement strategies with the aim to better engage and encourage participation in mainstream or bespoke programs where cultural safety is paramount.

Dr. Clare Huppatz, Deputy Chief Health Officer briefly attended the meeting as an opportunity to better understand the effects of the recently released [Community Services Worker Mandatory Vaccination Directions](#) and to answer any questions and clarify any concerns members may have regarding the Directions.

Members noted:

- the Deputy CHO is in the process of responding to the sector's questions which were collated by WACOSS and sent to the Department of Health;
- the strategies and work of the Department of Health to increase vaccination rates among Aboriginal people; and
- suggested strategies to the Department of Health to increase vaccination rates among Aboriginal people and communities.

Department of Health welcomed members to provide further suggestions and strategies on the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations to vulnerable peoples and the community services sector.

**Action 4:** The Keeping Culture Safe and Strong - Vaccination Focus presentation to the District Leadership Group is to be shared with Forum Members for their information only.

## 4. Other Business

The Forum Co-Chairs provided information on the Forum's communications.

Members noted:

- all key information and progress updates on the Forum and its working groups will be made available on the DPC – SCF webpage for transparency purposes. Any additional information that each Working Group wishes to publish, can be provided to the Forum Secretariat to be published;
- Forum Co-Chairs provide regular updates to Minister McGurk on the progress of the Forum and its working groups, following each quarterly Forum meeting;
- the Forum Secretariat will develop a Forum Communique following this meeting and future quarterly meetings, providing an overview on the work of the Forum and its working groups and priorities. The Forum Communique, once approved by the Forum Co-Chairs and DPC is circulated to a wide network of stakeholders from the government and community services sector and uploaded on the [DPC – SCF webpage](#).

Forum Co-Chairs discussed the possibility of organising a brief one-hour meet and greet session with Ministers whose portfolios intersect with the work of the Forum.

**The meeting closed at 4:30pm.**