

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM

COMMUNIQUE

1 June 2022 Quarterly Meeting

At the recent 1 June 2022 quarterly meeting, the Forum received updates from its Working Groups on their work to progress the priorities of the Forum, and invited guests to present on specific topics of interest to the Forum.

The Forum's **Implementation of the Homelessness Strategy Working Group** discussed its progress to deliver on this priority, including its adoption of an integrated approach to project and program management of the Homelessness Action Plan, and to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Homelessness Strategy. A draft Logic Model developed by the Office of Homelessness makes explicit the relationships between Strategic Priority Outcomes, the Priority Actions supporting them, and the individual initiatives defined in the Homelessness Action Plan. This will help guide ongoing monitoring and implementation of the Action Plan. Members discussed the importance of high-quality and accessible data, the complexity of the governance landscape in the homelessness space, and future opportunities to connect together different homelessness working groups across government and the community services sector.

The **Department of Finance** has published a user guide and supporting resources on the Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF) to support implementation of the OMF. Procurement templates have been updated with communication released more widely in partnership with peak bodies. Three online training sessions have been conducted with Government and community services sector representatives, with an additional session in June 2022. The training session will be made available as an online resource. Members discussed the importance of ensuring alignment between the OMF, the State Commissioning Strategy (being finalised), the [Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy](#) and [the Closing the Gap National Agreement](#).

The Department of Finance also provided an update on work to progress development of the [State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services](#) (Strategy) and its Implementation Plan, which have been jointly developed and finalised by the Departments of Finance, Treasury, and the Premier and Cabinet, in consultation with government and the community services sector, including members of the Forum, and representatives from the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA. The Implementation Plan includes eight priority areas, each having a central coordinating agency, clear actions, expected benefits, timeframes, and establishes roles and responsibilities for central agencies, line agencies and the community services sector. It is anticipated the Strategy and its Implementation Plan will be finalised and published in the near future.

The **National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Working Group** provided an update on its program of work, noting that a survey and implementation framework, seeking exemplars and emerging practice in implementing the National Principles, were released on the [Safer WA for Children and Young People webpage](#) and promoted through the Working Group's networks in April 2022. The Department of Communities and the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) will co-badge and develop a child safe knowledge hub to house exemplars, emerging practice and other resources to support implementation. The hub will be accessible to a breadth of organisations

required to implement the National Principles. Members also noted plans to hold a child-safe campaign during Children's Week in October 2022. More information on the Campaign will be provided in the coming months.

Forum members appreciated updates and information shared by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) on the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan proposed governance structures to enable a whole-of-government approach to implementation. Members noted progress on the development of a whole-of-government Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACCO) Sector Strategy, the current status of the national policy partnerships committed to under the National Agreement, and the Aboriginal Expenditure Review being undertaken by the Department of Treasury.

The Office of Digital Government team at DPC provided an update on the development of a whole-of-government data linkage model, and shared information on the findings from the Review of Western Australia's Data Linkage Capabilities and details of the proposed data linkage model. Forum members were invited to provide feedback to inform further development of the model.

Jennifer McGrath, the Commissioner, Mental Health Commission provided an update on the Ministerial Taskforce into the final report on the Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents (ICA) aged 0-18 in Western Australia. Forum members valued the update and information outlining the 32 recommendations made to the WA Government, the eight key actions to reform the ICA mental health system, and the current governance arrangements, timeframes, and budget commitments underpinning the ICA Mental Health System overhaul.

The remainder of the quarterly Forum meetings in 2022 are scheduled for 22 August and 21 November. The next Communique will be released following the 22 August quarterly meeting.

Communiques, and regular progress updates on the Forum and its working groups will be available on the [Forum's webpage](#).

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 on the work of the Forum, please email the Forum Secretariat at SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au.