



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Meeting #6 - DRAFT Meeting Notes and Actions

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, 20 September 2022
<b>Time</b>	2:00 – 4:30pm
<b>Location</b>	Dumas House, Level 4 – Yonga Meeting Room and MS Team option
<b>Members</b>	Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Julie Waylen, Sandy McKiernan, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis, Melissa Perry, Denver D’Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, Dr. David Russell-Weisz, Dr. Adam Tomison, Lanie Chopping, Ralph Addis, Jennifer McGrath, Sharyn O’Neill, and Emily Roper.
<b>Secretariat</b>	Community Policy Unit - Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) <a href="mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au">SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>Invited Guests</b>	Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing; Lands, Homelessness; Local Government; Emma Colombera (Minister Carey’s office); Olwyn Williams (Minister McGurk’s office); Tracey Ninyette and David Marshall (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); Beata Bialozor-Kurtis and Steven Hill (Department of Finance); and Gail Beck (Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA).
<b>Apologies</b>	Emma Jarvis, Kate George, Dr. Adam Tomison, Jennifer McGrath and Sharyn O’Neill

### 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

#### 1.1 Acknowledgment of Country

Forum Co-Chair Jodi Cant acknowledged the Whadjuk Noongar people – the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Western Australia – and paid respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

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

Forum Co-Chair Jodi Cant welcomed members, guests and acknowledged apologies.

#### 1.3 Confirm the meeting notes and actions from 1 June 2022

Members noted and confirmed the meeting notes from the 1 June meeting, with all actions completed.

#### 1.4 Meeting with Minister McGurk in June 2022 – The Forum Beyond 2022

As the three-year term of the Forum concludes on 31 December 2022, members noted Minister McGurk’s request for the Co-Chairs to meet individually with members to discuss and reflect on the achievements and activities of the Forum, and particularly on what has worked well; what were some of the learnings and challenges faced over the past three years; and what are some of the areas that could be improved to increase the effectiveness and role of the Forum.

Feedback from members will be submitted to Minister McGurk to consider and help determine the future direction of the Forum beyond 2022. Members noted that individual meetings have now been scheduled for over September to November 2022.

#### 1.5 Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts of interest were noted for this meeting.

## 2. STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

### 2.1 Federal Policy Priorities

Emily Roper, Director General Department of the Premier and Cabinet, provided members with an update on the Federal Policy Priorities. Members noted:

- the Australian Government has committed to implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full considering Voice, Treaty and Truth as part of its 2022 election commitments, including a referendum for constitutional recognition in the first term.
- at the June 2022 meeting, National Cabinet agreed to prioritise health care system reform, including improving the interface between the primary care and hospital sectors;
- the Housing and Homelessness Ministers meeting on 9 September 2022 to continue working together to address housing and homelessness challenges across Australia. Commitments included the National Housing and Homelessness Plan, the Housing Australia Future Fund, and the National Housing Supply and Affordability Council, in addition to some commitments on remote housing.
- key focus areas of the Jobs and Skills Summit held in September 2022, including migration, skills and training, women's participation. The Australian Government has committed to developing a white paper.
- the implications of climate and energy transition in Western Australia and supporting communities transition to meet climate targets.

Members sought clarification with regard to Australian Government funding for housing (including remote communities), implications on Western Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme bilateral negotiations and outcomes from the Skills Summit.

### 2.2 State Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan

Steven Hill, Assistant Director, Department of Finance, updated members on the State Commissioning Strategy and Implementation Plan.

The Department of Finance thanked members for their significant contributions and valued input over the last year, to help inform the development of the State Commissioning Strategy and its Implementation Plan. There was general discussion from members about the importance of the strategy and what the next steps might be. Members indicated their interest in continuing to be involved as the Strategy is implemented.

Members noted:

- The State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services (the Strategy) and its initial two-year Implementation Plan was publicly released on 9 August 2022.
- The Strategy and its Implementation Plan was jointly developed and finalised by Departments of Finance, Treasury and the Premier and Cabinet, in consultation with government and the community services sector.
- 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.
- Information sessions facilitated by the Department of Finance on the Strategy and Implementation Plan for the community services and government sectors. The sector has embraced the Strategy and the Supporting Communities Forum will be an important Forum to seek feedback to support implementation of the Strategy.
- A Commissioning for Outcomes Deputies Group has been established to provide strategic direction and oversight for the implementation of the Strategy and will be unique as it will have both an implementation and policy focus.

Members discussed and acknowledged that the Agency Commissioning Plans will identify specific commissioning priorities to align with the Strategy (at a whole-of-government level), ensuring that

services are commissioned to meet the needs of all Western Australians, particularly the most vulnerable in our community.

### 2.3 Whole of Government Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy

Tracey Ninyette, Director Aboriginal Engagement, and David Marshall, Senior Policy Officer, DPC updated members on the development of the whole-of-government ACCO Strategy. Members noted:

- the whole-of-government ACCO Strategy being developed by DPC in consultation with key stakeholders, which will be strongly aligned to the [State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services 2022](#), focusing on increasing ACCOs' delivery of services to Aboriginal people and communities.
- the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA and Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) Social Services Committee, who are leading the establishment of an ACCO social services peak body, play a critical role in advising on and guiding the development of the ACCO Strategy.
- the key messages from the workshop held in July with representatives from the AHCWA Social Services Committee, ACCOs and various WA Government agencies to discuss the ACCO Strategy proposed objectives; focus areas; and the key opportunities and barriers that exist for ACCOs.
- the Department of Treasury is reviewing current expenditure on Aboriginal programs and services as a commitment under the National Agreement. The expenditure review will be a key tool to facilitate reprioritisation activities and broader Closing the Gap work.

Members were encouraged to reflect on their partnerships and connections with ACCOs and the potential to support the transition of services to ACCOs. Members were also encouraged to consider prioritization of outcomes and how the community services sector can support the provision of culturally safe services.

### 2.4 An Introduction to the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce

Lisa Rodgers, Director General Department of Education, provided members with an introduction to the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce.

The Taskforce's structure will comprise of ten members and will be supported by external advisors, interagency partners, a Primary Reference Group, a Secondary Reference Group and a Working Group. Members noted the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce established by the Department, will:

- set clear expectations for, and embed, effective approaches to student wellbeing and care across the Western Australia public school system.
- build on and strengthen supports for student wellbeing, including better connecting and coordinating supports and improving performance data and information.

Many reports and reviews have highlighted the need to build on and strengthen supports for student wellbeing. Members noted and discussed:

- that majority of WA students experience good outcomes – they feel valued, loved and safe; are physically and mentally healthy; actively participate in society; have a positive sense of identity and culture; have their material needs met; and are engaged in school. However, there is an increasing number whose needs are not being met in all domains of student wellbeing. For example, between 2014 and 2020, research indicates there has been a 70.1% increase in referrals of children and young people (0-17 years) to public specialist community mental health treatment services.
- Some cohorts are more likely to experience poorer wellbeing than the general population, such as regional and remote students; Aboriginal students; students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) backgrounds; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) students; students with disability; students with experiences of homelessness; students in contact with the child protection or justice system.
- Supporting student wellbeing is a shared responsibility of many stakeholders, including schools, the Department, and other agencies and organisations. These stakeholders deliver a range of supports for student wellbeing. However, these supports are not as widely known, understood, nor connected and coordinated as they could be. Additionally, there is limited data and information on how these supports are performing.

There was considerable discussion about this topic. Members supported the priority being given to this issue by the Department. Members offered to provide more input and feedback to support the Student Wellbeing and Care Taskforce as it progresses.

### 3. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

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

Members noted an update and discussion by the Working Group which is chaired by Lanie Chopping and Tricia Murray. Members noted the Department of Communities, and the Commissioner for Children and Young People is leading the development of the child safe organisations campaign and launch of the child safe knowledge hub. The hub will be accessible to a breadth of organisations required to implement the National Principles.

DPC is continuing to develop a model for the independent oversight of organisations engaged in child related work to comply with the National Principles. Forum members encouraged organisations to continue to ensure they are child safe in alignment with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. Members noted:

- DPC will provide a presentation on the model for independent oversight to a targeted list of Peaks in December; and
- the Child Safe Organisations Working Group will present the working group's view on preferred next steps to continue the momentum and progress work on this priority at the December meeting of the Forum.

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

Members noted an update from the Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; and Local Government covered further below at item #4.

The Forum noted and acknowledged the leadership and considerable work undertaken by Forum's **Homelessness Strategy Working Group** in the development and subsequent implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, in particular the Working Group Co-Chairs Debra Zanella and Mike Rowe.

### 4. Address by Minister

#### 4.1 Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing; Lands; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government

The Honourable John Carey, Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; and Local Government addressed the Forum about the Government's priority reforms to streamline the housing and homelessness sector to deliver the All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030 and the WA Government's commitment to a Housing First approach.

In this context, the Minister has considered the range of homelessness and housing advisory groups to Government and determined to have one advisory group. The Minister advised that he had spoken personally to members of the Forum's **Implementation of the Homelessness Strategy Working Group** who are supportive of this approach.

### 5. Closing

The Forum Co-Chairs thanked the Minister, members and guests for their attendance and good discussions. The next meeting is on 7 December 2022 and will be held in person with an option to also attend via MS Teams.

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