



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM

Meeting #11 - **DRAFT** Meeting Notes and Actions

Date	Monday, 13 November 2023
Time	1:30pm – 3:30pm
Location	Dumas House, Level 4 – Yonga Meeting Room and MS Team option
Members	Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Sandy McKiernan, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Emma Jarvis, Justine Colyer, Melissa Perry, Denver D'Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, Dr. David Russell-Weisz, Dr. Adam Tomison, Sharyn O'Neill, Ralph Addis, Lanie Chopping, Maureen Lewis, and Emily Roper.
Secretariat	Community Policy Unit - Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au
Invited Guests	Honourable Sabine Winton, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services; Julie Armstrong (Minister Winton's office); Fiona Hunt, Jennifer Dass and Sarah Charbonneau (DPC); Sean Gardyne and Debra Rankin (Carers WA); Lara Connor and Steven Hill (Department of Finance); Nikki Kozulin and Ben Whitehouse (Communities); Gail Beck (Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA); Nicole O'Keefe and Lexie Morton (Department of Health); and Julia Knapton (MHC), Lisa Bednarczyk (Treasury), Jeremy Hubble (Lotterywest; proxy for Ralph Addis), Ann Marie Cunniffe (Mental Health Commission; proxy for Maureen Lewis) Simone Surin (Graduate Officer, Department of Finance)
Apologies	Kate George, Lanie Chopping, Dr. Adam Tomison, Dr. David Russell-Weisz, Felicite Black, Ralph Addis, and Maureen Lewis.

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Acknowledgment of Country and Welcome

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

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

1.2 Confirm the meeting notes from 11 September 2023

Members noted and confirmed the Draft Meeting Notes and Actions as completed from the 11 September meeting.

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration

No conflicts of interest were noted for this meeting.

1.4 Address by Honourable Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA, Minister for Community Services

Members noted an address by the Honourable Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence and Community Services. The Minister addressed the Forum regarding its current actions and future directions.

Minister Winton acknowledged the valued contributions of Forum members over the last four years, particularly with respect to work to develop and inform the *All Paths Lead to a Home: Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2031*; the State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services; and WA Outcomes Measurement Framework, including supporting the State's COVID-19 social and economic recovery efforts.

Members noted that a decision on final appointment of the SCF 2024 – 2025 will be announced in December 2023.

Minister Winton conveyed her thanks to members and guests for their contributions and expertise throughout this iteration of the Forum since 2020, with particular thanks to Michelle Scott and Jodi Cant for their leadership as Co-Chairs of the Forum. The Minister also recognised the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for their work as Forum Secretariat.

2. STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

2.1 Target120 Update

The Department of Communities presented on key developments of the Target120 and Target120+ programs, a 2017 election commitment delivered in collaboration with ACCOs and other local community sector organisations. Members noted Communities as the lead agency delivering on priorities of the Target120 program, an early intervention program supporting young people at risk of becoming repeat offenders by addressing underlying issues that lead to offending. Members discussed Target120 locations and program service delivery model and providers, including recent findings, outcomes and the evaluation process commissioned by Communities.

Additionally, members discussed the current program rollout, twenty locations in regional and metropolitan areas (alongside the Target120+ in Broome). Most Target120 sites are ACCO or community sector-led, with the Department supporting this delivery approach.

Members noted that in addition to Target120, the Target120+ program is operating in Broome. This program provides more intensive case management supports to ten young people who have served time or are currently serving time in detention and been referred by the Department of Justice.

Members discussed the need to:

- evaluate the program beyond twelve months post-exit, while acknowledging the importance of gathering qualitative data regarding program successes;
- ensure that effective supports move beyond pilot phase and become embedded in agency service delivery, emphasising a holistic and collaborative approach across government and service partners; and
- consider how local service providers could better connect with Target 120 providers and ACCOs to support their networking activities.

Actions:

- **The Forum Secretariat to circulate the Target120 presentation to Forum members.**

2.2 FDV Taskforce

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet provided an update on the [Family and Domestic Violence \(FDV\) Taskforce](#). Members noted that the FDV Taskforce is co-chaired by Professor Colleen Hayward and Ms Emily Roper, including both subject matter experts and representatives from across government. At the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing (CWSW) Summit on August 31, the sector outlined key asks across the continuum of prevention through to recovery, of which the first two priorities of the government have been the establishment of a Special Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce, and a Lived Experience Advisory Group.

Members noted the work progressed by the Taskforce and together with Hon. Minister Winton acknowledged the urgent and critical need for government and the community sector to partner together to address family and domestic violence and progress this critical work.

Members noted that the Taskforce is committed to the inclusion of lived experiences, which was a core theme of the CWSW Summit. The Taskforce recognises that establishing the Lived Experience Advisory Group will require an iterative approach to identifying and including the voices of people with lived experience.

Members discussed the need to keep family and domestic violence front-of-mind beyond the Taskforce's operation, ensuring change is embedded when projects transition to the longer-term implementation phase across all agencies and levels of Government.

2.3 Carer Friendly Employer Accreditation

Members noted an update from the Department of Communities and Carers WA regarding the Carers + Employers program, through which organisations can gain certification as an Accredited Carer Employer. Accreditation is provided through Carers NSW. In Western Australia the program is represented and delivered by Carers WA and funded by the Department of Communities.

Members noted that throughout the three-level accreditation process employers are provided with support from Carers WA to assist with creating and implementing action plans, as well as gathering evidence and documentation to meet the accreditation criteria.

The Department of Communities has recently been accredited as a Carer Friendly Workplace. The Carers WA and Communities representatives presented on the benefits of being a carer friendly employer and the three levels of the carer and employer program. Members noted the valuable inclusions and access to key resources and benefits of being an accredited employer.

The Forum discussed the challenges employers and community organisations face when undertaking accreditation activities, including resourcing and the broad range of accreditation programs available. Members discussed the possibility of aligning initiatives like Carers + Employers with other accreditation programs, including Rainbow Tick accreditation and accreditation programs relating to disability inclusion. Consideration was also given to dual investment models which might enmesh accreditation activities into funding commitments.

Members were encouraged to contact Carers WA for more information about the Carers + Employers program, or if they wish to get involved.

Actions:

- **The Forum Secretariat to circulate the Carer and Employer Program presentation to Forum members.**

2.4 State Commissioning Strategy - Implementation

Members noted an update from the Department of Finance on the implementation of the State Commissioning Strategy Implementation Plan.

Members noted that in alignment with Priority #1 – Implement Agency Commissioning Plan Framework, central agencies have completed their review of Agency Commissioning Plans submitted by nine agencies; these are the Department of Communities; Department of Health; Department of Justice; Mental Health Commission; Department of Education; WA Police; Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety; Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Members noted that five-year Agency Commissioning Plans are to provide a mechanism to clearly communicate with the community services sector and government on how line agencies are driving change at a departmental, program and individual service level. Agencies will finalise their Agency Commissioning Plans for publishing in December 2023.

Members noted that:

- Departments of Treasury and Finance hosted a webinar regarding the ‘community services commissioning and authorising environment’, which was well received by the community sector, with more sessions to be held in the new year including for government employees who expressed an interest in the topic. The development of further commissioning education, training and guidance material is also progressing, which includes the recent release of online modules and tools, made available to both sectors.
- The Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy is being updated to enable direct procurement from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Members discussed delays between commissioning and authorisation processes, which may make planning for sustainable service delivery a challenge.

Members agreed it is important to ensure the implementation of the State Commissioning Strategy continues on the agenda of the next iteration of the Forum.

3 WORKING GROUP REPORT

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

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Working Group provided an update on the important work progressed by members to build capacity and capability to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles). Core activities over recent months included:

- The Child Safe Organisations Campaign, which was highlighted during Children’s Week (21-29 October). Working Group members distributed a toolkit comprising of promotional materials to their organisation’s networks. The campaign’s slogan was ‘every organisation has the responsibility to keep children and young people safe’.
- The Child Safe Organisations Forum, which was held during Children’s Week on 24 October. It was attended by 100 online and 102 in-person participants, primarily senior management representatives of community services sector organisations. The Forum raised awareness of the importance of implementing the National Principles and provided capacity building support for organisations.

Forum members noted that the final Working Group meeting for 2023 is scheduled for December. The Working Group is committed to continued collaboration on capacity building of organisations to implement the National Principles following conclusion of the current term of the Supporting Communities Forum.

Members discussed the importance to ensure that building capacity and capability to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations remains on the agenda for the next iteration of the Forum.

4 THANK YOU AND CLOSING

Michelle Scott and Jodi Cant expressed their gratitude to Forum members for their commitment, active participation and input into Forum meetings and discussions. They acknowledged the important role members played in shaping outcomes relating to young people, digital inclusion, social housing, the Homelessness Strategy, WA’s care economy, and strategic directions and future priorities of the Forum. They also acknowledged the valued contribution Kate George made in her role as Deputy Chair of the Forum, and the support provided by Emily Roper, Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet and her team.

The meeting closed at 3:28.