

# Premier's Circular

Number:	2011/01
Issue Date:	22/06/2011
Review Date:	22/06/2013

## TITLE

DELIVERING COMMUNITY SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP POLICY

## POLICY

The aim of the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy* is to improve outcomes for all Western Australians through a genuine partnership between Public Authorities and the not-for-profit community sector in the funding and contracting of sustainable Community Services in Western Australia.

The *DCSP Policy* applies to all Public Authorities that provide funding for, or purchase Community Services from, not-for-profit organisations. It commences from 1 July 2011 though implementation is to be phased-in, with new arrangements put in place as existing arrangements expire.

The *DCSP Policy* seeks to achieve better outcomes for Western Australians by:

- promoting flexibility, innovation and community responsiveness in the funding or contracting of services by Public Authorities, to better meet community needs;
- encouraging a more productive working relationship between Public Authorities and the not-for-profit community sector based on trust, collaboration, accountability and effective and sustainable service delivery;
- clarifying when services are to be put out to open tender and when a more targeted non-market based approach is more appropriate;
- reducing "red tape", complexities and inconsistencies, and standardising terminology to clarify the dialogue between the parties; and
- requiring that Public Authorities remain aware of Government's core desire to contract with the not-for-profit community sector in a manner that supports sustainable service delivery and recognises the importance of ongoing organisational viability.

It is mandatory for all Public Authorities to apply the *DCSP Policy*.

## BACKGROUND

In 2002 the *Funding and Purchasing Community Services (FPCS) Policy* was introduced to provide government agencies with more flexible and less formal processes for engaging not-for-profit organisations in government service delivery. The *FPCS Policy* was an important first step in human services reform and, since its release, government agencies have substantially improved the way they

engaged with the community sector. However, opportunities for improvement still remain.

While the underlying values of the *FPCS Policy* remain critical (such as the need to develop a mutually respectful relationship, the importance of reducing bureaucracy and the requirement to maintain transparency and accountability), there is a need to continue reforming the way government engages with the community sector.

This *DCSP Policy* replaces the *FPCS Policy*. It goes one step further by putting the interests of citizens at the centre of the relationship between the public and community sectors, and challenges both sectors to redefine the way they engage in the planning, design and delivery of human services. The *DCSP Policy* also provides clarity on the range of funding and contracting arrangements available.

The Department of Finance, Government Procurement, will provide ongoing support and oversight for the *DCSP Policy* and report to the Partnership Forum (the *DCSP Policy* owner) on the Policy's implementation and effectiveness.

The *DCSP Policy* is available at:

[www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/ProcurementReforms.aspx](http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/ProcurementReforms.aspx)

Colin Barnett MLA  
**PREMIER**

For enquiries contact:	Kylie Towie 6551 1358 A/Director, Funding and Contracting Services Government Procurement, Department of Finance
Other relevant Circulars:	nil,
Circular/s replaced by this Circular:	nil,