

Putting the Public First: Economic Audit Implementation

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Hello,

We had a very encouraging response to the first edition of the *Putting the Public First* newsletter with numerous people contacting us to be put on the circulation list. Thank you for your support.

This month is set to be a busy period of activity for the Implementation Team in the lead up to the next meeting of the Partnership Forum, which will be held on 5 October. We are progressing a range of issues, including an examination of the funding arrangements for the community sector and establishing administrative arrangements for the Community Development Investment Fund and Social Innovation Grants Program. Progress with this work is described in more detail in articles in this newsletter.

We have also recently expanded the *Putting the Public First* section of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's website. This can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/Default.aspx>

Best wishes,

The Economic Audit Implementation Team.

Self-Directed Service Design

Self-directed service design (SDSD) refers to a model of service delivery that provides greater opportunities for individuals, families and communities to have control over how the services they access are designed and delivered.

SDSD is markedly different from the historical model of service delivery that presumes that 'others know best'.

The Economic Audit Committee recommended the progressive implementation of pilots of SDSD. The Community Building Steering Group recently approved the formation of a small project team with membership from both the public and community sectors to implement this recommendation.

The project team will ensure the establishment of, and active engagement with, a reference group including consumer representation, which will act as a critical source of advice and review.

The implementation of this recommendation will have a number of key benefits including: a shared understanding of the concept and merits of SDSD and its possible application to different areas of policy and service delivery; and the identification of alternative approaches to service delivery that are more responsive to citizen needs and financially viable for service delivery agencies.

Contact: Su-Hsien Lee on 9208 9811

Funding for the Community Sector

The Premier recognises that the community sector has a genuine concern that there is a shortfall in funding provided for services it delivers on behalf of the State Government.

The Premier has asked the Partnership Forum to examine the extent of the funding shortfall and to make recommendations to the Government on options for a way forward. The Partnership Forum established the Community Sector Funding Working Group (CSFWG) to undertake this task.

The CSFWG is comprised of senior staff from State Government agencies - the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Treasury and Finance, Commerce, Child Protection, as well as the Disability Services Commission and the Mental Health Commission - and community sector organisations - Western Australian Council of Social Service (WACOSS), National Disability Services (NDS) and Community Employers WA (CEWA).

The CSFWG has engaged the services of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to help it estimate the size of the funding shortfall. PwC is working closely with selected Government agencies and community sector organisations in undertaking this project.

The CSFWG will report on its findings to the Partnership Forum in October 2010.

Contact: Rebecca Brown on 9222 9601

Community Engagement in Implementation

Engaging the community is central to the implementation of the *Putting the Public First* recommendations. A range of strategies are being pursued to work with the community sector and the broader public in the process of changing the way we design and deliver services.

One of the main strategies is cross-sector representation on the various steering groups and working groups that are progressing implementation. The community sector shares equal representation with the public sector on the Partnership Forum and provides co-chairs for key steering groups.

Project teams, with community sector representation, are also being established to provide input into the development of pilots of community hubs and self directed service design, as well as input into the outcome areas of early childhood, homelessness and mental health.

The Community Building Steering Group has also appointed a member to advise on consumer engagement strategies and to represent service users.

Another strategy is the exchange of policy capacity between the public and community sectors. Employees from WACOSS and NDS have been contracted to work with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and an employee from the Department of Treasury and Finance is working with WACOSS.

We encourage you to contact us if you are interested in participating in the implementation of the Economic Audit recommendations.

Contact: Irina Cattalini on 9420 7222
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Forums and Coming Events

WACOSS is holding a one day forum on 20 September on Unlocking and Empowering Social Innovation in Western Australia. For more information visit <http://www.wacosstraining.org.au/course.97>

Members of the community sector are welcome to attend an information session on 6 October with Professor Peter Shergold AC on issues being addressed by the Partnership Forum. For more information contact Jim Vanopolous on 9420 7222 or Su-Hsien Lee on 9208 9811.

Social Innovation Grants Program and Community Development Investment Fund

As part of the 2010-11 Budget the Premier announced the establishment of a Social Innovation Grants Program (SIGs) and a Community Development Investment Fund (CDIF) to assist the community sector.

The SIGs and CDIF are still under development and the involvement of the community sector is an integral part of their effective design.

A workshop was held on 6 September with a wide range of representatives from the community and public sectors. Representatives contributed useful feedback, concerns and views on specific focus questions. The outcomes of the workshop are informing the development and implementation of the SIGs and the CDIF.

A directions paper is being prepared for consideration by the Community Building Steering Group at its 15 September meeting. The paper will outline a broad statement of direction, which includes proposed selection and eligibility criteria, governance arrangements and evaluation framework, as well as the process from here.

The directions paper will then go to the Partnership Forum for consideration in October 2010.

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Policy Capacity and Collaboration - Open Call

Is your organisation implementing innovative policy initiatives or working in collaboration with other organisations, whether government or non-government, to deliver quality services to the community? If so, we would like to hear about it.

The Policy Capacity and Collaboration Steering Group is guiding the implementation of the Economic Audit Committee's recommendations on policy formulation and collaboration.

We would like to capture current examples of good practice as part of our implementation approach.

For information on how to make a submission please refer to our 'open call' letter which can be found at: <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/PolicyCapacityandCollaboration.aspx>

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