



# SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM

## DATA SHARING AND LINKAGE WORKING GROUP

### PROJECT PLAN

## 1. PROJECT SCOPE

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### 1.1 Objective

The Supporting Communities Forum and the State Government are committed to strengthening data sharing and linkage. This includes improving access by citizens to their own personal data, sharing of data for evidence based policy making and improved data access for service design.

The Forum has established the Data Sharing and Linkage Working Group to address this priority area.

This document provides a work plan for the Data Sharing and Linkage Working Group.

### 1.2 Background

The difficulties and barriers in sharing data for the general public, the community and public sectors, universities and other institutions are well documented.

Western Australia's challenges in this area were outlined in the 2016 report by the Data Linkage Expert Advisory Group's report into Western Australia's data linkage capabilities. The report included recommendations concerned with improving the State's current data linkage service in the short term, and developing a whole of government model to build on the State's existing strengths in population health data linkage and research.

These recommendations feed into the Government's current reform program, including the recommendations of Service Priority Review and the Government's commitment to enhance the safe sharing and use of data, including the introduction of data sharing legislation. Background research and policy work on the legislation has begun, in advance of public consultation regarding a proposed model. Other components of the Government's reform program include the possible establishment of a data analytic function and a reinvigoration of its existing Open Data policy.

The availability and use of aggregated data for the purposes of service design is also problematic. There is a need for data to be shared and analysed to better understand service needs, gaps in services and to assist the development and measurement of service outcomes.

Other relevant work to note includes the recent meeting of the WACOSS Roundtable on Data Linkage and the Data Sharing Advisory Group convened by Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

## 2. Project governance

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The Data Sharing and Linkage Working Group will report to each quarterly meeting of the Supporting Communities Forum.

Initially the membership of the Working Group will consist of a number of Forum members.

The Working Group may invite additional people to join, based on the specialist skills and knowledge the Working Group requires. The Working Group may also choose to consult with such experts as needed, rather than extending an invitation for full membership.

**3. Stakeholders**

All communication to the Premier and the Minister for Community Services will be directed through the Chairperson of the Supporting Communities Forum.

Members of the Working Group will identify the key stakeholders for the project including, government (Treasury, Health), community organisations and community groups.

A particular focus will be on ensuring that citizens have a voice in the work underway through DPC.

**4. Timeframe and milestones**

<b>Supporting the Government’s commitment to strengthen data sharing and linkage</b>	
<b>Stage 1 Agreeing on gaps and needs</b>	
<p>Key activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a common understanding within the Working Group of the current status of work already underway on data sharing and linkage in Western Australia</li> <li>2. Identify any gaps in the Working Group’s understanding of the barriers and issues regarding data linkage relevant to the community services sector and the community itself, with a focus on service design issues.</li> <li>3. Prepare case studies of the disadvantages for consumers and the community generally, due to lack of data sharing and linkage.</li> <li>4. Clarify the objectives of the working group;</li> <li>5. Identify stakeholders</li> <li>6. Consult with relevant experts regarding (2) if required.</li> <li>7. Provide early feedback on the draft Data Sharing Advisory Group public consultation paper.</li> </ol>	<p>August 2018</p>
<b>Outcome:</b> Working Group has defined and prioritised need, and reflected this in early feedback to the Data Sharing Advisory Group Discussion Paper.	
<b>Stage 2 – Research and consultation</b>	
<p>Key activities:</p>	<p>September 2018</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare draft response for the Chairperson of the Supporting Communities Forum to submit on the Data Sharing Advisory Group public consultation paper, expected September 2018.</li> <li>2. Identify approaches to improve data access and linkage involving the government, community services sector and community at large, focusing on the opportunities provided by planned WA data sharing legislation.</li> <li>3. Consult with stakeholders including community services sector</li> <li>4. Plan for consultation with community at large.</li> <li>5. Identify best practice approaches.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Outcome:</b> The Working Group has a solid understanding of stakeholder views on the needs and gaps identified, and has sufficient best practice approaches to influence the development of solutions to these issues.</p>	
<p><b>Stage 3 – Workshop and report</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a comprehensive community engagement plan.</li> <li>2. Half day workshop presenting current and potential applications from WA.</li> <li>3. Prepare final Working Group report presenting recommendations to the Forum for further action.</li> </ol>	<p>Late October 2018</p>
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Provide Government, via the Supporting Communities forum, with options for addressing the current gaps and needs.</p>	

## 5. Resources required

Working Group members will support the consultation process by:

- seeking advice through their own networks; and
- supporting and facilitating consultation processes on specific topics through their member organisations.

Specialist advice will be obtained DPC’s Communication Team on engagement approaches.

## 6. Assumptions and risk analysis

- Identify the key risks for the project and how to manage these

RISK	LEVEL	MITIGATION STRATEGY
Duplication of effort with other work underway within DPC related to data access and linkage	Low	Consultation and involvement with the team working on the legislation.

Duplication of effort with other Forum Working Groups working on related tasks	Low	Consultation and involvement with the Forum Working Groups involved
Lack of lead time to undertake effective community consultation	High	Working Group members to review and adjust timelines as possible, utilise online engagement tools where possible