



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 17 September 2018

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The Supporting Communities Forum met on 17 September 2018 for its third quarterly meeting this year at Dumas House, West Perth. The Forum supports the implementation of the State Government's Supporting Communities Policy to improve the quality of services to vulnerable Western Australians.

### Membership Changes

The Forum noted that there have been some leadership changes in the public sector recently, being:

- Jennifer McGrath is the Acting Director General, Department of Education, and will participate on the Forum in place of Sharyn O'Neill (former Director General of Education) who has recently commenced in her new role as Public Sector Commissioner.
- Grahame Searle has resigned as Director General of the Department of Communities, however will continue in the role and on the Forum until January 2019.

### The Revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

At the request of the Minister for Community Services the Forum provided considered feedback to inform the revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy. The Forum's advice recommended that the co-design of services become a requirement, and identified the opportunity for the revised Policy to be applied more consistently across the Public Sector. The Chairperson noted the importance of the Forum's Procurement Reform Working Group's ongoing support for the revised Policy's implementation.

The revised DCSP Policy, endorsed by the Community Safety and Family Support Cabinet Sub Committee, came into effect from 1 October 2018. Further information on the revised Policy is available from the [Department of Finance website](#).

### Discussion of Public Sector Reform Initiatives

The Forum's work is informed by, and supports public sector reform initiatives currently underway in Western Australia. At the September meeting, members discussed:

- changes to the Department of Communities reported by Grahame Searle, the Director General, including integrated service delivery, the implementation of the Government's [Target 120 initiative](#), and [Early Years Initiative](#) in partnership with the Telethon Kids Institute and the Minderoo Foundation. The Department of Communities' PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#);
- the State Government's proposed Responsible Data Sharing reform, noting that:
  - many lessons are being learned from South Australia's approach to responsible data sharing;
  - the scope of the reform is based on the safe sharing of personal and confidential data (note: not all sensitive data will be in scope) held by government agencies, with other government agencies and select third parties in the research community, and contracted service providers; and

- the 'five safes' are intended to inform CEOs' decision making regarding appropriate circumstances to share data with the addition of cultural considerations for Aboriginal people; and
- central to this reform is the need for the community to be confident in the arrangements which provide for the security and privacy of its data.
- the work of the Sustainable Health Review Panel with Robyn Kruk AO, Panel Chair, including the Panel's eight draft strategies and developing recommendations as it progresses towards submitting the Final Report to Government. Further information on the Sustainable Health Review is available from the [Department of Health website](#).

### **Substantive Update from the Outcomes Framework Working Group**

As Co-Chairs of the Outcomes Framework Working Group, Dr Adam Tomison (Director General, Department of Justice) and Louise Giolitto (CEO, WA Council of Social Service) provided a substantive update to the Forum on the Working Group's progress. A draft Outcomes Framework has been developed and will inform a number of other Supporting Communities policy commitments, such as the development of the biennial 'Our Communities Report' and procurement reforms. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently being prepared to inform a consultation process with the community on the draft Outcomes Framework.

### **Establishment of the Strategic Framework Working Group**

At the September meeting the Forum agreed to establish a time-limited Working Group to focus on the development of the Forum's overarching Strategic Framework and Narrative that will unify the work of the Forum, including the activities of the working groups, as well as ensuring the Forum remains focused on delivering specific outcomes.

The following Forum members self-nominated to participate on the new Working Group:

- Michelle Scott
- Helen Creed
- Suzi Cowcher
- Neil Guard; and
- Louise Giolitto

The Forum agreed that it would consider a draft Strategic Framework at its December 2018 meeting.

### **Update on Working Groups**

Working Group Co-chairs provided brief updates regarding their respective Working Groups at the September meeting. Final draft project plans were circulated to members ahead of the meeting and were endorsed by the Forum, noting that Project Plans may continue to be updated as initiatives progress.

Further to the substantive update provided by the **Outcomes Framework Working Group**, Co-chairs noted that:

- the **State Homelessness Strategy Working Group** is about to commence a consultation process regarding the draft State Homelessness Strategy and will provide a substantive update on this work to the Forum at its December 2018 meeting.
- the **Procurement Reform Working Group** has identified four areas of focus (and has developed four project plans accordingly), however has delayed commencement of its

Outcomes-based Procurement focus to align with the work of the Outcomes Framework Working Group.

- the **Our Communities Report Working Group** will be developing a framework to inform the development of the biennial 'report', including that the Working Group is looking at innovative ways to present this information other than in a typical 'report' style.
- the **Communication about the Forum Working Group** is developing a Communications Plan and is considering the badging of the Forum, as well as the top three messages for each Working Group to communicate.
- the **Collaboration Working Group** is conducting a review of national and international experiences of collaboration in practice to inform the development of a unified understanding of what good collaboration looks like, as well as considering practical opportunities to demonstrate collaboration in practice.
- the **Data Sharing and Linkage Working Group** continues to provide advice and feedback to DPC as the scope of the proposed Responsible Data Sharing Reforms, including the key consideration regarding community confidence regarding the arrangements which provide for the security and privacy of data.

Beyond the Forum's regular meetings, the Chairperson and Deputy welcome opportunities to meet with public and not-for-profit organisations to hear a range of views on the potential work of the Forum, and ways in which it can engage with stakeholders and communicate its work and achievements.

The next meeting of the Supporting Communities Forum will take place on 10 December 2018. Further information can be found on the [Department of the Premier and Cabinet website](#) or by emailing the Forum secretariat at [SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au).

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