



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FORUM Meeting #2 - Meeting Notes and Actions

Date	Monday 13 September 2021
Time	2:00 – 4:30pm
Location	The Premier's Boardroom, Level 1 - Hale House, 1 Parliament Pl, West Perth WA 6005
Members	Michelle Scott (Co-Chair), Jodi Cant (Co-Chair), Kate George (Deputy Chair), Louise Giolitto, Dan Minchin, Tricia Murray, Maria Osman, Julie Waylen, Ross Wortham, Debra Zanella, Felicite Black, Kate Chaney, Justine Colyer, Emma Jarvis, Melissa Perry, Denver D'Cruz, Kelda Oppermann, Mike Rowe, Lisa Rodgers, David Russell-Weisz, Adam Tomison, Lanie Chopping, Jeremy Hubble, Jennifer McGrath, Sharyn O'Neill, and Emily Roper.
Secretariat	Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au
Invited Guests	Lara Connor and Steven Hill (Department of Finance); Chad Stewart (Department of Communities); Nicole O'Keefe and Sue Kiely (Department of Health); Lorna Pritchard (Lotterywest); Sandy McKiernan (YACWA, proxy for Ross Wortham); Fiona Hunt, Sarah Charbonneau, Tracey Ninnette (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); Vicki O'Donnell (Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA); and Olwyn Williams (Minister McGurk's office)
Apologies	Dr. David Russell-Weisz and Jeremy Hubble

The meeting started at 2:00pm

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1.1 Welcome (opening remarks, introductions and apologies)

Forum Co-Chairs Michelle Scott and Jodi Cant welcomed members, new incoming Directors General, guest presenters and noted member apologies.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

Emeritus Professor Colleen Hayward conducted the Acknowledgment to Country acknowledging the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. And paid her respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging.

1.3 Letter from Minister McGurk – Statement of Expectations

The Honourable Simone F McGurk, Minister for Community Services addressed the Forum stating:

- the WA Government has greatly appreciated the Forum's flexibility in refocussing its efforts last year to contribute to the State's social and economic recovery efforts, including advising on outbreak planning and preparedness;
- it is important to look at innovative ways to tackle issues, and continue to do things differently, working together to improve the delivery of community services;
- her Statement of Expectation for the Forum outlines the work plan and four priorities for the Forum to address for the remainder of its term ending 31 December 2022, namely:
 1. Implementation of the 10-year Strategy on Homelessness;
 2. Monitoring the further development and implementation of the State's Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework;
 3. Building capacity and capability to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations; and
 4. Roll-out of COVID-19 Vaccinations to Vulnerable People and the Community Services Sector Workforce

- achieving these priorities for the Forum in 2021 - 2022 will not be a small task, and must be undertaken through strong partnerships with the community services sector. Something that the Forum has more than any other group, is ongoing genuine spirit of partnership between Government and the community services sector.
- considering the priorities covers portfolios of other Minister's, Minister McGurk will look to invite other Ministers' to attend future Forum meetings briefly to understand the tremendous amount of work and value the Forum brings, in its advisory role to Government.

Minister McGurk thanked members for their contributions and participation as a valued member of the Forum, in particular to the Michelle Scott and Jodi Cant for their leadership as Forum Co-Chairs; to Kate George as Deputy Chair, and to the Forum for being flexible and adaptable in responding to the pandemic and the recovery process.

The Co-Chairs also acknowledged the ongoing commitment of the Forum to work in partnership and to deliver on the priorities and work plan assigned by Minister McGurk in her Statement of Expectations for the Forum for the remainder of its terms ending 31 December 2022.

2. STRATEGIC POLICY AND REFORM

2.1 Closing the Gap National Agreement

Vicky O'Donnell, CEO of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA provided members with an update on the

- National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG) and its Priority Reforms;
- 17 socio-economic targets across outcome areas including justice, health, social and emotional well-being, education, employment and Aboriginal languages;
- CTG timelines;
- governance framework;
- role of the Coalition of Peaks; and
- current status regarding implementation of the CTG National Agreement in WA.

Members further noted that Under the National Agreement, each of the States and Territories agreed to develop a jurisdictional implementation plan to guide the reform process. The WA Government has developed its first [Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan](#). The Implementation Plan was developed through collaboration across Government departments and agencies, with crucial input from the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA and the Aboriginal Health Council of WA, which is the only WA based member of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations.

Members expressed their strong interest to contribute to and identify key areas that will support the Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA (AACWA) in its implementation of the CTG National Agreement and four Priority Reforms.

ACTION 1: The Forum Secretariat to share the [Closing the Gap Jurisdictional Implementation Plan](#) published in September 2021 to Forum members.

ACTION 2: The Forum Secretariat to organise a one-hour (optional) meeting end of October 2021 to discuss the CTG Implementation Plan.

3. SCF WORK PLAN

3.1 Work Plan for 2021 - 2022

Members discussed the Forum's work plan for 2021 – 2022 based on Minister McGurk's Statement of Expectations. Forum members:

- endorsed the establishment of three new working groups of the Forum to address three of the four priorities;
- nominated for the position of working group co-chair or as a member; and
- nominated potential co-opted members for specific working groups.

For the fourth priority 'Monitoring the further development and implementation of the State's Community Services Outcomes Measurement Framework', members agreed to review and consider whether the existing Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF) Working Group led by the Department of Finance would ensure progress in this important area. This will be further considered by the Forum. Forum members Justine Colyer and Emma Jarvis are members of the Finance-led OMF Working Group since last year June 2020.

Members discussed and agreed it is important to ensure that all four working groups are well connected and utilise each other's work.

All working groups of the Forum are expected to convene their first meeting during October or November 2021, to finalise membership of the working group and work on a draft Working Group project plan to report to the Forum at the next quarterly meeting on 22 November 2021.

Members also expressed their interest to advise on and connect effectively with other significant and broader Government policy reform. Consequently, in line with the Minister's Statement of Expectations, the Forum agreed to help inform and shape other strategic policy and reform areas, including, but not limited to:

- supporting the AACWA in the implementation of the Closing the Gap National Agreement Priority Reforms;
- supporting the development and implementation of the State Commissioning Strategy for human and community services; and
- advising on other areas and opportunities for the Forum to contribute to.

3.2 Future Forum Meetings

Members discussed their preference:

- for meeting agendas to include:
 - strategic policy and reform updates on the Closing the Gap and potentially other policy reform areas that the Forum may be called on to contribute to;
 - working group report back (as standing items); and
 - other business – to cover other areas that members would like to discuss or share, the Forum's communication efforts to promote the work of the Forum, the DPC – Forum webpage etc.
- for quarterly Forum meetings of shorter duration (2 – 2.5 hours); and
- to establish working groups to progress Forum priorities.

Members noted that the Forum Secretariat would send out calendar invites for 2022 quarterly meetings

ACTION 3: The Forum Secretariat to send out calendar invites for the 2022 quarterly Forum meetings.

The meeting closed at 4:30pm.