Community Partnerships Roundtable Communiqué

February | 2024

The Community Partnerships Roundtable (the Roundtable) had their first meeting for the year on 12 February 2024 at the Western Australian Council of Social Services (WACOOS) on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja.

The Roundtable meeting was co-chaired by Ms Caron Irwin, Assistant Director General Strategy and Partnerships at the Department of Communities (Communities), and Ms Rachel Siewert, Acting Chief Executive Officer of WACOSS. The Roundtable was comprised of members representing organisations from across the community services sector, bringing a diverse range of experience and expertise to address system-wide issues and plan on matters of strategic importance relevant to the delivery of human services.

Key discussion and outcomes from the meeting are as follows:

* Communities provided members with an update on ongoing emergency relief and support efforts in response to the Kimberley floods.
* The Roundtable’s Commissioning and Data Sharing and Outcomes Working Groups provided an update from their meeting held on 7 February 2024. This included a commissioning update on Out of Home Care reform, specifically the transition of services and Aboriginal children to the six Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that were awarded contracts through the recent open tender procurement process. Roundtable members were also advised that Communities will be using a new operating system for data collection to make general statistical information more readily available across all portfolios.
* Members discussed updates and future planning regarding the following commissioning priorities:
* Sector Support Development and Advocacy Program, which provides funding to 11 peak bodies to build a sustainable and capable community services sector that meets the needs of all Western Australians. Contracts are due to expire in late 2024, and Communities intends to share findings from a recent evaluation that was completed, which will inform re-commissioning process.
* Homelessness commissioning, including the recently announced $47.6 million funding commitment from the Cook Government to extend critical homelessness services.
* Funding increases and contract extensions for Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services (CSATS), which aim to reduce the harmful effects of sexual abuse on children and their future.
* Physical and Sexual Abuse Insurance for non-government organisations delivering Out of Home Care and Youth Homelessness services. The interim indemnity arrangement is due to expire on 30 June 2024, and Communities is working collaboratively with the Insurance Commission of WA and the Department of Treasury to develop the most suitable and sustainable solution for the WA context.

The next meeting will be held on 20 May 2024.

Further information

Please contact the Community Partnerships Roundtable Secretariat via email: SectorPartnerships@communities.wa.gov.au