Community Partnerships Roundtable Communiqué

May | 2024

The Community Partnerships Roundtable (the Roundtable) met on 20 May 2024. The Roundtable is co-chaired by Mike Rowe Director General of the Department of Communities (Communities) and Louise Giolitto Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Council of Social Service. Members bring 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.

The Hon Sabine Winton MLA, Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, joined members online to give an update on the Family and Domestic Violence Taskforce.

* The work of the Taskforce and led to an unprecedented program of reform for responding to family and domestic violence in Western Australia.
* On 26 April 2024, the State Government announced release of the Family and Domestic Violence System Reform Plan; and $96.4 million to strengthen responses to family and domestic violence in Western Australia.
* This funding is in addition to the $72.6 million announced in November 2023 and takes the total Government investment in new family and domestic violence initiatives since commencement of the Taskforce to $169 million.
* The vision of the System Reform Plan is a system response that is collaborative, connected and organised around victim-survivor safety, recovery and re-establishment where all parts of the system provide trauma informed, culturally safe and joined-up services to keep victim-survivors safe and hold perpetrators to account.
* The State Government is committed in establishing a Lived Experience Advisory Group to ensure voices of those with lived experience inform the delivery of the system reforms.

Other key discussion items and updates from the meeting are as follows:

* Kimberley Floods - Members were advised that recovery efforts are transitioning from a State-led to a local-led phase. Communities will continue to support the local shire and community through the coordination of the Social Recovery Sub-Committee meetings and until such time as the local recovery governance arrangements are in place.
* Bunbury residents affected by the severe weather event in early May continue to receive assistance from the Department of Communities’ Emergency Relief and Support. Communities is working in partnership with the City of Bunbury and local service providers to support impacted residents whose properties sustained significant damage from the storm. Communities have a team that remains on the ground in Bunbury and surrounding areas, engaging with residents and offering support from the City of Bunbury’s Recovery Hubs.
* The Commissioning Working Group and the Data Sharing and Outcomes Working Group held the first meeting of the combined Commissioning and Data Sharing Working Group (CDSWG) on the 16 May 2024.
	+ The combined working group presents significant opportunity in terms of better connecting data and evidence with commissioning processes.
	+ Discussion was held regarding the Department of Treasury’s Financial Guidelines and members highlighted the how the sector can support Communities with costing and benchmarking activities for Community Services.
* Communities presented on the recently announced whole-of-government strategy to be developed that will drive inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people and identify priority areas and associated actions.
	+ Funding totalling $900,000 has been dedicated to the Strategy, which includes $600,000 to be provided to three non-government organisations; Living Proud, Transfolk of WA and GLBTI Rights in Ageing to build the capacity of the sector over two years to support the development and implementation of the Strategy.
	+ An LGBTQIA+ Peak Body will also be established and provided with $300,000 to further build organisational capacity across the LGBTQIA+ sector.
	+ Communities is focused on meaningful consultation with stakeholders and will offer several options for people to participate in the development of the Strategy and its implementation.
	+ Consultation is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2024.
	+ Members were encouraged to sign up for updates through the LGTBQIA+ Inclusion Strategy mailing list at <https://www.wagov.pipeline.preproduction.digital.wa.gov.au/government/government-initiatives-and-projects/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-intersex-and-asexual-plus-lgbtqia-inclusion-strategy>
* Communities’ Office of Homelessness were invited to the meeting to share some of the lessons learned from the recent funding uplift for homelessness services, including critical success factors and ways of working that resulted in the positive funding outcome. Some of these included ensuring the budget process involved seeking input from lived experience representatives and sector organisations, specifically Shelter WA. Evidencing the need through significant data and research was also critical.

The next meeting will be held on 27 August 2024.

Further information

The Secretariat can be contacted by email: SectorPartnerships@communities.wa.gov.au