



## **Statement of Commitment:**

The Directors General of Communities, Education, Health and Justice and the Commissioner of Police to the District Leadership Groups across Western Australia.

## **Preamble**

The Human Services Directors General Group (HSDGG) consists of Directors General from the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet, Communities, Education, Finance, Health, Justice, Treasury, Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries and the Commissioners from the Mental Health Commission and WA Police Force.

These agencies recognise and appreciate the invaluable contribution that District Leadership Groups (DLGs) provide to Western Australian regional and metropolitan communities.

This statement reflects the shared commitment of each of the human services agencies, namely Communities, Education, Health, Justice and WA Police Force, to the ongoing work of DLGs.

The HSDGG confirms the commitment of the WA Government to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, Native Title and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and the role of DLGs in ensuring these obligations are met.

## **Role of the Department of Communities**

Communities has been endorsed by the HSDGG as the lead agency for the DLG development work in collaboration with the core human services agencies, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and South-West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) for DLGs in the South West Native Title Settlement area.

## **Definition**

This statement reflects the commitment of the human services agencies to DLGs, supported by the HSDGG which will provide oversight for whole of government or cross agency initiatives as required. The HSDGG recognises DLGs as an important mechanism to bring local human services agencies together around a common purpose of delivering local solutions to local issues.



### **Duration of commitment**

The Statement of Commitment will be in place for three years from the signed date. The statement will be reviewed after 18 months, including in relation to the oversight role of the HSDGG.

### **Role and function of District Leadership Groups**

The primary role of DLGs across the State is to:

- identify shared local priorities
- develop collective strategies to address local priorities
- deliver collaborative initiatives to address local priorities
- provide a consultation and feedback forum for State Government and other place-based initiatives, including the provision of timely and accurate local information to government and other stakeholders
- consult with local communities, coordinate services, measure impact and share expertise and resources in their region.

The HSDGG acknowledges the role of DLGs in delivering place-based community- led responses. It is intended that DLGs will be strengthened and developed to:

- bring together regional leadership to address local priorities
- ensure and provide a mechanism for service responses that are coordinated, shared, place-based and meet the desired outcomes for their region
- offer a culturally safe space for engagement with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector
- enable relationship building at the local level, including information sharing, coordinating responses and feedback and issues management
- effectively engage in relation to South West Native Title Settlement requirements.

### **Decision making and authorisation**

DLGs are authorised, within the context of their member agencies' respective operational responsibilities, to make decisions, including those required to meet the specified role and function identified above.

This authorisation is underpinned by the following principles:

- DLGs ensure that local service decisions are informed by voices that represent the diversity of the communities they impact
- DLGs make decisions on partnership arrangements to enable collective strategies to address local priorities



- DLGs tailor decisions on major reforms, government or sector priorities and state-wide initiatives to local requirements
- DLGs make decisions on collaborative funding arrangements where capacity to do so exists.

The HSDGG provides the authorising environment for DLGs to:

- request consideration of collaborative funding arrangements across agencies where doing so is beyond the capacity of the DLG
- approve joint funding bids that are outside of the scope of existing portfolios and funding streams
- expand projects beyond a single region.

The HSDGG will consider other matters relating to the work of DLGs where multi-agency authorisation is required and cannot be achieved through individual agency pathways.

Each DLG will provide an evaluation-based update every six months, which will be distributed to the Directors General of Communities, Education, Health and Justice and the Commissioner of Police. The update may include details of local priorities, consultation, planning, strategies, initiatives and outcomes. This commences June 2023.

## **Membership**

Each DLG must have a core membership of representative(s) from the State Government human services agencies (Communities, Education, Health, Justice and WA Police) and reflect the following principles:

- The representatives will comprise the most senior regional representative available with the appropriate decision-making authority within their region.
- Each of the core human services agencies will provide an appropriate representative to attend the DLG in each region
- Agency representatives will be committed to participating in the work of DLGs and will provide a proxy if the representative is unable to attend.
- The administrative elements of the DLG, such as the secretariat function, hosting meetings and chairing meetings, may be shared amongst the core membership or delegated to another member. DLGs may consider collectively funding secretariat support.
- DLGs may consider membership from all tiers of government, the not for profit/community services sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, industry, peak bodies and other appropriate organisations or individuals. These members should meet the following criteria:
  - they are aligned to the local priorities
  - they are invited at the request of the core DLG membership and the chair



- they may participate in the DLG via a working group or networking forum or as part of the core DLG as appropriate
- They may be adjusted over time, according to local priorities.
- Each DLG may define their own governance structure, with the following minimum requirements:
  - DLGs must have a terms of reference
  - DLGs must complete strategic planning at least annually
  - DLGs must have a clear decision-making structure
  - DLGs must meet at least quarterly
  - DLGS must update the Directors General of Communities, Education, Health and Justice and the Commissioner of Police on a six-monthly basis.
- The Department of Communities as lead support agency, will provide resources, guidance and templates to assist DLGs with membership and governance arrangements.

### **South West Native Title Settlement requirements**

The South West Native Title Settlement (SWS) is an agreement between the Noongar people and WA Government across approximately 200,000 square kilometres of the south-west region. The SWS supports the WA Government to work in partnership with the Noongar people to elevate economic, social and community outcomes. The SWS includes a Community Development Framework (CDF) and DLGs across the SWS area have been named in this as key regional engagement partners. Under the CDF, DLGs are encouraged to build relationships with the respective SWS Noongar Regional Corporations to establish ways of working together. Communities will coordinate appropriate support measures for DLGs in the SWS area.

### **Signed**

Mike Rowe  
**Director General**  
**Department of Communities**

01 / 05 / 2023

*for* Lisa Rodgers  
**Director General**  
**Department of Education**

11/5 2023



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Communities**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adam Tomison'.

Adam Tomison  
**Director General**  
**Department of Justice**

22 May 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Angela Kelly'.

Angela Kelly  
**A/Director General**  
**Department of Health**

15 / 05 / 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Col Blanch'.

Col Blanch  
**Commissioner of Police**

25th of May 2023