

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 13 March 2012

Large Executive Conference Room, Level 2
Department for Child Protection
189 Royal Street, East Perth

Meeting commenced at 9:30am

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Deputy Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

Present

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia

In attendance

Mr Terry Murphy	Department for Child Protection
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection

Apologies

Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Les Evans	Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army
Ms Anne Moore	Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)

2. Minutes of meeting held 14 February 2012

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 14 February 2012 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Actions Arising

3.1 Opinion Piece in response to the Commissioner's media statement – Department of Housings Three Strikes policy

Deferred to next meeting

3.2 Joint meeting of CSR and CSDG – agenda items

Ms Benham discussed the agenda items currently being considered for the joint meeting of CSR and CSDG. Items included:

- NGO capacity and vision for future services.
- Early Childhood agenda – where it sits in each agency, is Education best placed to be the lead agency?
- Housing and homelessness.
- Report from the Regional Chairs forum.
- Agency Implementation Plans, including how to engage the community sector.

A member queried Rapid Response. Ms Benham provided a brief update and suggested that a briefing be provided at the May meeting.

Action: Rapid response update to be provided at the May meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

4.1 Membership – EOI and current membership

Mr Glew advised that it is time to progress the EOI for membership as agreed to and initiated by CSR last year. It was requested that 4 members nominate to retire, enabling new members to nominate. New members will be appointed with a three year term, commencing 1 July 2012. It was noted that retiring members may re-nominate.

Members were reminded that the four members appointed last year were appointed for a three year term. The remaining eight original members agreed to consider their position on the CSR and Mr Glew will contact them later in the week to finalise the 4 members to retire.

The EOI will be distributed to all DCP funded services in early April with the process to be finalised by the end of June, enabling the new members to begin in July.

Action: Mr Glew to contact the remaining eight original members to discuss membership.

4.2 Family Support Network

Mr Hanna provided details on the following:

- On-going collaboration with the Armadale District Director, Mr Robert Becker, to progress the establishment of the Network.
- DCP is currently in the process of recruiting a Child Protection Worker.
- It is hoped that the Governor, who is the Patron of the Network, and Minister will attend the launch of the *Armadale Family Support Network* which is planned for 1 May 2012.
- A joint invite from DCP and the lead agency (Parkerville) will be distributed.
- Workshops are progressing well - early anxiety has been replaced by positive energy towards achieving the common goals.

4.3 WA Legislation – Review

Mr Murphy advised that all four Acts relevant to the Department have been undergoing review.

Children and Community Services Act – undergoing the first statutory review. Minor amendments have been made, including the expansion of information sharing provision with schools and health authorities. This review includes the review of mandatory reporting. CSR will be informed as progress is made and of the details regarding the request for submissions.

Adoption Legislation – this is currently going through Parliament. This legislation is very prescriptive. There are less than ten overseas adoptions and less than ten local adoptions each year. Most of the work the Department does regarding adoptions is in relation to past adoptions.

Working with Children – open for submissions at present. Approximately 300,000 applications are received each year, including renewals, with approximately 200 negative notices. Offences committed in WA are known, but offenses that occur in other States or overseas are not identified in this process.

Parental Support and Responsibility Act – under review. The current Act has poor communication sharing provisions and is largely redundant in today's environment. The Act is undergoing a comprehensive review focussing on statutory responsibilities, ensuring the Orders are realistic and establishing sound agreements between DCP and the other relevant departments, primarily Education and Corrections.

4.4 Development of Industry Plan – Component 2 funding and sustainability

Mr Glew advised that a draft Department of Finance template is expected to be finalised by mid-March and will be discussed at the Partnership Forum. It is expected to be available to DCP by mid-April.

The development of the Agency Implementation Plan is progressing – line agencies have been asked to focus on contracting as well as funding issues. There will be on-going discussion with CSR and the broader community services sector. Members requested that processes and communication strategies be discussed in more detail. It was advised that each sector within the broader sector will be involved in comprehensive discussion.

Action: This item to be included on the May agenda.
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5. Other Business

5.1 Senate finding of forced adoptions

The Senate Report implicated both Government and the sector. The State has apologised. The Anglican Church is planning to make an apology on behalf of the sector. Parkerville has sent a letter requesting that the Church does not apologise on their behalf as they had nothing to do with the forced adoptions. It was advised that the Health Department made the apology on behalf of the State Government as most of the forced adoptions occurred through the hospital system and using private lawyers.

5.2 Potential keynote speakers in WA

The Commissioner for Children and Young People is bringing out Dr Stuart Shanker in June and he is interested in hosting events. Dr Shanker was the keynote speaker at the WA 2011 Early Childhood Education and Care Conference.

Members were asked to consider possible opportunities/events to incorporate Dr Shanker. Ms Caron Irwin, Executive Director, Commissioner for Children and Young People, via a working group, is coordinating the events together with Ms Helen Creed, Policy Manager Vulnerable People, WACOSS. Either Ms Irwin or Ms Creed can be contacted with suggestions.

Dr Bruce Perry will be visiting Berry Street, Victoria and has offered to come to WA. DCP is currently negotiating with Berry Street to enable this. Parkerville is interested in partnering an event.

6. Future Discussions

- The item - *Hubs for Early Childhood Development* - to be discussed at the joint meeting of CSR/CSDG.

7. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 10:45am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 May 2012 at 9:30am, a joint meeting of CSR and CSDG is scheduled for 3 April 2012.