

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 10 September 2013

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 Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting.

##### Present

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Neil Hamilton	AccordWest
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Mission Australia
Ms Martine Pitt	Communicare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc

##### In attendance

Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
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##### Apologies

Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc

#### 2. Minutes of Meeting held 13 August 2013

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 13 August 2013 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Actions Arising

##### 3.1 Mechanisms for supporting the sector -principles

Mr Geaney reiterated that members had been asked to provide feedback, this feedback will now be incorporated into the paper. This is a work in progress and will remain on the agenda.

<b>Action:</b> Amended paper to be provided for the next CSR meeting. Item to remain on the agenda.
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##### 3.2 Leadership and Partnership Forum 2013 – update

The Chair commented that there was concern that people had been advised they could not attend the Forum. It was advised that, as agreed by the working group, all CEOs from the non-government sector funded by the Department had been invited to attend

the forum. All CEOs who responded to the invitation have been accepted to attend the forum. This year the group was broadened to include additional CEOs that would not normally attend, given the broad relevance of the theme. These CEO's were also accepted as attendees.

While the forum was established for Department's funded services to connect with the Department, it was queried if, on this occasion, some non-CPFS funded agencies could be invited. The capacity is 80 people, and there are currently 74 attending, plus presenters. It was agreed that an additional 6 targeted CEOs could be invited.

The agenda is still being finalised and will be distributed to members as soon as possible. Andrew O'Connor may be approached if Patricia Karvelas is unable to attend.

**Action:** Ms Cattalini to provide the names and contact details of approximately 6 CEOs of relevant agencies to be invited to the Forum. Draft agenda to be disseminated before the next meeting.

#### **4. Guest Speaker, Mr Richard Aspinall, State Manager, FaHCSIA**

Ms Deborah Edwards attended in place of Mr Richard Aspinall.

Ms Edwards reported on the following:

- The Commonwealth Government still in caretaker mode, thus no policies of the incoming government are available at this time.
- At present, no policies around families have been released.
- The family relationship sector funding agreements expire in June 2014, the previous government had made a commitment that the next funding round would be for a four year period and minimise 'red tape'.
- Moving to services working in collaboration with five pilot sites.

Ms Edwards agreed to follow up on the following:

- Constraints caused by the low CPI rate (approximately 1.6%) provided by the Commonwealth government compared to approximately 4% provided by the State Government.
- What is FaHCSIA's position on the emergence of large for profit providers into the sector? Members concern regarding the significant impact on small non-government providers in especially in regards to capacity building, social capital when competing with large profit organisations for contract. Not seen as yet in this sector, but is occurring in employment and health.
- Who is being briefed in government?
- What is the status of the Pay Equity Case for this sector?
- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children – to be raised as an issue.
- Child Care rebate - the difficulty that providers of out of home care services experience as a result of the current system that requires carers to apply for the rebate. Working to make the child care benefit process more seamless, for the benefit to follow the child in care rather than relying on the foster carer having to apply for it and transferring the money over to the service.

Ms Edwards agreed to followed this up with DEEWR. A process is required to get the FaHCSIA state offices around the country on to the same page about a solution to take to the relevant Minister. Michael Lye was leading this and agreed to take it to the relevant parties.

Ms Edwards agreed to provide feedback to the Chair.

The Chair thanked Ms Edwards for attending the meeting.

**Action:** A letter to Richard Aspinall detailing the value of his attendance at CSR twice a year and the issues for discussion.

## **5. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **5.1 Expansion and development of the Secondary Family Support Hubs**

The Chair advised members that a focused meeting was held to provide clarification regarding the recurrent funding for the Armadale Family Support Network. The Department, the AFSN alliance members who are also CSR members plus some service managers were present at the meeting. The meeting was positive, the most significant learning was that the service has bottlenecked because the people on the ground are providing more than the secondary services, filling the gap between secondary and tertiary services, resulting in a back log of clients. The Steering Committee will work through the issues, identify clear boundaries and develop principles regarding the gaps and how to fill them. Issues around the recurrent funding and the role of the Steering Group were clarified.

Ms Benham distributed two documents:

- Implementation of the Armadale Family Support Network Innovations Site - Issues Paper for Community Sector Roundtable
- Western Australian Family Support Networks – Project Scoping Paper

It was agreed members would read the papers for discussion at the next meeting.

**Actions:** Members to read the two documents for discussion at the next meeting.

### **5.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system**

Mr Geaney reported that the group met at Wanslea, Judith Wilkinson, Key Assets, provided a presentation on a system which looks at how to track training needs with carers. A similar system would benefit the out of home care system.

Ms Benham provided an update on the development of the five year plan for out of home care, the committee will be chaired by Paul Maher, and include Ms Benham, Mr Glew and Ms Barnett, and representatives from CSR, the Alliance and the OHACC working group. An EOI will go out to the sector for a secretariat/project officer to work to the group. This will be going out in the next two weeks.

### **5.3 Self-directed service design**

Mr Glew advised that the amended draft was completed late last week, this will be distributed to members prior to the next meeting. The paper on Outcomes is progressing. Approximately half of the consultations, as suggested by CSR, have taken place. Once all other consultations have been undertaken, the feedback will be incorporated and the paper disseminated to members.

It was queried if CPFS will be presenting a paper at the meeting of the Partnership Forum, which has been scheduled specifically to focus on SDSD. It was advised that the CPFS will not have a representative at that meeting, as Mr Terry Murphy is the CPFS representative and he is unable to attend. The Partnership Forum has a no proxy rule, this has been clarified with the secretariat and CPFS has been told no proxy may

attend. It was suggested that the paper be submitted to the Forum, in the spirit of sharing information. Papers have been requested by COB tomorrow.

**Action:** Once the paper on SDSA has been disseminated to members, feedback to be provided at the following meeting.

#### **5.4 Integration of Youth Services**

Ms Perry advised that she has met with Craig Comrie who is near completion on the survey that went out. Mr Comrie and a representative from the Police will join the subcommittee, Mr Tom Leeming may also join the subcommittee or allocate a representative. The next meeting, including these people is scheduled to take place in the first week of October. WACOSS will keep the group briefed on the youth justice work they are undertaking. Ms Rosenberg has joined this working group.

**Action:** Ms Perry to invite Craig Comrie to a CSR meeting.

### **6. Other Business**

#### **6.1 Family Matters**

Ms Murray provided an overview of *Family Matters*, a project by SNAICC, coordinated with the Healing Foundation, a campaign to address the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the child protection system. Non-government agencies are supporting this program. Ms Murray will provide the flyer for dissemination to members. It was suggested that Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones be invited to attend the next meeting of CSR to provide an overview of the role the Department is taking.

**Action:**

- Ms Jacqueline McGowan-Jones to be invited to attend the next meeting of CSR to provide an overview of Family Matters.
- Ms Murray to provide the flyer for member's information.

#### **6.2 Budget Funding cuts – decision making process**

Members queried the processes undertaken leading to a funding reduction or cessation of funding to a service. Members asked if CSR could be pre-informed when a decision has been made to reduce or cut funding and if CSR have a role in the decision making process?

Members discussed the government processes regarding funding issues where funds may be reduced or ceased. It was noted that it is rare for a service to either lose their funding or have their funding reduced. The decisions are often sensitive and consideration must be given to the service in question as well as political, media and departmental concerns.

Members requested that, where possible, CSR be consulted during the decision making process.

WACOSS has written to the Director Generals and the premier outlining the principled approach to the process that they are calling for.

### **7. Next Meeting**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:00am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 October 2013.