

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday 14 April 2015

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

Meeting commenced at 9:30am

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Acting Chair, Ms Cattalini welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting and acknowledged we are meeting on the land of the Wadjup people.

##### Present

Mr Steve Glew	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
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc

##### In attendance

Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Michelle Bryan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

##### Apologies

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Major Andrew Craib	The Salvation Army
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr David Hogg	Lifestyle Solutions
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorganop Association Incorporated/SNAICC

#### 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2015

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 10 March 2015 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Members discussed the National Framework for Protection Australia's Children – Commonwealth consultation process. Ms Murray advised the *Evaluation* meeting and 3 Year *Plan* planning meeting have been completed. Participants were only given one week's notice thus representation was poor in terms of diversity.

Submissions on this Framework are due next week, members discussed the need for government to be focussed on prevention and the relevance of the valuing children campaign.

**Actions:**

- Ms Murray and the Acting Chair to provide a submission from the Community Sector Roundtable (CSR) stipulating the need for government to stay focussed on prevention; the future of the framework; and the valuing children campaign.
- Valuing Children Campaign to remain an agenda item.
- Mr Glew to confirm the location of the May CSR meeting.

**3. Actions Arising****3.1 Leadership and Partnership Forum**

Mr Glew reiterated that at the last CSR meeting members discussed the possibility of this year's focus being on *out of home care*. However, it has since been announced that this year's Festival of Learning will focus on out of home care. As such, members discussed the value of focusing on the Regional and Remote Reform agenda. Mr Glew invited members to participate in an Organising Committee for the Leadership and Partnership Forum. The following members agreed to be involved:

- Mr Steve Glew
- Ms Tricia Murray
- Mr Ian Carter
- Mr Ashley Reid
- Ms Veronica Rodenburg
- Ms Kay Benham
- Ms Amanda Hunt (as required)

Ms Benham advised the Festival of Learning Conference is 27/28 October 2015.

Ms White provided an outline of the Regional and Remote Reform:

- Investment in remote Aboriginal communities and regional townships and the starting point with the shift in Commonwealth and State responsibilities for municipal services.
- The State is initiating collaboration between the human services and the social and economic key players to cultivate a reformed human system in regional and remote locations.
- Currently waiting on announcement of the State/Commonwealth funding allocation.

It was noted that in the Derby region the Regional Development Commission has significant influence around Royalties for Regions funding and it would be useful for them to be engaged in reform discussions. Also the Regional Human Services Managers Forum should be considered for inclusion in future discussions regarding regional reform.

**Action:** Mr Glew to convene a meeting of the Organising Committee – Leadership and Partnership Forum and report back to the CSR.

**3.2 Response to OOHC feedback**

Ms White advised the Steering Committee is meeting on 22 April 2015 and after this meeting feedback will be submitted to CSR and published on the website.

Then following points were made:

- CSR is seen as the primary forum for feedback and discussion regarding OOHC.
- 43 written submissions were received, in addition to verbal feedback and forums.
- There has been a slowing down with the timeframe as costings and budgets are negotiated.
- The Alliance is considering a constructive communication process/consultation.
- It was suggested that early intervention be more overt in the strategy and better integrated.

- The over-representation of Aboriginal children in care significantly impacts the Plan.
- CSR members acknowledged the importance of, and desire to, work cooperatively with SNAICC and other Aboriginal communities.

**Action:** Ms White to report back to the next CSR meeting with feedback from the Steering Committee meeting.

#### **4. Agenda Items**

##### **4.1 Family Support Networks**

It was advised that the Fremantle FSN briefing session was held recently. This is progressing well.

Families Australia and the Department of Social Services are hosting the 3rd Annual Child Aware Approaches Conference in Melbourne, 18-19 May 2015. The focus of the conference will be innovations in early intervention, community collaboration and partnership beyond the child and family welfare sector.

There is an upcoming Steering Group meeting for CPCs which will include the review of the OPS manual. Concern was expressed regarding evidence based programming.

Discussion on 'evidence base' ensued including the following points:

- Clarity is required about what is meant *by evidence based*. The sector supports evaluating its programs and work and whether or not it is making a difference.
- The Communities for Children have a panel with a focus on determining what evidence and KPI's mean.
- Further discussion is required on how we are doing evaluation and what it means in terms of how it informs practice and investment decisions.
- It was suggested that CSR discuss/be informed about the whole spectrum of evaluation and where it should sit in relation to better policy for both youth services and OOHC. The Alliance is will be hosting a shared measurement/evaluation workshop/presentations.
- Ms White noted that Aboriginal Health Services at a State level have just gone through an evidence base process in a new round of contracting (State funding).
- It was suggested that this could be a topic for the Leadership and Partnership Forum - *how are we doing evaluation in this space; what mechanisms are we using; and how do we know we are doing the right things*.

##### **Actions:**

- Ms Benham to quarterly statistical report.
- Discussion regarding Evidence Base and evaluation to remain on the agenda.
- Ms Perry to circulate the advice from DSS around what is happening with regards to CfC's.

##### **4.2 Integration of Youth Services**

Ms Hunt said Ms Flanagan has sent her information and advised that she is meeting with Ms Perry after CSR and are looking at the integration of youth services.

**Action:** Ms Hunt to report back at the May meeting.

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

Covered in item 3.2

#### **5. Other Business**

##### **5.1 Membership change**

Mr Geaney announced that he was stepping down from the CSR and that this is his last meeting. Ms Lynne Millett, Executive Director, Family and Youth Services would be replacing him as the directorate has been split in half. Mr Geaney asked if Ms Flanagan could invite Ms Millett to all future meetings of CSR.

The Acting Chair and members thanked Mr Geaney for his services to CSR.

**Action:** Ms Flanagan to invite Ms Lynne Millett, Executive Director, Family and Youth Services to future CSR meetings.

**5.2** State Government has put in a submission to the Senate Enquiry about the DSS tender. The document is on the Senate website.

**5.3 Self-directed Service Design**

The Acting Chair, Ms Cattalini, will speak to the Chairperson, Mr Hanna, about reinstating this item on the agenda.

**5.4** It was noted that other jurisdictions are moving away from the child protection system and removal of children, towards permanent adoption arrangements. Ms White advised that Adoption is already a legislative option for children in care.

**5.5 Feedback from the Royal Commission**

Ms White provided feedback from the Royal Commission which is testing some hypotheses around national approaches to a range of issues, e.g. working with children's cards, standardising expectations about mandated training, learning and development for carers, external oversight accreditation, registration of community services and mandatory reporting.

**5.6 Mental Health Commissioner**

Ms Rodenburg advised that a week's notice was provided for feedback on a 10 year plan consultation process by the mental Health Commission. The Mental Health Commissioner visited Yaandina and the drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre and was very impressed.

**5.7 State Budget**

Ms White advised discussion should wait until after the budget is released and we know the outcome. The Department is under enormous pressure. The Workforce Renewal Policy has an impact on all budget services with a yet to be revealed bottom line, making forward planning difficult.

**6. Next Meeting**

The Acting Chair said the next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May and said the Federal Budget comes out on that day. It was noted that Ms Hunt will be an apology for this meeting.

**Action:** Ms Hunt will be an apology for the next meeting of CSR on 12 May. Mr Glew said he will confirm a venue.

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:30am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 May.