

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 9 December 2014

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 Chair welcomed members to the Community Sector Roundtable meeting. The Chair advised members that this is Captain Ken Smith's final meeting as he has taken a position, with The Salvation Army in Victoria. The Chair thanked Captain Smith for his time and contribution to both the CSR and the community sector in Western Australia.

Present

Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Ian Carter	AnglicareWA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc
Mr Mick Geaney	MercyCare
Mr David Hogg	Lifestyle Solutions
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Veronica Rodenburg	Yaandina Family Centre Inc
Captain Ken Smith	The Salvation Army

In attendance

Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sandra Flanagan	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorgonop Association Incorporated/SNAICC

2. Minutes of Meeting held 14 October 2014

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 14 October 2014 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Guest Speaker: Ms Helen Grinbergs, State Manager, Department of Social Services

The Chair welcomed Ms Grinbergs to the meeting. Ms Grinbergs discussed the following:

- Commonwealth funding process - possible impact on the current WA social service delivery system both in regards to its interaction with State funded services and NFP staffing and infrastructure.
- White paper process re Reform of the Federation, including the issues papers.

Discussion ensued with a focus on the following items:

Commonwealth Funding Process

- The outcome of the tender process has not yet been announced. It is anticipated that applicants will be advised prior to Christmas 2014.
- Two month extensions have been given to those with contracts ending 31 December 2014.
- This was a contestable process with a total of 5500 bids received across all areas. The majority of bids came from the Family and Community Services sector.
- Members expressed significant concern regarding:
 - the transition process, redundancy payments (not to be paid via the transition/2 month extension funds) and staffing issues particularly where bids have been unsuccessful for existing providers, who will then have little time to advise and support staff in transitioning out;
 - the potential need to make staff redundant at Christmas;
 - services ability to pay staff redundancy particularly where staff have been long term employees;
 - inconsistency of advice regarding the timing and process;
 - the short time frame of the process, which was seeking collaboration and partnerships, allowed little time for this to occur, especially difficult for smaller organisations and those in regional/ remote locations; and
 - the ability to robustly process such a high volume of bids in a short period of time - to a high quality.
- It was advised that it is intended to release the outcome of the Stakeholder Engagement Survey publically.
- Formal consultation processes are required between the State and the Commonwealth.

White paper Process

- Issues papers on Housing and Homelessness and Tax reform expected to be released before Christmas 2014.
- Consultation will occur in the first quarter of 2015.
- Green papers to be released in mid 2015 followed by an open submission period.
- Release of the White Paper expected prior to the election in 2016.

The Chair thanked Ms Grinbergs for attending the meeting.

4. Guest Speaker: Mr Garry Hewitt, Executive Director, Early Childhood and Development, Department of Education

The chair welcomed Mr Hewitt to the meeting. Mr Hewitt provided a PowerPoint presentation on Child and Parent Centres (CPC's) with a focus on :

- the purpose and function of the CPC's; and
- long term vision of the CPC's.

The PowerPoint will be provided to members after the meeting.

It was suggested that the Steering Committee (CPC) consider a funding model similar to that of Head Space, where it is clear not only exactly how much funding is provided by each funder, but for what that specific funding is used.

CPC's are currently funded until June 2017. The evaluation will take place over 2015 and 2016.

Members discussed the importance of identifying the similarity and difference between the intent, function and target group of CPCs and Family Support Networks (FSN) and how they are/or can be linked and complement one another. This should also include names, locations and outcomes.

It was agreed that a paper will be prepared to define CPCs and FSNs, including the above mentioned factors and also including Community for Children (CFC).

Action: Department for Child Protection and Family Support together with the Department of Education to progress a paper clarifying Child and Parent Centres versus Family Support Networks.

5. Actions Arising

5.1 L&P forum – evaluation

Report was circulated out of session.

5.2 CSR Quarterly Report November 2014

Report was circulated out of session. Ms White provided maps identifying the distribution of Aboriginal Children in Care in both metropolitan and regional districts.

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Family Support Networks

The Chair reported that he and Ms Benham presented the FSN methodology, results to date and plan for the future to the Partnership Forum. Following discussion with the Department of Premier and Cabinet, it has been suggested that this presentation go to Cabinet. The Director General indicated that she will follow up with Mr Peter Conran.

6.2 Macro issues impacting the out of home care system

The Chair noted that the paper was circulated out of session and encouraged members to read the paper and submit feedback to the Department.

Action: Members to provide feedback directly to the Department. Contact details are provided on the paper.

6.3 Integration of Youth Services

No report.

6.4 Self-directed service design

Mr Geaney advised that the Alliance breakfast was well received and highlighted the need for further discussion regarding the application of self-directed services within the child protection/secondary support services sector.

7. Other Business

7.1 Valuing Children

Mr Pietropiccolo discussed the 'value of children 'in our society. It was noted that all members of the community have a responsibility in addressing child abuse and neglect. It is difficult to understand how, in our educated society, that we have such high levels of maltreatment of children in Australia. It was queried what cultural influence contributes to this? It was suggested that we need to look at what we value about children, examine the 'flip side of neglect. Consider changing "child protection week" to "child wellbeing week", "valuing our children week" – or similar phrase that focuses on the positive.

Members discussed means of engaging the community and corporate sector in this event. It was suggested that the Early Years leadership Group (yet to be formally named) could be involved. Mr Pietropiccolo is preparing a paper and will distribute to members once complete. Members agreed that this should be pursued and for it to remain on the agenda for February.

Action: Agenda item for February 2015.

7.2 Meeting Dates

Diary invites have been sent to all members. Members to ensure they have accepted the invite to lock the meeting dates into their diaries.

Action: Members to lock the meeting dates for 2015 into their diaries.

7.3 MACCP – update

Ms Murray advised that MACCP did not meet this month as scheduled due to several members being unable to attend. MACCP is planning to seek funding to undertake a study on leaving care.

7.4 Homelessness NPAH funding issue

Members queried the status of NPAH funding and planned action. Mr Glew advised that the Department has engaged in further correspondence with the Commonwealth, highlighting the significant issues caused by the continuing uncertainty and lack of decision by the Commonwealth. The Western Australian Council on Homelessness is coordinating a Roundtable meeting, including representatives from the sector, with the purpose of program specific planning and scenario planning for cessation and/or reduction of NPAH funding.

7.5 Commonwealth representative attending CSR meetings.

Members agreed that the State Manager, Department of Social Services, should continue to be invited on a regular basis to meetings. It was suggested that the Intergovernmental paper, as previously prepared by the Department and endorsed Nationally, should be revisited.

Action: Intergovernmental paper to be redistributed to members.
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8. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:40am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 10 February 2015.