

COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 10 May 2016

Meeting Room 1, Ground Floor
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 (CSR) meeting.

Present

Mr Basil Hanna	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc (Chairperson)
Ms Cheryl Barnett	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Ian Carter	Anglicare WA
Ms Irina Cattalini	WACOSS
Ms Mandy Gadsdon	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Mr Steve Glew	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Debbie Henderson	Family Inclusion Network of WA Inc
Mr David Hogg	Lifestyle Solutions
Ms Tricia Murray	Wanslea Family Services Inc
Ms Melissa Perry	Communicare Inc
Mr Tony Pietropiccolo	Centrecare Inc
Major Scott Smallacombe	The Salvation Army
Ms Emma White	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

In attendance

Ms Pippa Monger	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Sherilee Mitchell	Department for Child Protection and Family Support

Apologies

Ms Sue Ash	UnitingCare West
Ms Kay Benham	Department for Child Protection and Family Support
Ms Amanda Hunt	Mission Australia
Mr Ashley Reid	Ngala
Ms Dawn Wallam	Yorganop Association Incorporated/SNAICC

Meeting commenced at 9:37 am.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 8 March 2016

The minutes from the CSR meeting held on 12 April 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

It was raised at the April meeting there was some confusion regarding the number of, and linkages between, the reform activities being undertaken currently.

Action: A document mapping the reform projects to be developed and provided to members.

3 Actions Arising

3.1 Terms of Reference

No discussion at the meeting.

3.2 CSR Strategic Plan

- Ms Ash, Ms Hunt and Ms Murray developed outcome statements from the activities discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting and aligning with the terms of reference. An overarching principle about “the needs of Aboriginal children and their families will underpin all priorities and decision making” was included.
- Discussion is still needed in how to ensure this principle is adhered to in practice.
- Ms Gadsdon and Ms White will provide feedback before the draft is finalised. It is hoped to be distributed to members before the next meeting for feedback.

3.3 Discussion at the Funding & Contracting Working Group (FCWG) relating to ERO

- Mr Glew confirmed that Ms Ash was going to take a paper to the FCWG and then to feedback to the CSR. The FCWG meet quarterly and hasn't met since the last meeting. Feedback may be provided at the July CSR meeting.
- ERO and the tendering process needs to be raised with the FCWG, especially with changes to indexation policy in regard to consideration of wages.
- WACOSS has undertaken mapping of three different levels of the award, tracking if there was no increase or a 15% increase in 2011. The only discussions about the impact of ERO between WACOSS and Treasury have been through the FCWG.
- WACOSS has written to Commonwealth Ministers regarding the impact of the current funding arrangements on homelessness services. Will be undertaking more of this in the public space in next 8 weeks.
- Forward estimates from Commonwealth show no funding for NPAH post 30 June 2017. Conversations with the sector regarding the need to get into an intense lobbying mode, including the State Government writing to the Commonwealth.
- NPAPE expires on 30 June 2016, DPC in discussion with Commonwealth to get the agreement extended.
- 7 agencies impacted by NPAH reductions, with majority impacted through reduced service delivery. It was a cost sharing exercise with the funding from the reductions being directed to remaining services.
- Concern about the pay equity for staff at the cost of cutting services, do not want to see this trend roll out across the sector. Could be a real dilemma where staffing cannot be reduced due to minimum standards/staffing requirements.
- All Commonwealth funded programs receive an ERO subsidy, however with State/Commonwealth funded programs ERO becomes a problem.
- State Government using \$600 million funding package as the answer to the ERO, but sector viewed it as a catch-up on historical inequities and are now having to address increasing costs.

3.4 Department's Strategic Plan

- Ms White provided an overview of the Department's planning process and the current draft Strategic Plan, however this is still a work in progress.
- New format includes a detailed Operational Plan (18 month cycle) that will sit behind the three year Strategic Plan.
- Recent external evaluation research program on Signs of Safety undertaken by Leah Bromfield et al will inform next steps with a focus on localising for the WA child protection system. A series of papers on the evaluation will be published in journals.

Action: CSR to be provided information on the evaluation when it becomes available.

- Internal reviews are being undertaken around district structures and functions to ensure structuring of resources to effectively prevent children coming into care. Looking at implementation in early next year.
- Internal budget review is being implemented as going through each functional area, but has not impacted on district service delivery.
- Query regarding crossover of the Department's internal expenditure review with the community services expenditure review. Where there is an immediate opportunity, for example Earlier Intervention and Family Support Strategy (EIFSS), however it is not an immediate priority.
- Uncertainty regarding RPS through Royalties for Regions, would hope for a scaled down approach if it cannot be continued. If it is reduced, preference to have a state-wide approach.
- Collaborative service co-design needs to be clearly identified in the Strategic Plan with the reform activities.

3.5 Overview of Strategic Governance Framework and representation at the Family and Domestic Violence Governance Council (FDVGC)

- Intent in the FDV State Plan to develop a roundtable/council around preventing men's violence against women and assisting men's behaviour change. Hope to establish this group in second half of 2016.
- Currently no perpetrator response or intervention services representation on the FDVGC, but there is Women's Council representation and Government Departments that fund these programs (refer to FDVGC Terms of reference handout). Ms Perry is writing to the FDVGC to request this be considered.
- Family and Domestic Violence Advisory Networks advises the FDVGC and consists of up to 45 members with balance of Government and community sector organisations, including FDV peak bodies (refer to FDV Governance handout).
- Mr Carter raised the issue of the Chief Judge of the Family Court not being involved in the FDVGC given the number of cases in Family Court which involve drug and alcohol and family and domestic violence.
- Ms Mitchell provided an overview of strategic planning in WA (refer to National and State FDV Strategic Planning handout) demonstrating a coordinated approach to work in a national framework and State outcomes are aligned.
- Linkages between the CSR and FDVGC or Advisory Networks. FDVGC has agreed to a communique post each meeting, which will be provided to the CSR.

4. Agenda Items

4.1 Earlier Intervention and Family Support

- An updated Family Support Networks – Six Monthly Progress Report for reporting period 1 July to 31 December 2015 was provided to members prior to the meeting.
- It was noted:
 - Mirrabooka FSN numbers are still low, however there has been improvement in the six month period which corresponds with the new Alliance Manager.
 - Aboriginal numbers are still quite low proportionally; however the Managers are working to address this.
 - A lot more presenting issues around family support, parenting issues and parent/teen conflict as opposed to drug and alcohol or mental health. Recognised that this can be influenced by the services/resources available in the area, for example housing issues in the Mid West.
- Concern the report doesn't provide contextual analysis, especially in the outcomes tables where it is recorded there is no achievement; however CSR requested less narrative due to the reports being too long.

Action: Develop a template for FSNs to provide 1 page six monthly report detailing trends, outcomes, what is learnt from families that report no achievement and how is this information used.

- Treasury interested in FSNs however want to see how other government agencies can be brought into the networks. The main focus is developing an early intervention and family support outcomes framework.
- Department has self-funded FSNs through growth funding, no change in intent to roll out FSNs but not able to self-fund another one.
- In process of writing up thematic overview of consultations and submissions with the EIFSS. Received over 60 submissions and undertook 20 in person consultations. Really good feedback from Aboriginal agencies.

Action: Ms Gadsdon to send information out to CSR members and provide a presentation on the EIFSS at the June Meeting.

- Review of Intensive Family Support Services still progressing. Once report is finalised Ms Folan (consultant) will undertake a presentation to the sector agencies and then to Corporate Executive.

4.2 Planning, Co-design and Outcomes Framework

Nil.

4.3 Out of Home Care

- OOHC Reform presentation on Monday 16 May.

4.4 Watching Brief

Family and Domestic Violence

Discussion under section 3.5

Homelessness

Discussion under section 3.3

Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reform and Regional Human Services Reform

- Regional Services Reform workshop at WACOSS conference was very well attended and demonstrated a strong interest.

Early Years

Nil.

5. General Business

- The CSR Information Paper - Child and Parent Centres, Family Support Networks and Communities for Children has been updated in March 2016. Recognised that this would need to be regularly updated, especially in light of EIFSS.
- Members endorsed to distribute the paper.

Action: Ms Gadsdon to update the paper, members to email feedback to her and add to agenda for June meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and the meeting was declared closed at 11:28am. The next CSR meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 June 2016, at the Department for Child Protection and Family Support and will commence earlier at 8:30am to incorporate the consultation workshop with Terry Simpson.