

PARTNERSHIP FORUM

FACT SHEET

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PARTNERSHIP FORUM

- A policy priority for the Western Australian Government is to improve services and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable Western Australians.
- To deliver on this policy priority, in 2010 the Government established the Partnership Forum to act as a focal point to build the relationship between the public and not-for-profit community sectors and address issues of mutual concern to both sectors.
- To date the Forum has met eight times. It will next meet on 13 July 2012.
- The Forum comprises senior representatives from State Government agencies and the not-for-profit community sector. Members are appointed by the Premier for a period of 12 months. The Forum reports to the Premier on a six monthly basis.
- The Forum's mission is to improve outcomes for all Western Australians through a genuine partnership in the policy, planning and delivery of community services in Western Australia.
- The Forum has adopted a set of Partnership Principles and Behaviours, including:
 - a commitment to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for the Western Australian community;
 - a collaborative approach to decision making and working together recognising the interdependence in the delivery of community services; and
 - a commitment to empowering service users in the design, planning and delivery of community services.
- These principles provide for community consultation on all significant issues and the engagement of citizens in the ongoing design, planning and delivery of community services.
- For further information, including communiqués and newsletters, go to:
<http://www.partnershipforum.dpc.wa.gov.au>

PARTNERSHIP FORUM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2012

Mission: To improve outcomes for all Western Australians through a genuine partnership in the policy, planning and delivery of community services in Western Australia.

Principles

1. A commitment to improve social, cultural and economic outcomes for the Western Australian community.
2. A collaborative approach to decision making and working together recognising the interdependence in the delivery of community services.
3. A partnership based on mutual respect and trust, with openness and transparency in all activities.
4. A recognition of the value and contribution of both sectors in the delivery of community services.
5. An enduring commitment to sustainability of community services.
6. A commitment to empowerment of service users in the design, planning and delivery of community services.

Behaviours

1. An enduring focus and drive to deliver demonstrable improvements in outcomes for all Western Australians.
2. Consultation on all significant issues, including the development of policy, planning and service design.
3. Transparency in decision making, including through the sharing of data and information, basis of funding decisions and contracting requirements.
4. An interdependent approach to the planning and delivery of community services.
5. The public and community sectors will work together to ensure funding levels are sufficient for sustainable community services.
6. Engagement of citizens in the ongoing design, planning and delivery of community services, through direct and indirect methods of consultation and presentation in development of service delivery.

Governance, Evaluation and Oversight

- Strategic oversight and decision making by Partnership Forum.
- Ensure genuine benefits of the funding and contracting reforms for the NFP sector and the WA community more generally.
- Ensure regular reporting and monitoring mechanisms.

Sustainable Funding and Contracting

- Genuine partnership between Government, public and NFP sectors, focused on improved services for WA.
- Supporting a NFP sector which is flexible and adaptive in meeting community needs.
- Ensuring a fair and appropriate price for services purchased by the State Government from NFP sector organisations.
- A focus on achieving outcomes, performance and sustainable pricing.
- Building the sustainability and capacity of the NFP sector.

Policy, Planning and Service Design

- Improve services and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable people.
- Genuine partnership between Government, the public and NFP sectors in the policy, planning and delivery of community services.
- Person-centred approach to service design.
- Service users involved in the design, planning and delivery of services.
- Empowerment of service users.

Reducing the administrative burden

- Maintain the ongoing sustainability, flexibility and responsiveness of the NFP sector.
- Streamline the administration of funding and contracting arrangements.
- Minimise the level of monitoring and reporting by NFP organisations.
- Standardising contracting practices across public sector agencies.
- Encourage innovation and flexibility.

Supporting Social Enterprise and Innovation

- Enhance social enterprise in the community sector.
- Promote social innovation in the delivery of human services.
- Enable community sector organisations to implement new and innovative ways to meet social needs.

Investing in Implementation

- Effective implementation of funding and contracting reforms.
- Central Unit (Funding and Contracting Services Unit) to provide policy advice and support for the implementation of the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy*.
- Capacity building of public sector agencies and service providers.

A person centred approach will underwrite all initiatives emerging from these Directions