

## COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

### MINUTES OF MEETING Tuesday 9 October 2012

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

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| Mr Basil Hanna        | Parkerville Children and Youth Care Inc                      |
| Ms Cheryl Barnett     | Department for Child Protection                              |
| Ms Kay Benham         | Department for Child Protection                              |
| Mr Ian Carter         | AnglicareWA  |
| Ms Irina Cattalini    | WACOSS   |
| Mr Mick Geaney        | MercyCare  |
| Mr Neil Hamilton      | AccordWest   |
| Ms Carol Jones-Lummis | Share & Care Community Services Group                        |
| Ms Anne Moore         | Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA) |
| Ms Tricia Murray      | Wanslea Family Services Inc                                  |
| Ms Melissa Perry      | Mission Australia  |
| Mr Ashley Reid        | Ngala  |

##### In attendance

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| Ms Sandra Flanagan | Department for Child Protection |
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##### Apologies

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| Mr Tony Pietropiccolo | Centrecare Inc                        |
| Mr Steve Glew         | Department for Child Protection       |
| Ms Les Evans          | Ngnowar Aerwah Aboriginal Corporation |
| Mr Terry Murphy       | Department for Child Protection       |

#### 2. Minutes of meeting held 14 August 2012

The minutes from the Community Sector Roundtable meeting held on 14 August 2012 were confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

#### 3. Actions Arising

##### 3.1 Media Campaign

Members discussed the following points in relation to the foster carer campaign by DCP:

- The potential for NGO's to be included in a media campaign around foster carers.

- It was noted that the last campaign undertaken by DCP resulted in a heightened interest in NGO foster carers.
- It was queried if other foster care agencies could be included on the website with DCP.
- The potential to bring the marketing for foster carers from all agencies together into one cohesive, strategic campaign.

Members agreed to investigate the potential for a joint campaign for future foster carers recruitment campaigns.

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| <p><b>Action:</b> To determine where information, processes and links can be made in future foster carer campaigns. To be included on a future agenda.</p> |
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### **3.2 Opinion piece– including the Department of Housings Three Strikes policy and the Young Offenders Act.**

Ms Cattalini advised that this paper is being drafted. As agreed at past CSR meetings the scope is now much broader than was originally intended. Ms Cattalini will meet with the Chair to finalise and table at the next CSR meeting.

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| <p><b>Action:</b> Ms Cattalini to meet with the Chair to finalise the paper.</p> |
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### **3.3 Individualised Funding**

Ms Vernon noted that the paper was distributed to members requesting comment by 11 October 2012.

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| <p><b>Action:</b> Ms Vernon to resend the paper for members to review and provide comment.</p> |
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### **3.4 Agency Implementation Plan – extension of due date for costing information**

Ms Vernon advised that an extension to the due date for the costing information was provided to service providers. The paper has been completed and signed off by the Minister. The response rate was very high and the information collected was on par with expectations. The feedback was provided to Treasury with the Agency Implementation Plan. Youth was the area with the most significant funding shortfall. It was noted that the report used service group averages and totals not individual service data.

It was queried if these documents will be made public? It was agreed to ask Mr Glew to provide feedback on the Financial Implications report at the next CSR meeting.

Ms Cattalini provided an update on the Fairwork Australia funding decision. The total allocation has been increased from 2 to 3 billion dollars. The negotiations between State and Commonwealth have begun. Additionally, there are serious issues regarding NPAH contracts given the uncertainty of on-going funding. It was queried if CSR had a role in the contingency planning for homelessness should funding be reduced or cease and/or a role in strengthening the WA negotiations with the Commonwealth?

It was suggested that CSR develop a strategy of advocacy around these funding issues and a briefing was requested from DCP regarding the contingency plan for homelessness services.

Ms Vernon advised that significant work is being undertaken regarding homelessness funding issues. The ramifications to DCP and NAHA are also being considered should NPAH funding cease or be significantly altered. An evaluation of the NPAH has been undertaken and the implications of not continuing the funding has been reviewed and provided to Treasury and FaHCSIA.

Members discussed the negative impacts on services as a result of funding uncertainty, including their ability to employ and retain staff. It was suggested that CSR members write to Members of Parliament outlining the issues.

**Action:**

Feedback on the outcomes of the Financial Implications to be provided at the next CSR meeting.

A letter from CSR to the Federal Minister regarding uncertainty of NPAH funding to be on the next agenda.

The Chair to contact Mr Murphy to confirm who the letter should go from and to whom.

Mr Glew to provide an update on the contingency plan for homelessness services should NPAH cease.

### **3.5 Leadership and Partnership Forum –working group**

The Chair advised that the working group met to finalise guest speakers and the order of proceedings for the day. This is progressing well and an agenda will be finalised and distributed in the very near future.

### **3.6 Secure Care – distribution of evaluation report**

The Chair advised that the report has been distributed.

Members discussed the following:

- Concern that there has been a significant increase in the number of young people moving into tiers one and two inappropriately due to limited accommodation available in the tier most appropriate to their needs. This leads to issues with the capacity of the group home to deal with their needs.
- Sometimes it is not possible to know/understand the best fit for a young person initially and there is overlap between tiers.
- More comprehensive training is required, in many cases there may be under skilled people dealing with very complex situations. Better training will lead to better outcomes.
- Industrial relations implications where carers are not equipped to deal with the complexity of clients they are faced with. In many cases additional carers are required, ie increased number of carers to clients.
- The system is continuing to improve, including the addition of mentors and increased access to other services.
- Need to address the issues of violence towards carers.
- Ms Barnett agreed to provide information on the range of residential placements at the next meeting.

**Action:** Invite Paul Maher to a meeting early in the New Year to discuss the issues and possible solutions.

Ms Barnett to provide information on the range of residential placements at the next meeting.

### 3.7 Child Aware Approaches – successful applicants list

The Chair noted the list was distributed.

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 4.1 Changes to General Provisions

Members discussed the changes to General Provisions:

- *A new General Provisions (terms and conditions) document was created in July 2011 with the implementation of the State Government's Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy. Clause 14.5 of the General Provisions deals with Working With Children (WWC).*
- *Clause 14.5 exceeds the legal requirements of the Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004. This clause requires employees to have the completed WWC assessment before undertaking work under contract with a government agency where the work requires such an assessment. The implication is that the NGO will need to employ a person, undertake the WWC assessment and once that assessment is complete only then can that person undertake child related work.*
- *At a meeting on 20 August 2012 with the Department, the FaCS unit advised that higher level requirements of the General Provisions clause 14.5 has been conveyed/discussed with the NGO sector representatives (including their legal representatives) and that as a consequence no issues have been identified and the implications of clause 14.5 were fully understood.*

Members agreed that the requirements around the WWC are not possible to achieve and this should be referred to the Partnership Forum.

WACOSS had been informed that FaCS were going back to the State Solicitor to redraft to eliminate this error in the change to the WWC requirements, Ms Cattalini will follow up. At a meeting on 20 August 2012 with the Department, the FaCS unit advised that higher level requirements of the General Provisions clause 14.5 has been conveyed/discussed with the NGO sector representatives (including their legal representatives) and that as a consequence no issues have been identified and the implications of clause 14.5 were fully understood.

Ms Vernon agreed to forward the minutes from that meeting to Ms Cattalini.

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| <b>Action:</b> Ms Vernon to forward the minutes to Ms Cattalini. An urgent meeting to be arranged with the Chair, Ms Cattalini, the Chair of WACOSS and Mr Glew to discuss. |
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### 4.2 CCSA Review

Ms Cattalini advised that the review of the Children and Community Services Act is near completion. This review has been undertaken by the Department for Child Protection, on behalf of the Minister and will be tabled in Parliament by the end of the year. It has been an internal review and recommendations have been made for changes to the Act. The Reference Committee comprised of DCP, WACOSS, and relevant government agency representatives. Accepted recommendations will be legislated.

Policy issues have been raised through the process and will be tabled at CSR.

**Action:** Once public, the report is to be tabled at CSR for discussion. Policy issues to be tabled at CSR as appropriate.

## **5. Other Business**

### **5.1 Child and Parent Centres**

Mr Reid advised that the Child and Parent Centres have now been announced.

A report will be available early next year and an update will be provided to CSR members at that time.

### **5.2 MACCP**

The Chair advised that MACCP will be meeting in Geraldton this month. The minutes from MACCP meetings will be forward to members with the next CSR meeting papers.

As Ms Cattalini is now Deputy Chair of CSR it will be recommended to the MACCP Chair that she be added as a member.

### **5.3 NPAH**

Members asked that NPAH be included on the next CSR agenda.

## **6. Future Discussions**

See agenda – future discussions list.

## **7. Next Meeting**

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 13 November 2012 at 9:30am.