**Supporting Communities Forum Update**

The Supporting Communities Forum (the Forum) was established in late 2017 to support the implementation of the State Government’s Supporting Communities policy which is focused on improving the quality of services provided to vulnerable Western Australians. The Forum meets quarterly and held its third meeting on 17 September 2018. Meeting notes and communiques from each of the Forum’s 2018 meetings are available on the [**Forum’s webpage**](https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Councils-and-Committees/Supporting-Communities-Forum/Pages/default.aspx).

At the request of the Minister for Community Services the Forum recently provided input into the revised Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy. The revised DCSP Policy came into effect from 1 October 2018 and encourages planning and designing services in partnership with service providers and consumers of services, among other changes. Further information on the revised DCSP Policy is available from the [**Department of Finance website**](https://www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/Government_Procurement/Policies/Delivering_Community_Services_in_Partnership.aspx).

The work of the Forum is informed by a number of public sector reform initiatives currently underway in Western Australia. At its September meeting, the Forum discussed the State Government’s proposed Responsible Data Sharing reform noting that:

many lessons are being learned from South Australia’s approach to responsible data sharing;

the scope of the proposed reform is based on the safe sharing of personal and confidential data (note: not all sensitive data will be in scope) held by government agencies, with other government agencies and select third parties in the research community, and contracted service providers; and

the proposed ‘five safes’ are intended to inform CEOs’ decision making regarding appropriate circumstances to share data with the addition of cultural considerations for Aboriginal people; and

* central to this proposed reform is the need for the community to be confident in the arrangements which provide for the security and privacy of its data.

The Forum also welcomed the opportunity to provide comment and feedback to Ms Robyn Kruk AO, Chair of the Sustainable Health Review Panel, who provided an overview of Panel’s eight draft strategies and developing recommendations as it progresses towards submitting the Final Report to Government. Further information on the Sustainable Health Review is available from the [**Department of Health website**](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Sustainable-health-review).

As Co-Chairs of the Outcomes Framework Working Group, Dr Adam Tomison (Director General, Department of Justice) and Louise Giolitto (CEO, WA Council of Social Service) provided a substantive update to the Forum on the Working Group’s progress. A draft Outcomes Framework has been developed and will inform a number of other Supporting Communities policy commitments, such as the development of the biennial ‘Our Communities Report’ and procurement reforms. A stakeholder engagement plan is currently being prepared to inform a consultation process with the community on the draft Outcomes Framework.

Updates from each of the Forum’s seven working groups were provided and project plans, which identify clear deliverables for each Working Group, were formally endorsed at the September meeting of the Forum. Further details of the Forum’s working groups can be found on the [**Forum’s webpage**](https://www.dpc.wa.gov.au/Councils-and-Committees/Supporting-Communities-Forum/Pages/default.aspx).

The Forum’s next quarterly meeting will be held on 10 December 2018. Further information can be found on the Department of the Premier and Cabinet website or by emailing the Forum secretariat at SCF@dpc.wa.gov.au.