

FUNDING AND CONTRACTING SERVICES SPECIAL EDITION BULLETIN

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Welcome to this special edition of the FaCS Bulletin.



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Community Services

The State Government recognises there is considerable public concern about a possible COVID-19 pandemic, which may impact on the capacity of not-for-profit service providers to provide essential services to the community. Service providers may be disproportionately affected by staff absences due to the labour-driven and hands-on nature of providing community services. At the same time, demand for community services, particularly those linked to health and welfare needs, may increase if infection rates in the community increase.

As such, the provision of community services faces a unique challenge from COVID-19, and requires a united and collaborative response from government and the community services sector.



Staff shortages affecting service delivery— communication is key

If your organisation experiences staff absences related to COVID-19 and this impacts on service delivery, please contact your government agency contract manager as soon as is practicable to inform them and discuss how best to address the situation together. The [General Provisions for the Purchase of Community Services](#) requires service providers to notify government within five days of a 'force majeure' event impacting on services. The provided definition of a force majeure event includes epidemics and pandemics.

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Staff shortages affecting service delivery — communication is key *(continued)*

If you would like to discuss how COVID-19 may affect service delivery for your service agreement, please contact your government agency contract manager.

Please contact [Funding and Contracting Services](#) at the Department of Finance if you have any contract-specific enquiries.

State Government Response to COVID-19

The Western Australian Government is prepared and has taken precautions and implemented measures to minimise potential impacts to the community. The WA Government Pandemic Plan has been updated and sets out arrangements for protecting the community. The Plan includes practical advice for government agencies, private businesses, the community, households and individuals. The Plan is available at <http://www.wa.gov.au/covid19>.

Earlier this week senior staff from the public sector met with the community services sector peak organisations in order to better understand the unique issues facing this sector. Finance will continue to work in partnership with the key community services agencies and peak organisations to address critical issues in a timely manner.

For more information please visit <http://www.wa.gov.au/covid19>.

Members of the public can telephone the COVID-19 Health Information Line on 1800 020 080 for advice and find more information, including specific clinic locations, by visiting <http://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au>.

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For more information, please visit the [Department of Finance website](#). For any general enquiries please phone (08) 6551 1515 or [email FaCS](#).

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