

**From:** [Sector support COVID-19](#)  
**To:** [Sector support COVID-19](#)  
**Subject:** Message from the Director General, Department of Communities  
**Date:** Monday, 18 May 2020 11:33:45 AM

## Message from the Director General

Department of Communities



Hello everyone,

I am sure most of you welcome the State Government's announcement of the WA roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions. This is a very important step as we move towards recovery; however, we need to remain vigilant to ensure continued success in reducing the spread of the virus. Remember to look after yourself and those around you, and keep in mind that many people may be apprehensive about these changes and unsure of what it means for them. Please continue adhering to social distancing recommendations and maintaining good hand hygiene.

Last week the Department of Finance released the EOI process regarding personal protective equipment (PPE), with information on PPE for community services staff. The bulletin covers who is eligible for PPE, how to access it and how to manage urgent needs. More information can be found in the [FaCS May 2020 Special Edition Bulletin](#).

Communities is also working on developing some initial advice for the community services sector on returning to work in line with the Premier's [announcements](#). This will be available later this week. The requirement for businesses to develop COVID-19 Safety Plans prior to re-opening does not apply to community sector organisations, however the DPC template may be a useful tool for organisations to consider. Communities will continue to work with the community services Peaks Forum on ongoing advice for the sector as the recovery phase approaches.

The Community Sector Partnership team are continuing their work with Nous. A number of interviews with government and sector leaders were held last week and more will be conducted this week. These discussions will inform the partnership approach required to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 as we shift our focus towards recovery.

I would like to thank all the presenters and guests who joined me for the Department's 'Tuesdays at Twelve' webinars. The feedback from the presentations and discussions generated have been fantastic and I have enjoyed talking with all of you. I encourage us all to keep these conversations going as we embark on these new ways of working.

Finally, I encourage you all to take the time to reflect on the things we have achieved together as a sector over the last few months. Everyone should be proud of the contribution they have made. We still of course have a way to go - and there will be more challenges - but if we continue to communicate and collaborate, we can ensure our staff and the people who need our services continue to be supported.

Many thanks,

**Michelle Andrews**  
Director General  
Department of Communities

---

**The Department of Communities acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Western Australia and their connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their elders past and present.**

The Department of Communities (Communities) formed on 1 July 2017 and is responsible for the delivery of child protection and family support, community grants, funding and initiatives, education and care regulation, disability services, housing and regional services reform. During the transition phase emails sent from the Housing Authority domain will be converted to the Communities email address. This message may contain privileged and confidential information and is intended for the exclusive use of the addressee(s). You must not disclose this communication to anyone without the prior consent of Communities. If you have received this email in error, please notify us by return mail, delete it from your system and destroy all copies. Communities has exercised care to avoid errors in the information contained in this email but does not warrant that it is error or omission free.