



15 June 2020

## Funding and Contracting Services

Special Edition  
Issue 86

### 2020-21 indexation rate for community services

Service agreements are indexed annually based on the Perth Consumer Price Index and Western Australian Wage Price Index to ensure that funding for community services remains relative over time.

The 2020-21 indexation rate is 1.67% - an increase of .2% from the 2019-20 rate. Service providers with an eligible service agreement will receive this increase to prices from 1 July onwards.

**Indexation  
policy**

### Procurement changes to support local organisations

To support local organisations to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has introduced temporary changes to goods and services procurement thresholds. These changes run until 31 December 2020 and maximise contracting opportunities for local organisations.

Agencies can now:

- purchase directly from a local organisation up to \$250,000
- request written quotations up to \$500,000 where one or more local organisation are invited to quote
- extend existing contracts with local organisations for up to two years if the contract expires before 30 June 2021.

These changes are positive for community service providers in WA. Agencies now have even more flexibility to directly engage or invite organisations to quote. Service providers with an existing contract expiring before next June can also approach their contract manager to alert them to these changes, which may facilitate an extension.

**Tell me  
more**

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## Start planning your procurements

Ahead of elections the State government enters a caretaker period. During this time government agencies can't implement major decisions, including entering into significant contracts and other commitments. This may mean that they can't advertise requests, or award service agreements. With the upcoming March State election, the caretaker period is likely to apply from mid-January 2021.

Additionally, to avoid undertaking tender processes during COVID-19, government agencies have recently extended most community services contracts to 30 June 2021. This means a larger number of contracts are now due to expire at this time.

We recommend that agencies start planning their procurement timelines now to ensure the caretaker period does not impact expiring service agreements. Agencies must still give service providers a minimum of three months' written notice if the agreement will expire or not be extended.

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## Expressions of interest for personal protective equipment

If your service delivery is eligible and has been directly impacted by COVID-19, we are taking expressions of interest (EOI) for personal protective equipment (PPE). Eligibility is assessed in line with the [Department of Health guidelines](#), and EOIs will only be considered if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.

To date, ten service providers have contacted us requesting PPE. Most of these requests were for business as usual needs, not for COVID-19 related incidents. Please remember we are only able to provide PPE if your request meets the criteria outlined by the Department of Health.

### How to make a PPE request

Service providers who are eligible under the Department of Health guidelines can submit requests for PPE by completing and submitting [this template](#) to [pdwsalesreports@finance.wa.gov.au](mailto:pdwsalesreports@finance.wa.gov.au).

### Accessing PPE in a COVID-19 emergency

If you urgently require PPE for a COVID-19 related emergency, you should contact the State Health Incident Coordination Centre at (08) 9222 2017 or [shicc.covidoperations@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:shicc.covidoperations@health.wa.gov.au).

**PPE  
guidelines**

## Advice for community service providers on COVID-19

The WA Government have now published specific advice for the community services sector on [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au). You can also read about the suite of measures they have introduced to provide relief for community services in response to COVID-19.

**Relief  
measures**

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Department of Finance acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.