



October 2020

## Community Services Bulletin

Issue 88

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### Update from Lara Connor, General Manager

I am delighted to congratulate Kate Ingham, who many of you will remember as Director of FaCS, on her appointment to Deputy Director General of Finance's Advisory Services directorate. Kate will lead her teams in a strategic approach to a broad range of whole of government areas including Social Procurement; Procurement Frameworks; Audit, Accreditation and Risk; Procurement Policy including Reform; Market-led Proposals and Innovation; and Statutory Planning.

The Outcomes Measurement Framework is continuing to be developed, with a new round of consultation beginning shortly. This is a valuable opportunity to gain insights and learnings on the framework's primary indicators and measures to help shape its direction and implementation.

The new Procurement Framework is also scheduled to commence in early 2021. A key part of it is the Western Australian Procurement Rules. Led by Finance, the rules will harmonise the approach to procurement across state government purchases. Information will be available on [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au) as the initiative progresses, and we will be here to support both sectors during the transition.

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### Service agreements expiring 30 June 2021

Our recent audit of all contracts under the Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy highlighted a significant number of contracts expiring on 30 June 2021.



To ensure the continuity of services and give assurance to the sector, agencies will be collaborating with service providers in the coming weeks to discuss arrangements for contracts expiring this financial year.

We will continue to work with service providers, community sector leaders and government agencies to collectively deliver the most effective services to support vulnerable Western Australians.

If you have a contract expiring on, or before, 30 June 2021, or any concerns about service sustainability, we encourage you to discuss them directly with your agency contract manager.

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## Supporting collaborative peak body projects

Earlier this year we awarded a \$440,000 grant to WACOSS to fund community services sector peak bodies to support business continuity planning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seven projects were successful in the funding process and have resulted in exceptional outcomes for the local sector. The Youth Affairs Council of WA (YACWA) was one of the successful applicants. Their project focused on supporting youth workers and young people during quarantine by developing their skills for the future. The funding allowed them to enhance their online services and create an [online information hub](#) and [portal](#) for youth workers seeking professional development. YACWA also hosted eight online professional development and networking sessions, providing innovative opportunities for youth workers to connect with peers and engage in collaborative learning during isolation.

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## Upcoming training

Tendering for Community Services is now available as an [online module](#) and gives service providers a practical understanding of the request process.



We are also hosting a face-to-face [Developing Procurement Plans and Requests](#) workshop for public sector employees on 10 November. Attendees will gain practical skills for developing key community services procurement documents - including community services procurement plans and requests.

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## 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.**

