

***BUILDING A GENUINE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE
PUBLIC AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTORS***

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Overview

1. Background to the Partnership Forum.
2. Achievements to date.
3. What did it take and what did we learn?
4. Where to next?

Background

- The Premier meets regularly with the WA Council of Churches and other representatives from the not-for-profit sector.
- Focus on improving services and supports for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in the WA community.
- Growth in demand for community services and increase in complexity of need.
- Directions and recommendations outlined in the Economic Audit Committee Report – focus on delivering services to meet citizen's needs.

Partnership Forum

- Established by Government in April 2010.
- Joint membership comprised of 16 members from the public and community sectors.
- Independent Chair – Professor Peter Shergold.
- Meets quarterly, reporting to the Premier every six months.
- Has met on five occasions to date, with the Premier attending on two occasions.
- Next meeting tomorrow, and will include a strategic planning session.

Objectives of the Partnership Forum

- Build a genuine partnership between public and not-for-profit sectors, focused on improved outcomes for the WA community.
- Develop sustainable funding and contracting between the public and not-for-profit sectors.
- Promote social innovation and explore new ways of meeting community need.
- Reduce the administrative burden in both sectors.
- Ensure a person and community centered approach to service design and delivery.

Achievements to date

- Upholding Partnership Principles – the mission, principles and behaviors required for building a genuine partnership.
- Social Innovation Grants (SIGs) program – launched January 2011. First round of successful applicants announced in July 2011, with 9 innovative projects receiving funding.
- *My Life, My Way* – forum organised jointly with partner not-for-profit organisations to raise awareness and generate discussion about self directed services, held on 10 August 2011.

Achievements to date (cont.)

- Review of community sector funding – advice to Government as part of 2011-12 Budget process.
- *Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy* – developed jointly by both sectors and endorsed by Government, effective from 1 July 2011.
- Implementation and Governance Framework – oversight of key reforms for sustainable funding and contracting.

Delivering Community Services in Partnership Policy

- Overarching policy framework to guide the procurement reforms.
- Policy outlines a range of funding and contracting arrangements available and when they should be used.
- Includes measures to reduce the administrative burden.
- Oversight and governance of implementation by the Partnership Forum
- Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) Unit, Department of Finance, Government Procurement to provide support and guidance for both sectors.

Sustainable Funding

- Total funding of \$604 million over 5 years announced in 2011-12 State Budget, comprising:
 - \$491 million for an average 25 % increase to eligible service agreements by 2014-15;
 - \$96 million for continuation of Non-Government Human Services Sector Indexation Policy; and
 - \$18 million over five years to support implementation of the Policy by government agencies and not-for-profit sector.

What did it take?

- Broad engagement and consultation across both sectors, through working groups and informal discussions.
- Strong support and engagement from Directors General across the public sector.
- Central agency coordination and support, including secondments to and from the not-for-profit sector.
- Genuine commitment to building relationships – ongoing engagement, visiting, listening, flexibility, responsiveness.
- Clear and succinct communication with key stakeholders – regular communication with the Partnership Forum and central agencies.

What did we learn?

- Great policy capacity and a willingness in both sectors to work together.
- Genuine collaboration takes time and isn't always easy; the journey has only just begun.
- Listen, listen and listen some more.
- Keep stakeholders engaged and informed along the way.
- Be flexible and responsive to change and don't be afraid to try new things.
- Implementation thinking is critical...start early, engage and commit!

Where to next?

- **Partnership Forum:**
 - Ongoing governance and oversight of roll out of key funding and contracting reforms;
 - Joint approach to implementation in both sectors; and
 - Strategic planning session in August.
- **Social Innovation Grants** – Next round for applications are open.
- **Building capacity for Social Enterprise** – \$10 million grants program to support the growth of social enterprise in WA.
- **Self directed services in WA** – building on outcomes of the *My Life, My Way* Forum and next steps.