

Putting the Public First: Economic Audit Implementation

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Hello,

In the past few weeks, the Economic Audit Implementation Team has been busy preparing for the second meeting of the Partnership Forum, which will be held on 5 October. The Partnership Forum will have a number of important items to consider, details of which are outlined below.

This edition of the newsletter also takes a look at an interview Professor Peter Shergold AC conducted with the Premier; the recent WACOSS Social Innovation Forum; and work underway to progress the EAC's community hubs recommendation.

Thanks for your support and keep the feedback coming!

Best wishes,
The Economic Audit Implementation Team.

Partnership Forum

The second meeting of the Partnership Forum will be held on 5 October. The Forum will be reviewing and endorsing a number of significant pieces of work including:

Partnership Principles – accompanied with associated behaviours, the Principles will strengthen the relationship between the public and community sectors in the delivery of community services.

Collaboration for Community Policy – aimed at improving the way the sectors manage their contracting and funding relationship. The Partnership Forum will consider three preliminary papers prepared by the Procurement in Partnership Working Group. These are a general overview; a paper on the nature of the relationship between the sectors; and an options paper on pre-qualification.

Funding Shortfall – The Partnership Forum will consider the progress made to date by the Community Sector Funding Working Group.

Community Development Investment Fund and Social Innovation Grants Program – directions papers have been prepared for both programs, developed with guidance from a workshop attended by over 60 representatives of the public and community sectors and the WACOSS Social Innovation Forum.

The Partnership Forum is hosting a community briefing on 6 October – see the box below for details.

Contact: Rebecca Brown on 9222 9601

An Interview with the Premier

Partnership Forum Chair Professor Peter Shergold recently interviewed Premier Colin Barnett on his TV show *Social Business*. *Social Business* airs monthly on the Sky News Business channel.

The Premier shared his views on the importance and value of the community sector in Western Australia. Key points made by the Premier include the following:

- The benefits of the strong Western Australian economy have not been spread to all Western Australians. The State can do better in helping people in need.
- Not-for-profit organisations are well placed to deliver community services because they are closest to those in need. This allows them to help more people and ultimately provide better value for tax payers' money.
- 60 per cent of State Government funding for disability services goes to not-for-profit organisations. The Premier considers that this should be the standard across the community services sector.
- Peak community organisations can help smaller organisations with administration and compliance to reduce the pressure of red tape.
- Two priority areas that require the most attention are mental health and homelessness.

To watch the full interview online, visit www.skynewsbusiness.com.au and follow the links.

Community Hubs

The Economic Audit Committee (EAC) found that public service delivery systems in Western Australia by and large are responsive to the administrative needs of those systems rather than the needs and aspirations of individuals and communities. To address this, the EAC consultation rapidly established that there is widespread support for community hubs, but there is no common concept of what form they should take. The EAC envisaged that the hubs would bring together government and community sector service providers and provide them with devolved responsibility and authority to make decisions across a range of agency services at the local level.

The objective of the community hubs work is to facilitate a place-based collaboration between service providers so that a (vulnerable) person can access the support or service they need without being successively referred from one agency to another.

A project group with public and community sector representatives has been established to commence work on identifying and taking learnings from existing hubs in metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

Contact: Jane Roberts on 9222 8923

Upcoming Events!

Community Briefing by Partnership Forum

The Partnership Forum is holding a briefing session for the community on 6 October, 9am to 11am, City West Function Centre, West Perth. This will be a great opportunity to hear from Chair Peter Shergold, DPC Director General Peter Conran, and community sector representatives. All are welcome but you'll need to RSVP via the following link:

<http://www.wacosstraining.org.au/course.99>

Contact: Jim Vanapoulos on 9420 7222

Cheryl Kernot Lecture

Also on 6 October, Cheryl Kernot will be delivering a public lecture on social capitalism. The event is being held at the UWA University Club and will run from 6:00-7:00pm. To register, visit:

www.business.uwa.edu.au/school/eventregistration

Forum on Social Innovation in WA

WACOSS recently hosted an exciting forum on social innovation for the community sector. The forum was facilitated by Jason Clarke from Minds at Work. Jason is one of the most sought after creative minds in the country, consulting on issues of leadership and innovation to some of Australia's biggest companies and institutions.

Feedback from sector representatives attending the forum was very positive. The forum provided an opportunity to reflect on how to apply thinking tools to develop solutions to meet the many challenges our communities face today and the role that social innovation and enterprises may play in delivering better community outcomes.

Rebecca Brown, Executive Director from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, joined a panel discussion on social innovation and the role of the community, business and government. Rebecca provided valuable information on the many opportunities for social innovation and enterprise through the State Government's implementation of the Economic Audit Committee recommendations.

A topic of great discussion was the changing relationship between Government and the community sector and finding innovative paths and methods to develop new service delivery models. Sue Ash, CEO of WACOSS; David Bagher, WA State Manager, Many Rivers Opportunities; and Peter Quarmbay, Community Sector Banking, joined Rebecca on the panel.

The forum also provided an insight on interstate developments through Social Traders which is an independent social enterprise development company based in Melbourne.

Key messages from the forum were that we should be building on the good work already being done, as well as capitalising on the momentum for change and innovation to meet challenges ahead.

Contact: Jim Vanapoulos on 9420 7222