

MEDIA RELEASE

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WACOSS Welcomes Economic Audit Committee Report, Awaits Reform

“WACOSS welcomes the Economic Audit Committee’s report, and we look forward to working with the WA Government to implement the report’s recommendations”, said Sue Ash, CEO of the Western Australian Council of Social Service.

The Economic Audit Committee was formed by the WA Government to examine ways to deliver better outcomes for the people of WA.

“The report contains 43 recommendations, many of which are directed towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of publicly-funded services”.

“WACOSS has long argued that not-for-profit organisations can deliver many key services to the community more effectively and efficiently than the public sector, and this report recognises that fact”.

Ms Ash expressed particular support for the Committee’s recommendations that:

- Principles for cooperation between Government and the community services sector and a new policy for funding community services should be developed and a new Partnership Forum between Government and the community services sector should be created;
- Pilots of ‘self-directed services’ should be implemented to give users of human services greater control;
- Administration costs for not-for-profit organisations should be reduced through measures such as a pre-qualification program for Government funding; and
- New forms of financial support for the community services sector should be created, including a Community Development Investment Fund and a social innovation grants fund.

“The report provides a way forward for Government and the community services sector to work together to improve outcomes for the people of Western Australia”, said Ms Ash.

“We now await the Government’s commitment to implement these recommendations and provide adequate financial support to not-for-profit organisations”.

“While there is considerable scepticism in the community services sector about the value of rhetoric regarding partnership and reform, we take the Government at its word that it’s serious about improving outcomes for the people of Western Australia. WACOSS looks forward to working with the Government and the community services sector to implement the Committee’s recommendations”, concluded Ms Ash.

For further comment:
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