

PARTNERSHIP FORUM
16 May 2011
COMMUNIQUÉ

On 16 May 2011 the Partnership Forum held its fifth meeting. The Premier, the Hon Colin Barnett MLA, addressed the Forum. Key issues discussed by the Forum included sustainable funding and contracting between the public and not-for-profit sectors and progress with the first round of the Social Innovation Grants Program.

ADDRESS BY THE PREMIER

The Premier thanked the Partnership Forum members for their work so far, including the work progressed on developing key funding and contracting reforms. The Premier advised that these reforms would be the central feature of the 2011-12 State Budget. The Premier asked that all members support the reforms as they are rolled out, to ensure that the benefits are maximized for the WA community.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND CONTRACTING WITH THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT SECTOR

The Forum endorsed a proposed governance and implementation framework for key funding and contracting reforms with the not-for-profit sector. Key elements of this framework include:

- An overarching policy framework;
- Implementation of Components I and II of the funding;
- Indexation arrangements;
- Transition arrangements;
- A governance framework, including proposed reporting and monitoring mechanisms, and process resolution; and
- Proposed outline of an evaluation framework.

Ongoing monitoring and oversight by the Partnership Forum on a quarterly basis will become a feature of the implementation of these reforms.

SOCIAL INNOVATION GRANTS PROGRAM – SELECTION PANEL

The Forum received a presentation by Professor Paul Flatau, Chair of the Social Innovation Grants Program Selection Panel. Professor Flatau outlined at a high level the process by which first round applications are being shortlisted, reporting that over 100 applications

were received in total from a range of community sector organisations from all over the State.

The Selection Panel will make recommendations to the Premier in June, with funding announcements expected by the end of the financial year.

Key learnings from this initial round of applications will be reported to the Forum at the next meeting to be held on 12 August 2011 and be used to further refine and add value to the Program.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND

The Forum was advised that, in response to their recommendations, the Premier has agreed to convert the proposed loan fund into a grants program linked to the development of social enterprise. It was considered that this shift was necessary because of the lack of infrastructure currently in place in WA to support a social enterprise loan scheme. Accordingly, \$10 million has been allocated in the State Budget to the Community Development Investment Fund for 2011-12.

The Forum sought further clarity regarding the desired outcomes of a grants program and how it will operate. This will be informed by a workshop of key stakeholders proposed to be held in July.

SELF-DIRECTED SERVICE DESIGN

A self-directed service design forum, hosted by the Partnership Forum, will be held on 10 August 2011. The key objective of the forum is to generate discussion and interest in self-directed service design among people and consumer groups, community sector organisations and government agencies. It aims to do this in an open and collaborative style, based on shared learnings, and is intended to lead to future conversations and events. The forum will also provide practical ideas to implement self-directed service design.

NEXT MEETING

The Partnership Forum's next meeting will be held on 12 August 2011. The Forum will have a number of agenda items to discuss and will also be holding a planning session to develop the future scope and agenda of the Forum.

A pre-brief of the Partnership Forum to the community sector more generally will be held on 11 August 2011 to inform and shape the planning session.