

The Emerging Issues Forum is our principal strategic event held each year. It provides analysis of the trends and issues emerging in WA's community services sector, which then informs the service and strategic planning needs of the executives and boards of community service providers into the future.

Federal

A Living Wage and Liveable Income Support

Federal election said to be a 'referendum on wages'. Low income workers need a pay rise ... but what about those on income support? We need an increase in Newstart and other payments to tackle poverty and drive economic growth. Sector should support *Raise the Rate* campaign.

Gender Equity

Community attitudes towards gender have been changing, with more focus on the gender pay gap. Blind-spot for women receiving income support and the impact of discriminatory social security policy, particularly on single mothers.

Who Regulates the Regulators?

Dead fish, criminal banker and abuse in aged care facilities. The last two decades have seen the politicisation and 'de-fanging' of our regulators. How then do we ensure independent institutions support the health and fairness of our democracy?

Good Economic Management?

More pork-barrelling and tax breaks in the lead up to the Federal Election, as parties posture on their economic management credentials. We need more focus on progressive revenue and expenditure measures, with an eye to the long-term diversification and resilience of our economy.

Housing Policy

Need to prioritise 'the right to shelter' over wealth generation. Government must recognise the role of housing as critical public infrastructure that enables economic growth and supports community.

State

Service Priority Review

Whatever happened to the recommendations? Rising concern over the implementation of the Machinery of Government changes and the gap between rhetoric and reality. No indication siloes have been overcome, the names have simply been changed ... to protect the innocent?

Sustainable Health Review

Implications for community service delivery through a public health model, with a focus on the social determinants of health. Application of evidence-based prevention and early intervention for child protection and early developmental vulnerability.

Whose Priorities?

Lack of consultation on the Premier's 'Our Priorities' targets and a lack of collaboration in their implementation. Concerns that poor targets and a focus on 'easy wins' could lead to perverse outcomes (for example, in early childhood development).

Sector

The Pulse of the Sector

Disappointed and disillusioned. Failure to effectively implement Supporting Communities Policy. Uncertain and unsustainable funding, leading to low staff morale.

Whatever happened to Partnership?

Concern the commitment to collaboration has hollowed out and we've lost community consultation and advisory mechanisms across government. Call for a review of *Delivering Community Services in Partnership* policy compliance and the effectiveness of the Supporting Communities Forum.

Civil Society Leadership

Do sector executives see themselves as civil society leaders with a mission or as business managers delivering public service contracts? Do Boards measure performance against mission? How can we replace growing timidity with passion to improve our impact?

Social

Decolonisation

A need to reset policy in Indigenous affairs to prioritise self-determination post the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the Closing the Gap Reset.

Climate Equity

Community strongly supports action, but resistance from political leaders to do what is necessary. Those in poverty most at risk from impacts of a warming climate.

Social Cohesion

Need for a focus on social cohesion and to combat bigotry in society. Significant concerns over the rise of far-right. A deepening of democracy is required.

On the Radar

- Disability Royal Commission
- Federal Election likely in May 2019
- Federal Budget in April
- State Budget in May

For more information on the Raise the Rate campaign and how to get involved, visit raisetherate.org.au.



RAISE
THE RATE