

SENIOR OFFICERS' GORDON IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (SOGIG)

Tuesday 22 April 2003, 11.00am – 12.30pm

Minutes of the Meeting

TABLED By
LYNSEY
WARBEY
AUG 21 2003

PUBLIC

1. Present and Apologies

Members Present

Shawn Boyle (Department of Premier & Cabinet, DPC) Co-chair
Colleen Hayward (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, ATSIC) Co-chair
Mike Pervan (Department of Health, DoH)
Howard Pedersen (Dept of Local Government and Regional Development, DLGRD)
Graeme Stephens (Office of Aboriginal Economic Development, OAED)
Annette Wells (Department of Justice, DoJ)
Michael Thorn (DPC)

Others Present

Greg Cash (Dept of Housing & Works, DHW)	Glenn Pearson (ATSIC)
Graeme Castlehow (WA Police Service, WAPS)	Alan Pitman (OAED)
Benita Cattalini (Dept of Indigenous Affairs, DIA)	Stuart Reid (DIA)
Trevor Clarey (Dept of Housing & Works, DHW/GEHA)	Richard Robinson (Family & Community Services, FACS)
Jenni Collard (Dept of Community Development, DCD)	Karen Taylor (Dept of Education, DoE)
Judy Hogben (DCD)	Helen Phelan (Secretariat)
Felicity Horrocks (DHW)	Lynn Barentine (Secretariat)

Apologies:

Graham Barrett (DIA)	Bruce Brennan (WAPS)
Lynsey Warbey (Secretariat)	Bob Somerville (DoE)
Ben Harvey (Office of Premier)	Kerry Fijac (DHW)
Lex McCulloch (DCD)	Cheryl Schmidt (FACS)

*Please note that Danny Ford has left DCD and therefore will no longer be on the SOGIG.

2. Previous Minutes

2.1 Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes were adopted as amended.

APPROVED

2.2 Review of Actions Arising

Item 3.2 – Swan Valley Nyungah Community (SVNC)

Helen Phelan tabled a report on the services currently being provided to the SVNC. It was noted that ATSIC had not been specifically requested to provide a list of the services that they are currently providing. Colleen Hayward stated that she would see that this was provided to the Secretariat. All Departments were then requested to provide notice of any services that were not included in this list so that it could be updated. It was also requested that more details be provided on school attendance levels, as this is an ongoing issues in these communities.

Item 6 – Place Management

Shawn Boyle stated that he has begun the process of hiring a consultant to complete the preparation of a place management policy.

Warburton Proposal – Howard Pedersen reported that all stakeholders were now engaged.

NOTED

ACTIONS

- Update draft report on current services provided to the SVNC with information provided by ATSIC and other Departments. ATSIC, Secretariat
- Secretariat to redistribute report once updated Secretariat
- Education to provide information on school attendance levels in the SVNC DoE

3. Correspondence

3.1 Letter from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research dated 10 April 2003 regarding additional funding for the WA Aboriginal Child Health Survey.

A letter from the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research concerning the WA Aboriginal Child Health Survey (WAACHS) was tabled at the meeting. Discussion centred on the need for a coordinated Whole of Government response to the request for funding to complete the analysis and reporting of the WAACHS results. Shawn Boyle confirmed he was lead officer and all correspondence should be forwarded to him. A focus group of relevant stakeholders has had a preliminary meeting and would be preparing a whole-of-government response to the WAACHS.

ACTIONS

- Advise the SOGIG on the progress of this whole-of-government approach. **Shawn Boyle**

4. Secretariat Update

4.1 Communication and Reporting

The Senior Officers noted the recommendations contained in Helen Phelan's paper. The communication strategy will be developed further in the coming weeks in consultation with the appropriate officers in relevant departments.

Issues arising from the general discussion:

- need for differing types and forms of information that can be distributed to different audiences such as the general public, central and regional government officers, non-government organisations and targeted communities;
- need for the May Progress Update to be in a form suitable for publication;
- for printed as well as electronic information, such as brochures and pamphlets that explain the Government's Response to the Gordon Inquiry and progress on specific initiatives;
- need for a progress bulletin for general distribution; the purpose of the current SOGIG Weekly Bulletin is provision of updates and new information to the Senior Officers and may contain information that is confidential to the SOGIG. A separate Gordon Implementation progress bulletin will be provided by the Secretariat for wider distribution during the week after each Senior Officers Group meeting;
- significance of the Reporting Proformas, which will be utilised to prepare not only the May Progress Update to Cabinet but also the Gordon Implementation update bulletins; officers were reminded that these are due on Thursday, 24 April.

NOTED

ACTIONS

- Senior Officers to provide to the Secretariat the name of a contact person in each department to contribute to the development of a Gordon Implementation website. **All**
- Senior Officers to provide the Secretariat with the contact details of departmental officers, including regional staff, specifically interested in receiving regular update bulletins. **All**
- Development of a long-term communication strategy in consultation with SOGIG agencies. **Secretariat**
- Secretariat to produce a progress report for general distribution to Government officers during the week after each SOGIG meeting. Senior Officers to assist by providing brief updates on progress or newsworthy. **All, Secretariat**

4.2 Evaluation Framework

Graham Barrett (DIA) and Helen Phelan have begun working on the evaluation framework. There is a need to consult and coordinate on the framework with officers from each relevant department and the Senior Officers were requested to nominate an officer from each of their departments to work on developing the framework.

Issues arising from the general discussion:

- It was stated that the Premier is very concerned about the evaluation of the Gordon Response initiatives and the development of a suitable framework to evaluate the whole-of-Government initiatives;
- Need to look at benchmark agreements, specifically those relating to the *Statement of Commitment to a New and Just Relationship*;
- Graeme Castlehow suggested that a longitudinal study of benefits experienced by the community would be useful for evaluation and development of best practice standards.

ACTIONS

- Senior Officers to provide to the Secretariat the contact details of an officer from their department with appropriate skills to assist with the development of the evaluation framework.

All

5. Engagement and Prioritisation

Stuart Reid reported that the first round of consultation with ATSIC Regional councils has been completed. Some of the common themes were:

- shared responsibility;
- provision of information about what Government is doing and how individual communities can be involved;
- joint planning – regional planning needs to link into ATSIC planning role.

Issues arising from these Regional meetings:

- need for on-going State and ATSIC resourcing for the engagement process;
- need for regional officers to be available to work together;
- need for further consultations as each initiative is being progressed.

Issues arising from the Senior Officer's discussion:

- this process needs to be tied into specific initiative timelines;
- Colleen Hayward clarified the future role of ATSIC due to the current restructure, stating that little would change for the Regional Councils. Regional Councils will make recommendations for funding to ATISIS staff, which would then make the final determination for the distribution of funding. Most current ATSIC staff will be transferred to ATISIS. This change would insure better accountability with Councils and Commissions focused on high level policies and engagement, effective 1 July 2003.

ACTIONS

- A report will be prepared on the engagement process for presentation to the 30 April IAAC meeting and distribution to the SOGIG with specific recommendations. **Stuart Reid**

6. Place Management Concept

This was reported in Item 2.2, Review of Actions Arising.

7. Progress Reports (deferred from previous meeting)

Reports on specific initiatives will no longer form part of the standing agenda for SOG. These initiative reports will be submitted for inclusion in the SOGIG Weekly Bulletin and would be opened for any discussion at the SOGIG meeting by exception.

7.1 Safe Places

Lex McCulloch was not present and this item was deferred.

7.2 Community Futures

No comment on at this time.

7.3 SARC Expansion

Mike Pervan commented briefly on the report submitted in the last Weekly Bulletin. A specific achievement to note was that SARC and CPU had begun communicating with each other.

8. Late Items

8.1 Submission to Social Policy Standing Committee – Kimberley Interpreting Service

Stuart Reid stated that the specific issue here is the provision of on-going funding for the interpreting service and all State departments, as well as the Commonwealth, should be encouraged to contribute. They were seeking additional funding over last years budget to increase training in additional languages and to provide support for specific Gordon initiatives. Graeme Castlehow stated that there may be some scope for APLOs to widen their service to encompass some of this type of service.

ACTIONS

- Report to go to Directors General for their support and recommendations. **Stuart Reid**

9. New Business (10 min)

9.1 Proposed Recruitment and Workplace Relations Service

Benita Cattalini spoke to the discussion and clarified that the working group comprises DHW, DLGRD, OAED, DIA, ATSIC and the WA Housing Coalition. It was agreed that there is a need for further consideration and discussion about this proposal.

ACTIONS

- Item deferred for further discussion at next SOGIG meeting. **Secretariat**

9.2 Other

9.2.1 Indigenous Families Program (IFP)

The issue was raised that a number of departments are now withdrawing funding support for this initiative.

ACTIONS

- Investigate what specific commitments individual Departments originally made to the IFP and report to next SOGIG. **Secretariat**

9.2.2 Strong families Program

Interest was expressed about the expenditure of allocated funds on this project in the current financial year.

ACTIONS

- Include update on Strong Families Program in next SOGIG Weekly Bulletin. **Lex McCulloch**

9.2.3 IAAC Northbridge Priority Project

Michael Thorn briefly talked about the project and stated that it had developed around the *Statement of Commitment to a New and Just Relationship*. It had focused on joined up links to dealing with the problems and resolved that it needed strong political leadership to solve those. The curfew is one step in a broader approach to a complex issue.

During discussion it was stated that the Gordon Response highly relevant to this project. Mr Thorn stated that Government would be calling on individual departments for initiatives to be a part of this plan. Some programs that are relevant are the IFP and Strong Families.

10. Meeting closed at 1.10pm - NEXT MEETING: 13 May 2003, 11.00am