



**The Hon Tony Simpson MLA  
Minister for Local Government; Community Services;  
Seniors and Volunteering; Youth**

Our Ref: 49-02187

Hon Barry House MLC  
President of the Legislative Council  
Parliament of Western Australia  
Parliament House  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Mr President

**ADDENDUM  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013**

I request that the attached addendum for the Department for Communities Annual Report 2012-2013 be added to the Tabled paper to correct some errors found after printing. They are enclosed at Attachment 1.

- page 6; column 2; paragraph 2; line 2: the figure should be \$37.1 million and not \$39.4 million.
- page 35; column 1; last paragraph; line 3: the figure should be \$37.1 million and not \$39.4 million.
- page 82; column 1; Service Expenditure table: the first heading should be Child and Family Services, not Child Care Services.

Changes on the page are marked by an asterisk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Simpson'.

**HON TONY SIMPSON MLA  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT; COMMUNITY SERVICES;  
SENIORS AND VOLUNTEERING; YOUTH**

29 OCT 2013

## 1.1 Director General's report

With the formation of the new Department of Local Government and Communities effective from 1 July 2013, this is the final annual report for the Department for Communities. The following achievements are highlighted:

- Launched Parenting WA in 2009, providing a universal support, information and referral service to Western Australian parents, grandparents and caregivers of children from pre-birth to 18 years. The service has recently been extended with a trial of online training programs and the use of social media in order to reach more families.
- Further developed and expanded the Best Start program, an Aboriginal Early Years program delivered by Aboriginal staff for families with children aged less than five years to support their healthy development and transition to school. The Department for Communities won the Polytechnic West's 2012 Employer of the Year Award for its work in supporting Best Start staff to undertake accredited training modules in child development.
- Worked closely with the education and care sector to implement the Council of Australian Government's Early Childhood Reform Agenda. This includes the introduction of the National Quality Framework and the *Education and Care Services National Law (WA) Act 2012*, which now underpins the state government's regulation of over 900 education and care services providing child care for more than 73 000 children, and support for almost 54 000 families.
- Developed and implemented the Regional Community Child Care Development Fund (supported by Royalties for Regions funding of \$9.3 million over four years), to support more viable and sustainable regional child care options.
- Managed the WA Seniors Card program, which has grown from 262 600 card holders in 2008 to nearly 345 000 in 2013.
- Provided Cost Of Living Rebate payments to 287 954 seniors worth \$37.1 million in 2012, the largest bulk payment ever made by a Western Australian state government agency.\*
- Introduced and later expanded the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate Scheme and provided 12 245 rebates in 2012–13, valued at \$2.2 million.
- Worked in partnership with our funded agencies to implement the state government's sustainable funding and procurement reforms, developing jointly-agreed long-term outcome-based service agreements across six of the department's nine funding programs to date, comprising more than 150 services.
- Led the development of and administered the Social Innovation and Social Enterprise Fund grants programs to support innovation and enterprise across the community service sector.
- Worked with the World Health Organisation to develop age friendly cities indicators and implemented grants for local governments, along with 'An Age Friendly WA', a strategic planning framework for seniors.
- Developed the 'Our Youth-Our Future: Western Australia's Youth Strategic Framework' to promote a whole of government approach to programs and service planning.
- Formed the Youth Mentoring Reform Group, in partnership with the community sector, and developed a strategic framework and suite of resources to support best practice approaches to youth mentoring.

\* Addendum – 7 October 2013

- Strengthened youth decision making and planning skills by further developing best practice approaches for youth-led programs and projects, including National Youth Week and Refugee Week.
- Raised community awareness in Regional Western Australia about the issues facing refugees and the perspectives of young people by initiating the South-West and Great Southern tours of the Refugee Week art exhibition.
- Improved engagement with young Western Australians through the launch of a youth Facebook page and an e-newsletter.
- Provided information on financial literacy to young people by developing the 'My Money My Life' publication in partnership with the City of Joondalup.

## Seniors

- Provided information and linked seniors to the benefits offered through the WA Seniors Card by distributing the Seniors Card Directory 2012–13 to over 420 000 Seniors Card holders and providing information to over 61 000 callers to the Seniors Telephone Information Service. The directory contains information on government concessions and rebates and a wide range of discounts offered through the private sector.
  - Assisted seniors to meet rising cost of living pressures by delivering the Cost of Living Rebate payment, providing 287 954 payments totalling \$37.1 million.\*
- Improved the safety and security of thousands of seniors in their homes by delivering the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate payment for seniors, providing 12 245 payments totalling \$2.2 million.
  - Promoted images of positive ageing, raised awareness of the valuable contribution of seniors and provided opportunities for community involvement through the coordination of the Bendigo Bank Seniors Week Festival. The week commenced with the WA Seniors Awards Gala Ceremony and continued with in excess of 100 registered community activities and events across the state.
  - Provided policy direction for the activities of government and the community to respond to an ageing Western Australia by developing 'An Age Friendly WA: The Seniors Strategic Planning Framework 2012–17'.
  - Increased community access to information about concessions, rebates and subsidy schemes by developing the Concessions WA portal. This easy-to-use online resource is a one stop information shop for concessions provided by the Government of Western Australia.
  - Assisted older people to better plan for their future housing needs by developing the 'Age Friendly Homes' kit.
  - Built links between agencies involved in delivering services to seniors by establishing the 'Age Friendly Communities' professional network.
  - Increased community understanding of elder abuse by developing community education resources on the topic of elder abuse for broad dissemination.
  - Increased knowledge of available services and resources for grandparents raising grandchildren by redeveloping the 'Grandfamilies Resource Kit'.

\* Addendum – 7 October 2013

### 33. Explanatory statement (continued)

#### Service expenditure

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2013

No significant variance in service expenditure

Significant variances between actual results for 2013 and 2012

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Child and Family Services* a	46 871	41 150	5 721
Redress WA Scheme b	33	31 698	(31 665)

a The variance is mainly due to the commencement of operation of the Early Childhood Regulatory Unit with expanded functions under the National Quality Framework. In addition, there has been additional expenditure associated with government initiatives such as the Social Innovation Grants Program, the Social Enterprise Fund, Foodbank WA 2030, Beyond Gambling Grants Program and the Royalties for Regions – Regional Community Child Care Development Fund.

b The variance is mainly due to the winding down of the Redress WA Scheme in 2012 resulting in a decrease in ex gratia payments to Scheme recipients and associated administrative expenses.

#### Capital contribution

Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2013

No significant variance in capital contribution

Significant variances between actual results for 2013 and 2012

	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Capital contribution	—	1 690	(1 690)

The variance is mainly due to the receipt in 2012 only of capital funding to upgrade the Department's Child Care Centres kitchens to meet current *Health Act* and Regulations and Local Government Regulations and Standards.

\* Addendum – 7 October 2013

### 34. Financial instruments

#### (a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by the department are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables, and payables. The department has limited exposure to financial risks. The department's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the department's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the department.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at note 34(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 19 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the department's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, the department trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The department has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the department's exposure to bad debts is minimal. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.