



District Leadership Groups in Western Australia

Background

In 2012 Regional Human Services Managers Groups (RHSMG) were established as a forum for the State Government to engage with non-government service providers, local governments, and the community on an ongoing basis.

In 2015-2016 several regional and remote RHSMGs became District Leadership Groups (DLG), supported by the Regional Services Reform Unit (RSRU). The DLGs meet regularly to explore local operational issues and initiatives, and membership ideally includes representatives from all levels of Government, the community services sector, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) and industry. In late 2017, members of RHSMGs and DLGs attended a facilitated workshop to develop a shared vision for the groups and to determine how they could work into the future.

The transformation of RHSMGs into DLGs is aimed at improving regional collaboration and coordinated service delivery while strengthening accountability.

The Department of Communities (Communities) is acting as the driver and facilitator for DLG development in Western Australia by providing a program of assistance to each region, which may include governance, decision-making, leadership development, and outcomes and priority-setting. Members of Communities' Corporate Executive act as sponsors for each group, and the Public Sector Leadership Council has endorsed Communities' commitment to the development and support of DLGs. The Department's support is aimed at strengthening the principle of shared ownership.

Communities believes that an effective network of strong, self-supporting DLGs across the State will have a fundamental impact on improving outcomes for all Western Australians. DLGs will make a significant contribution to delivering on several recommendations from the [Service Priority Review](#).

RHSMGs and DLGs vary in their development, operating model, and governance, and face multivariate regional influences. Several RHSMGs and DLGs will have joint oversight of implementation of the [South West Native Title Settlement's](#) (SWNTS) community development framework, and will work with the Settlement's six representative Noongar Corporations, once established, to ensure Noongar input into the design and delivery of regional services in those areas covered by the Settlement.