

**Message from
Community Sector Partnership Team**

Department of Communities



Launch of WACONNECT Data Exchange

The Department of Communities is working in partnership with the WACOSS, the Peaks Forum, and Lotterywest to expand the reach of [WACONNECT](#) – WA's whole-of-sector community services directory.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how important it is to know what services are available during an emergency, and to be able to provide this advice to people in immediate need.

WACONNECT has the capacity to collect data about services – opening hours, locations, and different types of emergency support that services can provide to people doing it tough. As the Department, it was challenging to find access to this information in the midst of the pandemic.

WACONNECT can provide a centralised mechanism of collecting critical data about community services during a pandemic. It is important to ensure that we get this information ready now, so we are prepared in the instance of a future emergency situation, whether it is related to COVID-19 or something else altogether.

The Department encourages community organisations to [register](#) with WACONNECT and fill in the Data Exchange survey. Both the service information provided through the registration with WACONNECT, and the responses to the Data Exchange survey, will provide us with important information that will be shared across the government and community sectors.

To access further explanation and more detailed instructions for registering on WACONNECT and completing the survey, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions about registering on WACONNECT, please contact Leela James at leela@wacoss.org.au.

We encourage you to share this information with your networks in the community services sector.