

State Government Social Assistance and Allied Health Interagency Working Group

Background

In 2018, the State Training Board's Social Assistance and Allied Health Steering Committee developed for the Minister for Education and Training, the *Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy*, in consultation with industry peak associations, employers, unions and government agencies.

The workforce strategy highlighted the fundamental changes taking place in these sectors, driven by new government policy, changing consumer expectations and an increasingly contestable market. These changes coincide with an escalating demand for services, led by the disability and aged care sectors.

The State Training Board's workforce strategy was presented to the Jobs and Economic Diversification Cabinet Sub-Committee, together with a preliminary State Government response, coordinated and prepared by the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD) in consultation with key State Government agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of establishing a Social Assistance and Allied Health Interagency Working Group (IWG) is to implement the workforce strategy and ensure there is cross-sector collaboration across key State Government agencies.

The IWG will work alongside in partnership with the State Training Board's Steering Committee to ensure there is a shared responsibility between industry and the State Government to address the workforce issues identified for the sectors.

The Chair of the IWG will report to the Minister for Education and Training through the Director General, Department of Training and Workforce Development.

Membership

- Kathy Hoare (Chair), A/Director, State Workforce Planning, Department of Training and Workforce Development
- Ben O'Rourke, Director Inclusion, Department of Communities
- Suzanne Velarde, Project Manager Sector Engagement, Department of Communities
- Susan Quin, Manager, Sector Development, Department of Communities
- Shirley Parer, Principal Consultant, Teaching and Learning, Department of Education
- Martin Clifford, Manager, Policy and Strategy, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Jennifer Campbell, Chief Health Professions Officer, Department of Health
- Renae Hodgson, Assistant Director, Planning Policy and Strategy, Mental Health Commission
- Margaret Abernethy, Acting Executive Director Health Programs, WA Country Health Service
- Kirsten Pereira, Acting Senior Analyst, Performance Evaluation, Department of Treasury
- Sarah Norton, Director, Social Policy Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Salina Hand, Senior Policy Officer, Office of the State Training Board

Terms of Reference

The State Government Social Assistance and Allied Health Interagency Working Group (IWG) will:

- 1 Further develop the State Government's response to the State Training Board's *Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy*:
 - Representatives coordinate feedback from their agency on and updated input to the Draft State Government Response approved by their Director General.
- 2 Work with the DTWD, in collaboration with the State Training Board's Social Assistance and Allied Health Steering Committee, to provide input towards a communications strategy for the release of the:
 - *Social Assistance and Allied Health Workforce Strategy* (the workforce strategy); and
 - State Government response once finalised.
- 3 Oversee the implementation of the State Government's response at a whole of government level, including tracking of status on individual agency or cross-agency initiatives.
- 4 Share information and data (where appropriate) with the State Training Board's Social Assistance and Allied Health Steering Committee to:
 - inform the Steering Committee of workforce strategy implementation progress and work of the IWG;
 - tracking of status of individual agency or cross-agency initiatives through regular updates; and
 - inform decision making of further work being progressed by the Steering Committee.
- 5 Provide quarterly reports through the IWG Chair, to the State Training Board's Social Assistance and Allied Health Steering Committee on progress of the Government response.
- 6 Provide regular updates, through Agency representatives, to Ministers with responsibility for the sectors in the Government's response to the workforce strategy.
- 7 Provide input to bi-annual progress of the State Government's response, coordinated by DTWD in conjunction with the State Training Board, to the Jobs and Economic Diversification Cabinet Sub-Committee through the Minister for Education and Training.
- 8 Consider issues raised by the Steering Committee through the Chair IWG to ascertain whether a Government response is appropriate and what that may mean following feedback from relevant agency(s).