



Shire of Lake Grace

23 March 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting

INFORMATION BULLETIN

ITEM 16.1 - ATTACHMENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORTS:

Title of Report	No of Pages
Infrastructure Services Report – March 2022	13
Lake Grace Library Report and Statistics – March 2022	1
Lake King Library Report and Statistics – March 2022	1
Newdegate Library Report and Statistics – March 2022	1

CIRCULARS, MEDIA RELEASES & NEWSLETTERS:

Title of Attachment	No of Pages
4WDL Telstra Mobile Connectivity & Reliability	2
Central Country Zone – Minutes of Meeting – 18 February 2022	40
WALGA – State Council Full Minutes – Special Meeting – 23 February 2022	52
WALGA – State Council Agenda – 2 March 2022	58
Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) Customer Research (DPIRD)	65
Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) Stakeholder Research (DPIRD)	39
SHICC Public Health Bulletin No. 12 – 10 February 2022	7
SHICC Public Health Bulletin No. 13 – 15 February 2022	8
SHICC Public Health Bulletin No. 13 – 23 February 2022	7
SHICC Public Health Bulletin No. 14 – 02 March 2022	7
SHICC Public Health Bulletin No. 15 – 10 March 2022	6



INFORMATION BULLETIN

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORT

YTD FEBRUARY 2022

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING FROM 1 DECEMBER 2021 - 28 FEBRUARY 2022

Newdegate – January 2022

Road	Total Graded (km)
Biddy Camm Rd	27.2
Grant Rd	3.4
Haig Rd	10.4
Magenta Rd	4.0
Mallee Hill Rd	8.2
Morton Rd	2.6
Mount Sheridan Rd	30.9
Newdegate North Rd	5.2
Old Ravensthorpe Rd	7.9
Shalders Rd	6.0
Witham Rd	3.6
Total	109.4

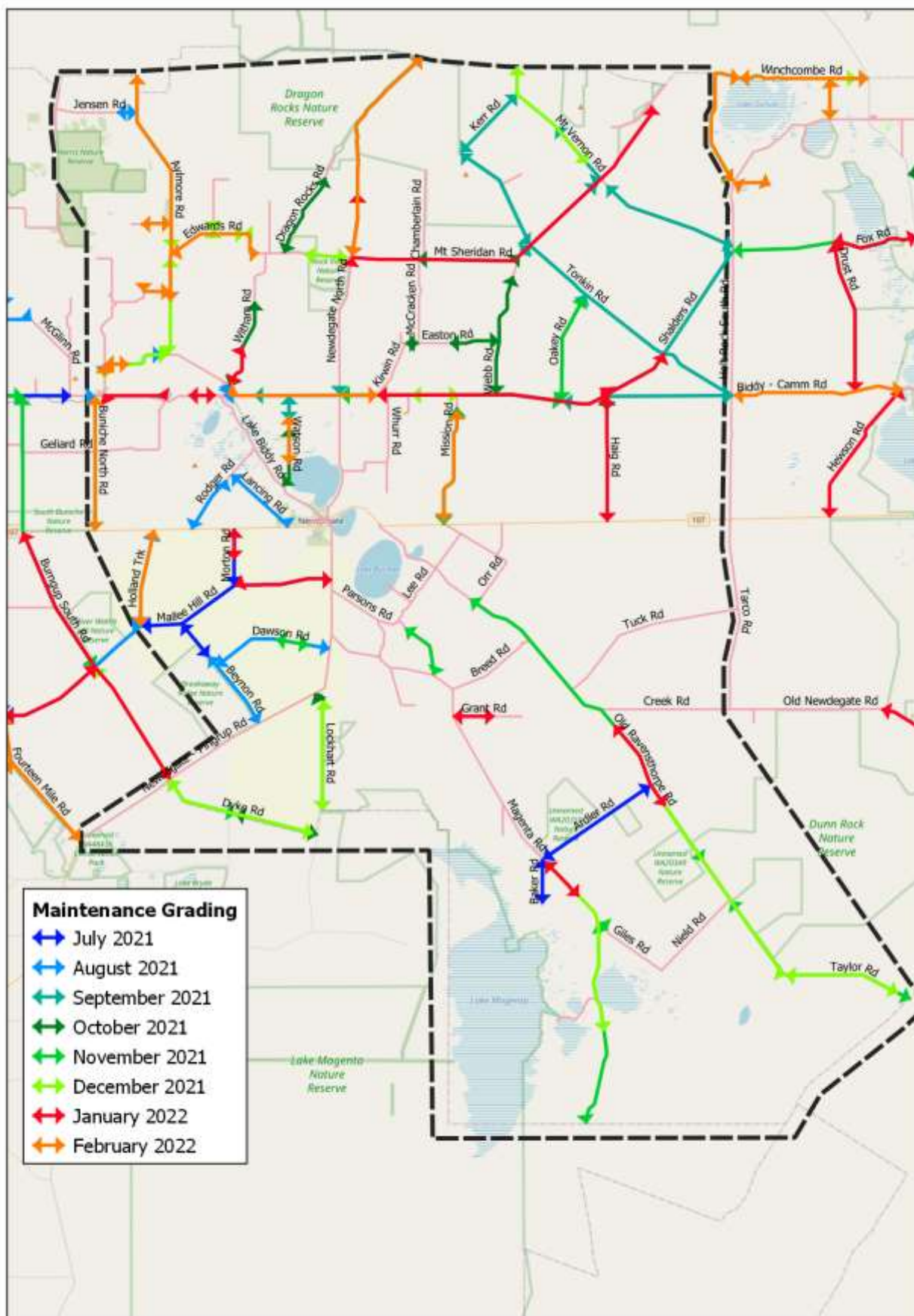
Newdegate – February 2022

Road	Total Graded (km)
Aylmore Rd	19.6
Biddy Buniche Rd	2.0
Biddy Camm Rd	12.5
Buniche North Rd	12.1
Dillon Rd	2.3
Edwards Rd	9.3
Hollands Track Rd	8.2
Mission Rd	9.6
Newdegate North Rd	18.8
Watson Rd	4.0
Wield Rd	2.5
Total	100.9

Newdegate 2021/22 YTD

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	55.2
	August	77.8
	September	112.7
	October	109.4
	November	124.4
	December	132.9
2022	January	109.4
	February	100.9
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	YTD Total	822.7

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Newdegate area

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

Lake Grace – January 2022

Road	Total Graded (km)
Burngup South Rd	23.7
Gordon Rd	4.4
Mallee Hill Rd	8.8
Total	36.9

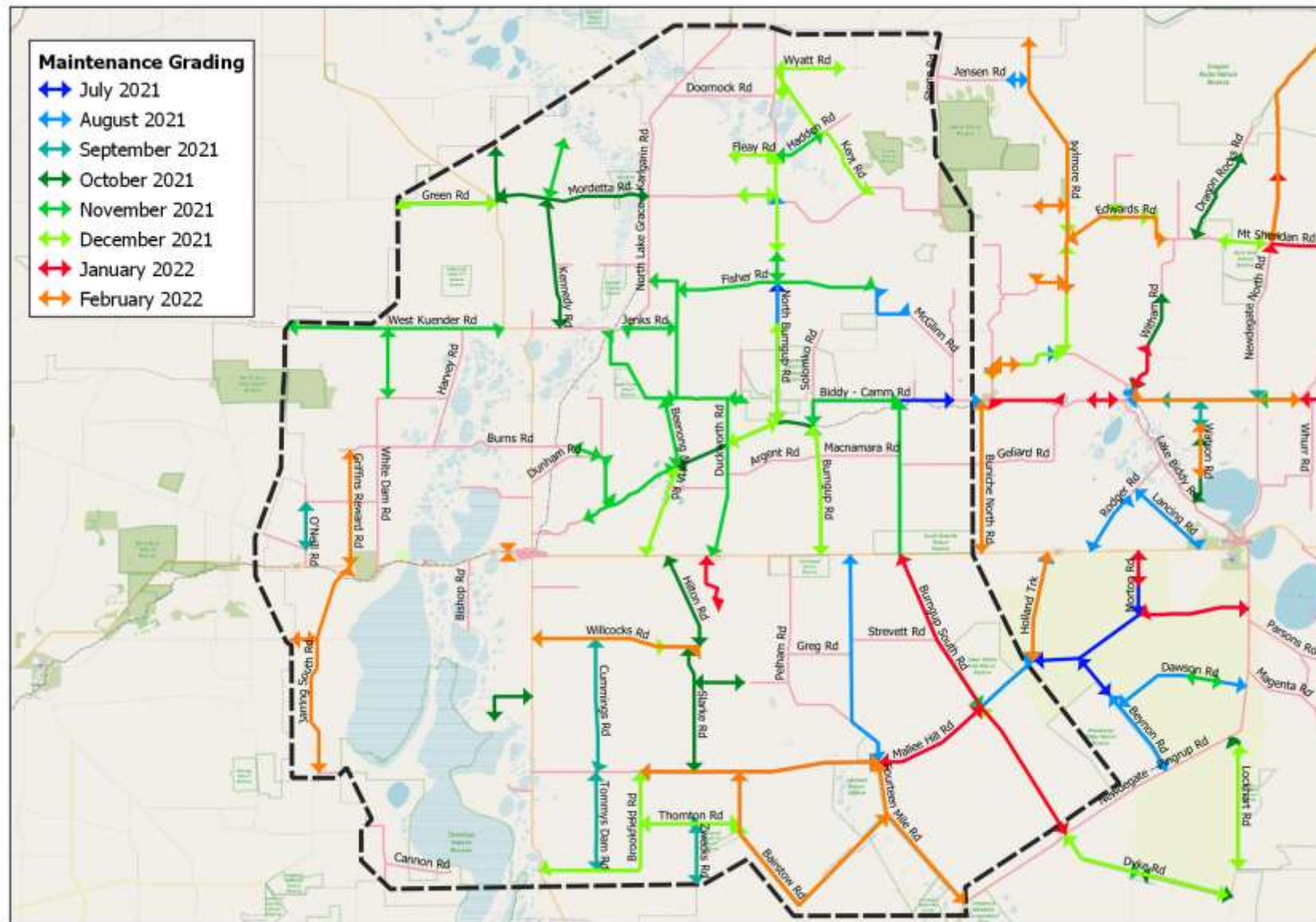
Lake Grace – February 2022

Road	Total Graded (km)
Bairstow Rd	20.5
Fourteen Mile Rd	12.4
Griffin Reward Rd	8.5
Jarring South Rd	16.0
Mallee Hill Rd	17.5
Old Lake Grace Rd	1.9
Slarke Rd	0.5
Willcocks Rd	12.3
Total	89.6

Lake Grace 2021/22 YTD

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	67.9
	August	106.7
	September	83.2
	October	73.0
	November	151.1
	December	149.0
2022	January	36.9
	February	89.6
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	YTD Total	757.4

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Lake Grace area

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

Lake King & Varley – January 2022

Road Name	Total Graded (km)
Biddy Camm Rd	14.2
Drust Rd	12.6
Fitzgerald Rd	9.7
Fox Rd	7.2
Hewsons Rd	12.7
Long Creek Rd	10.9
Magdhaba Tr	5.6
Mallee Tree Rd	9.3
Milstead Rd	6.2
Old Newdegate Rd	24.2
Total	112.6

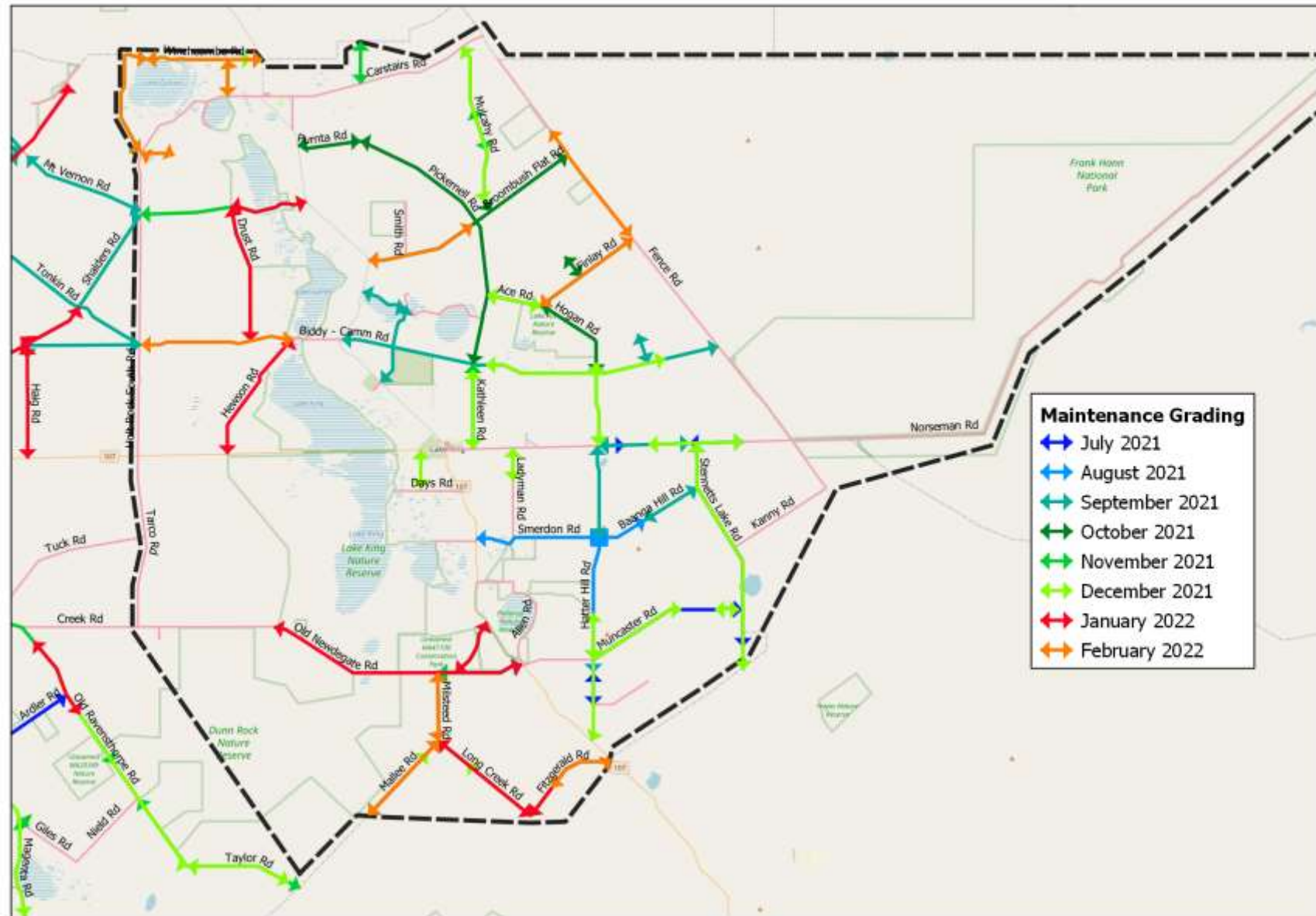
Lake King & Varley – February 2022

Road Name	Total Graded (km)
Broombush Flat Rd	10.3
Dempster Rock Rd	3.4
Drust Rd	8.4
Fence Rd	12.3
Finlay Rd	10.5
Fitzgerald Rd	6.5
Holt Rock South Rd	11.6
Mallee Tree Rd	9.4
Milstead Rd	6.2
Strawbridge Rd	3.2
Winchcombe Rd	10.8
Total	92.6

Lake King & Varley 2021/22 YTD

Year	Month	Monthly Grading Total (km)
2021	July	66.9
	August	71.4
	September	88.2
	October	98.2
	November	115.1
	December	153.2
2022	January	112.6
	February	92.6
	March	
	April	
	May	
	June	
	YTD Total	798.2

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING



Monthly maintenance grading history – Lake King-Varley area

ROAD MAINTENANCE GRADING

Total 2021/22 YTD Lake Grace, Newdegate and Lake King/Varley

Year	Month	Lake Grace	Newdegate	Lake King- Varley	Grading Total (km)
2021	July	67.9	55.2	66.9	190.0
	August	106.7	77.8	71.4	255.9
	September	83.2	112.7	88.2	284.1
	October	73.0	109.4	98.2	280.6
	November	151.1	124.4	115.1	390.6
	December	149.0	132.9	153.2	435.1
2022	January	36.9	109.4	112.6	258.9
	February	89.6	100.9	92.6	283.1
	March				
	April				
	May				
	June				
	YTD (km)	757.4	822.7	798.2	2378.3

PLANT MAINTENANCE

PLANT MAINTENANCE – FEBRUARY 2022

Plant #	Plant Description	Action
PGRA07	2015 John Deere 770G Grader	500 hour service.
PGRA08	2020 Caterpillar 140 Motor Grader	Repairs to air conditioner.
PTRA21	2009 Dolly Trailer	Repairs to braking system.
PTRO08	2012 Hustler Slasher	Service and repair.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

CONSTRUCTION:

- Construction of new eco-toilet stall at the Jam Patch;
- Construction of new jumping pillow at the Newdegate Recreation Grounds;
- Works started on new Lake King RV Dump Point;
- Works started on new Lake King UAT;
- Works started on upgrading the Lake King Sports Pavilion's septic tank;
- Completed installation of new commercial vinyl flooring to Lake Grace Medical Centre.

MAINTENANCE				
Lake Grace	Newdegate	Lake King	Varley	Other
Medical Centre Swimming Pool		Hall		

TOWN MAINTENANCE

LAKE GRACE:

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing & tidying of gardens and parks;
- Reticulation maintenance at sports ovals.

NEWDEGATE:

- General maintenance, gardening/mowing of the recreation grounds, parks and skate park;
- Solenoid maintenance and BBQ cleaning at Pioneer Park;
- Black beetle spraying;
- Cemetery tidy up.

LAKE KING:

- Carried out general gardening, mowing and spraying to all parks and gardens;
- Spreading fertilizer on sports oval.

VARLEY:

- Carried out gardening maintenance and general maintenance, including spraying, mowing, raking of the town site, sports complex and cemetery for weeds.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

From period of 1 July 2021 to 28 February 2022.

	Complete	Non-complete	Total	% Complete
Works	20	2	22	90.9%
Building	14	0	14	100.0%
Parks & Gardens	19	2	21	90.5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>93.0%</i>

BUILDING SURVEYOR

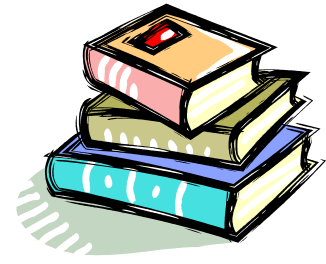
Permits Approved – February 2022

No building permits issued in this month.

TRAFFIC COUNTERS

Road Name	Location	Start Survey	End Survey	Days Deployed	Total Count	Average Daily Count	Total ESAs	Average Daily ESAs
Aylmore Rd	SLK 3.20, 3.2km north of Bidy-Buniche Rd	03-Dec-21	02-Feb-22	61	1476	24.20	2222.91	36.44
Biddy Camm Rd	SLK 59.80, 1.5km east from Newdegate North Rd	03-Dec-21	02-Feb-22	61	1980	32.46	3799.81	62.29
Fitzgerald Rd	SLK 5.00, approximately halfway point on road	03-Dec-21	04-Feb-22	63	2424	38.48	4233.49	67.20
Hatters Hill Rd	SLK 25.00, 2km north from Brookton Hwy	03-Dec-21	08-Jan-22	36	530	14.72	1582.97	43.97
Kathleen Rd	SLK 1.00, 1km north from Norseman Rd	03-Dec-21	04-Feb-22	63	2156	34.22	3193.02	50.68
Mallee Tree Rd	SLK 2.00, 2km southwest from Long Creek/Milstead Rd	03-Dec-21	04-Feb-22	63	1314	20.86	1092.13	17.34
Lake Bidy Rd	SLK 11.50, next to bluemetall pit	09-Dec-21	02-Feb-22	55	2690	48.91	2981.06	54.20

Lake Grace Community Library



LIBRARY REPORT – 9/03/2022

Book exchange and VDX are all up to date.

I am still on trial with our new library system, Oliverv5. I am hoping to be connected to the new system in the near future, our Principal Jedda Trueman is going to contact SoftLink.

I have got a new shelf for Graphic novels. These novels are very popular and great for the children that struggle with reading.

Year 12 Side student Neha Dwarakanath has starting back in the Library office for 2022.

Statistics since the last report:

December 21	Issues & Renewals	143	Borrower Visits	129
January 22	Issues & Renewals	168	“ “	46
February 22	Issues & Renewals	604	“ “	293

Library Co-ordinator Lois Dickins
Lake Grace Community Library

Lake King Library Report 1st March 2022

Good to have the schools back and lots of young visitors to the library.

I am hoping to restart rhyme/story time on a Tuesday for the LK playgroup. A short 20 minute session on weeks when playgroup meets.

We continue to receive our monthly selection of new books from the State Library. I also make sure we get a consignment of used books every quarter to ensure we maximise the availability of fresh and different titles.



The State Library's Borrow box had a total of 31 audios and 4 eBooks borrowed by Lake King library members in February.

Statistics Interlibrary Loans

Feb VDX Lake King Requests received 5

VDX Responded to other Library requests 3

We have seen an increase in the number of children requesting titles and other books in series that we don't have at Lake King so I have been able to source from other libraries through VDX.

Lake King Library
Statistics[illegible]

Newdegate Library Report to 10/03/22

The Newdegate Primary School Scholastic Book fair has been on display in the library area for the past few weeks. This is a Fundraiser for the Newdegate Primary School, usually held in the School Library. The Newdegate CRC held a morning tea last week to encourage visitors to the Book fair.

The Library Area has also been used by the local CPC farmer pre-seeding information day& Newdegate Winter Sports Auxillary Meeting.

1 Interlibrary Loan received

23 New items received in last library exchange processed 24/02/22

Regards

Claire Ness

Issued and Renewals	Newdegate Library Statistics											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	12	45	37	21	46	33	4	16	6	15	15	14
2006	21	21	27	7	21	22	14	34	27	6	20	15
2007	17	16	24	3	24	32	15	39	25	19	19	4
2008	9	30	15	14	33	14	6	16	9	20	17	8
2009	2	23	20	15	25	28	12	15	10	17	15	8
2010	3	13	16	14	13	23	28	26	27	26	35	27
2011	5	37	52	27	77	54	22	42	35	76	72	38
2012	10	69	33	27	50	20	49	18	26	54	59	31
2013	8	34	30	20	30	21	36	28	18	27	36	29
2014	39	50	35	33	53	36	61	29	24	61	32	47
2015	23	50	52	58	62	53	42	59	45	38	88	38
2016	17	77	29	45	42	15	53	39	43	43	65	42
2017	26	55	40	43	29	29	40	13	29	39	29	28
2018	9	37	15	30	19	36	33	18	51	30	66	48
2019	31	26	54	34	33	39	29	34	7	43	35	33
2020	6	33	42	2	12	23	27	24	39	54	21	16
2021	17	36	51	53	22	32	25	31	38	33	20	27
2022	5	23										

4WDL VROC

Comprising Shires of
Wagin, West Arthur,
Williams, Woodanilling,
Dumbleyung and
Lake Grace



EDE:EDE CM.ME.2

11 February 2022

Mr Boyd Brown
Regional General Manager WA
Telstra Retail & Regional
Level 17, 125 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Email: Boyd.M.Brown@team.telstra.com

Dear Boyd,

TELSTRA MOBILE CONNECTIVITY & RELIABILITY

4WDL is a Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (VROC) comprising the Shires of Wagin, West Arthur, Williams, Woodanilling, Dumbleyung and Lake Grace.

At its most recent 4WDL meeting, the matter of Telstra mobile telephone services was raised by member Shires. Some Local Government Authorities (LGA's) had reported reduced connectivity and coverage throughout sections of their Shires, with some instances resulting from recent Telstra network upgrades from 3G to 4G technology.

4WDL is seeking urgent written feedback from Telstra on the reasons for this reduced performance and coverage. Anecdotally, 4WDL are advised that the following could be occurring:-

- 4G networks are able to provide equivalent performance of a 3G network with fewer bars of coverage, because 4G technology can deliver higher throughput, all other things being equal. So 4G towers are equipped with less power with the same or only marginally increased capacity as the 3G systems were providing.
- With an increased ability of 4G to accommodate more traffic, user applications are placing higher demands on the 4G towers, asking for more bandwidth than they did when connecting via 3G. This increased demand quickly saturates the limited tower capacity, whether it be backhaul or the access network.
- There is the possibility that more 4G sectors are being added to towers without increasing the backhaul to accommodate the increased data demands.
- When a tower experiences high traffic volume, rather than continue to provide services on the periphery of the coverage area that it can't service because there is no capacity to go around, the tower uses an 'automatic gain control' to turn down the power, reducing the coverage area of the footprint, in turn reducing the traffic, so those who are closer to the tower can achieve useable speeds. This then leaves those on the periphery of the signal with limited

Heart of the Great Southern

4WDL VROC

Comprising Shires of
Wagin, West Arthur,
Williams, Woodanilling,
Dumbleyung and
Lake Grace



connectivity, who can experience no coverage and no connectivity and dropouts; or, coverage with no capacity.

- Adding a Telstra smart antenna achieves minimal or no improvements, if there is inadequate capacity.

4WDL are advised that the only way to fix this is to either upgrade the capacity of the backhaul, the capacity of the access network, to increase the number of sectors on the tower, or to increase the spectrum available per sector; all of which requires additional investment.

4WDL also expressed concern around the lack of available back-up power in place at local exchanges and mobile towers in time of outages. This was of particular importance in times of emergency events i.e. bushfires. 4WDL members were keen to see improved power back up measures be installed by Telstra, preferably around the use of gen sets and utilising local technical support and expertise to maintain the operability of this equipment for the duration of each outage.

4WDL notes that effective and reliable enterprise grade mobile and internet connectivity is a vitally important function for our communities, both for businesses and residents. There are significant economic and social costs to our communities resulting from any reductions in these services.

Looking forward to your feedback.

Yours faithfully,



Cr Julie Ramm
CHAIRPERSON

For and on behalf of 4WDL VROC Member Local Governments

cc WALGA CEO, Local Members of Parliament, Key State Ministers

Heart of the Great Southern

Central Country Zone

Minutes

**Held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial
Drive Darkan (opposite the primary school)**

Friday, 18 February 2022

Table of Contents

1.	OPENING AND WELCOME	3
2.	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES	4
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	5
4.	GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS	6
4.1	WA Country Health Service (WACHS)	6
5.	MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT	6
6.	MINUTES	6
6.1	Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 (Attachment 1)	6
6.2	Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 19 November 2021	6
6.3	Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2021	7
6.3.1	Item 4.2.3, Local Government Agricultural Freight Group	7
6.3.2	Item 5.3, Local Government Reform Proposal Submission	8
6.3.3	Item 5.4, Zone Priorities	8
6.3.4	Item 5.6, Acknowledgement of Country	8
6.3.5	Item 7, Date, time and place of next meeting	9
6.4	Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2022 (Attachment 2)	9
7.	WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS	9
7.1	State Councillor Report	9
7.2	WALGA Status Report	10
7.3	Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision	13
7.3.1	Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022	13
7.3.2	Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 2 March 2022	16
7.4	WALGA President's Report	16
8.	ZONE REPORTS	16
8.1	Zone President Report	16
8.2	Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)	17
8.3	Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)	17
8.4	Regional Health Advocacy Representative	17
9.	ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS	17
9.1	CBH – Non Grain Storage	17
10.	ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS	17
11.	ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES	18
11.1	Regional Telecommunications	18
12.	OTHER AGENCY REPORTS	18
12.1	Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	18
12.2	Wheatbelt Development Commission	18
12.3	Main Roads Western Australia	18
12.4	Wheatbelt RDA	18
13.	DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS	18
14.	CLOSURE	18

Central Country Zone

Meeting was held at Darkan Sport and Community Centre, Memorial Drive Darkan
(opposite the primary school)

Commenced at 9:36am on Friday, 18 February 2022

Minutes

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

1.1 Announcements

Covid-19 awareness:

- Ensure you have signed in using the SafeWA app or by written register at the door
- Maintain social distancing where possible
- Wear your mask
- Sanitize regularly

1.2 Housekeeping – Zone Chair

1. Welcome:

The Zone Chair welcomed Zone members and provided OSH/bathroom/exit information to those in attendance.

2. Share your name and Local Government:

To all Delegates, please ensure you call your name and Local Government when taking the floor to allow for accurate Minutes to be recorded.

Noted

1.3 Host Welcome – President Cr Neil Morrell, Shire of West Arthur

Shire of West Arthur President Cr Neil Morrell, extended a welcome to Delegates and guests.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance

Central Country Zone Delegates and CEO's

Shire of Beverley	President Cr David White Deputy President Cr Chris Lawlor Mr Steve Gollan, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Brookton	President Cr Katrina Crute Deputy President Cr Neil Walker
Shire of Corrigin	President Cr Des Hickey Ms Natalie Manton, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Cuballing	President Cr Eliza Dowling Deputy President Cr Rob Harris Mr Stan Scott, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Dumbleyung	President Cr Julie Ramm Deputy President Cr Amy Knight Mr Gavin Treasure, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Kulin	Cr Brad Smoker Cr Robbie Bowey Mr Garrick Yandle, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Lake Grace	Deputy President Cr Ross Chappell Mr Chris Paget, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Pingelly	President Cr Bill Mulroney Mr Andrew Dover, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Quairading	Cr Jonathan Hippisley Ms Nicole Gibbs, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Wandering	Mr Ian Fitzgerald, Acting Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of West Arthur	President Cr Neil Morrell Mr Vin Fordham-Lamont, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate
Shire of Williams	Cr Moya Carne Mr Geoff McKeown, Chief Executive Officer

Guests

Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development, RDA Wheatbelt Inc
Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer
Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt, Main Roads
Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, Main Roads
Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS
Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

WALGA

Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Kathy Robertson, Executive Officer Governance

Apologies

Mr Gary Sherry, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Brookton
Cr Barry West, Shire of Kulin
President Leigh Ballard, Shire of Narrogin
Cr Graham Broad, Shire of Narrogin
Mr Dale Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Narrogin
President Cr Phillip Blight, Shire of Wagin
Deputy President Cr Gregory Ball, Shire of Wagin
Mr Bill Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wagin
President Cr Ian Turton, Shire of Wandering
Deputy President Cr Paul Treasure, Shire of Wandering
President Cr Julie Russell, Shire of Wickiepin
Deputy President Cr Wes Astbury, Shire of Wickiepin
Mr Mark Hook, Chief Executive Officer, non-voting delegate, Shire of Wickiepin

Hon Mia Davies MLA, Member for Central Wheatbelt (Leader of the Opposition)
Hon Martin Aldridge MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Colin de Grussa MLC
Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Peter Rundle MLA, Member for Roe
Kathleen Brown, Electorate Officer, Office of Hon Mia Davies MLA
Hon Darren West MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region
Hon Sandra Carr MLC, Member for Agricultural Region

Absent

Deputy President Cr Mike Weguelin, Shire of Corrigin
President Cr Grant Robins, Shire of Kulin
President Cr Len Armstrong, Shire of Lake Grace
Deputy President Cr Jackie McBurney, Shire of Pingelly
Cr Brett McGuinness, Shire of Quairading
Cr Karen Harrington, Shire of West Arthur
President Cr Jarrad Logie, Shire of Williams
Rick Wilson MP, Federal Member for O'Connor
Hon Shelley Payne MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

Observers

Cr Robyn Lubcke, Shire of West Arthur
Cr Graeme Peirce, Shire of West Arthur

Attachments

The following are provided as attachments to the Minutes:

1. WA Country Health Services presentation slides
2. State Councillor report
3. Local Government Agricultural Freight Group report

State Council special meeting Agenda – via link: [State Council special meeting Agenda February 2022](#)

State Council Agenda – via link: [State Council Agenda March 2022](#)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Zone Chair, Cr Brett McGuinness, declared an impartiality interest to item 4.1 as an employee of WA Country Health Service.

4. GUEST SPEAKERS / DEPUTATIONS

4.1 WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

WACHS provided a presentation regarding COVID preparedness in the regions. The presentation slides are attached.

WACHS representatives providing the presentation were:

- Wendy Newman, Deputy Board Chair, WACHS
- Melissa Vernon WACHS, Executive Director Service and Operations Hub Development and EOC

5. MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

- Hon Steve Martin MLC, Member for the Agricultural Region

6. MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 (Attachment 1)

The Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held on Friday 19 November 2021 have previously been circulated to Member Councils.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Des Hickey
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

That the Minutes of the Central Country Zone meeting held Friday 19 November 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

6.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Meeting Friday 19 November 2021

6.2.1 Sector ICT Solution (Item 12.1 19 November 2021)

Cr Jonathan Hippisley, Shire of Quairading

Cr Hippisley enquired on the progress of this item.

The Zone Executive Officer advised that WALGA has looked at this matter further and advise of the following:

The idea of an all-of-sector model ICT solution is not viable for the following reasons:

- Different size Local Governments – no one size fits all;
- Local Government's being at different levels of need and maturity in the ICT requirements;
- We are unlikely to get the requisite LG buy-in to warrant the investment; and
- The inherent complexity of a custom-built system is time and cost-prohibitive.

A more workable suggestion is for a group of similar size/maturity level Local Governments to engage a consultant to define a model set that meets their needs. Any recommendations could be reviewed by a representative of the LG ICT Managers Network to ensure it is appropriate.

Referring to Cr Hippisley's "Model local government office" paper, it would be expected that the following range of recommendations are achievable:

- Suitable hardware requirements (including remote options where appropriate)
- Suggested lightweight accounting software
- Baseline model directory structure
- Security options
- Backup software and procedures
- Suitable internet options

WALGA would be prepared to assist in facilitating discussions on a shared service model to research this with a group of Local Governments further.

6.3 Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2021

The recommendations from the Executive Committee Meeting that require Zone consideration have been extracted for the Zones consideration.

6.3.1 Item 4.2.3, Local Government Agricultural Freight Group

Background:

At the November Zone meeting, Cr Crute was nominated as the representative for the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. At that time, Cr Crute intended to attend meetings to assess the validity of the Group.

Executive Comment:

Cr Crute has attended two meetings of the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group. With only a small handful of Members, Cr Crute feels the group lacks direction and robustness in moving items forward. She suggested that if this group, in an expansive form, were to be established under another body it may be more beneficial to the Sector. Cr Crute feels future proofing should be a bigger consideration than what is currently in place, as well as expanding the group to encompass all Freight, not just Agricultural Freight. Membership needs to be reconsidered and expanded on. It was suggested that under the ownership of State Council, a group may be more beneficial. It was then suggested that perhaps a Policy Forum could be established to include the missing elements named above.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute
Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone recommend that the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group be disbanded and request WALGA to consider establishing a policy forum to encompass all Freight issues.

CARRIED

6.3.2 Item 5.3, Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

Background:

The Committee considered the Local Government Reform Proposal and have provided a recommendation for the Zones consideration.

Please refer to item 7.3.1 of this agenda.

6.3.3 Item 5.4, Zone Priorities

Background:

The Executive Committee debriefed on recent events in Local Government, specifically Natural Disasters and Housing. The following two items have been recommended to be added to the list of Zone Priorities for the coming 12 months.

1. *Telecommunications*
2. *Disaster Preparedness*

The following is the complete list of Zone priorities:

1. *Local Government Act – New Act or Amendments*
2. *Red Tape Reduction*
3. *Regional Collaboration and resource sharing*
4. *Local Government staff shortages*
5. *Housing*
6. *Work Health & Safety*
7. *Telecommunications*
8. *Disaster Preparedness*

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr David White

That the Central Country Zone add the following subjects to the list of Zone priorities:

- Telecommunications
- Disaster Preparedness

CARRIED

6.3.4 Item 5.6, Acknowledgement of Country

Background:

The Committee were asked to be consider introducing an *Acknowledgment of Country* at the beginning of Zone meetings.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Julie Ramm

That the Host Local Government be encouraged to provide an Acknowledgement of Country however this is at the discretion of the hosting Local Government.

CARRIED

6.3.5 Item 7, Date, time and place of next meeting

Background:

The Committee discussed having this meeting online. As WA has not been directed into Lockdown, the meeting is going ahead in person. In preparation for moving online should that need to happen for a future meeting, the Committee have requested the Executive Officer to assess Members resources to successfully join a Zone meeting online. A survey will be sent to all CEO's shortly after the meeting.

Noted

6.4 Confirmation of Minutes from the Central Country Zone Meeting of the Executive Committee held Thursday 10 February 2022 (Attachment 2)

The remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 February 2022 are for endorsement.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Katrina Crute

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the remaining items from the Minutes of the Central Country Zone Executive Committee meeting held Thursday 10 February 2022 be endorsed.

CARRIED

7. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (WALGA) BUSINESS

Zone delegates to consider the Matters for Decision contained in the WA Local Government Association State Council Agenda and put forward resolutions to Zone Representatives on State Council

7.1 State Councillor Report

Cr Phillip Blight was an apology for the meeting, however Cr Blight provided a report as attached.

RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

That the State Councillor Report be received.

CARRIED

7.2 WALGA Status Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

Presenting the Status Report for February 2022 which contains WALGA's responses to the resolutions of previous Zone Meetings.

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE STATUS REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

Zone	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Response	Update	WALGA Contact
Central C	2019 Nov 29 Zone Agenda Item 10.8 Western Australia's Share of Fuel Excise	That WALGA prepares and endorses a strategy to obtain transparency of the distribution of the fuel excise with the intent to maximise the return to Western Australia for road maintenance.	The resolution was been referred to the Infrastructure Policy Team and based on direction provided further research to support an advocacy position is being carried out. The Association met with the RAC and received access to a 2020 revision of a report commissioned by the RAC quantifying motorist taxation and Federal Government investment in WA transport infrastructure.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure iduncan@walga.asn.au 9213 2031
Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 10.3 Police Resources in the Region	That the CCZ call upon WALGA to advocate to State Government on the shortage of police and housing in regional and remote areas.	WALGA continues to undertake advocacy work in relation to Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) including regular meetings with the Dept Communities, identification of critical areas of need, four- year forecasts and Commercial Team development of preferred supplier for Modular Housing. WALGA will undertake further research to scope the extent of the policing issues in the district and provide further information to the Zone.	February 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039
Central C	2021 20 August Zone Agenda Item 8.4 Social Housing Economic Recovery Package Grant Funding	1. That the Zone notes: • Local Governments are eligible for grants to support the construction, refurbishment and maintenance of community housing properties as part of the State Government's Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) Program.	A total of \$57 million in SHERP refurbishment grants were announced on 25 January 2022. Three of the 8 Local Governments that applied for SHERP refurbishment grants were successful: Shires of Donnybrook-Balingup, Williams and Boyup Brook. An announcement of funding for new builds has been delayed until April 2022.	February 2022	Nicole Matthews A/Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning nmatthews@walga.asn.au 9213 2039

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next round of SHERP grants open on Wednesday 1 September 2021. The Department of Communities will provide further information on the SHERP grants at a WALGA webinar to be held at 1:30pm on Wednesday 1 September. <p>2. Request WALGA to advocate for more State funding for housing in the regions.</p>			
Central C	2020 February 21 Zone Agenda Item 12.1 General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas - Shire of Corrigin	That WALGA be requested to investigate tendering issues around General Practitioner Services in Rural Areas with consideration given to including an exemption from tendering for such services under the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996.	<p>WALGA has included this item in the draft submission on Local Government legislative reform proposals.</p> <p>WALGA's policy position is as per below;</p> <p><i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred. <p>The Office of the Minister for Local Government has advised that they are interested in establishing a Roundtable on the issue of GP services for Rural Local Governments. Further information will be provided when available.</p>	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services 9213 2051 tbrown@walga.asn.au

Central C	2021 19 November Zone Agenda Item 12.1 Sector ICT solution	That the Zone request WALGA to research providers and the viability of an in-house IT system.	The zone suggestion of a stand-alone IT system to meet the needs of Local Government is the ideal model for the sector. However the complexity of such a system and the required development time and costs is prohibitive. Engaging a supplier-provided system, of which all development risk is retained by a third party, remains the most prudent use of public funds. If the sector was to seek to develop its own system, separate to existing suppliers, it is recommended that it should be undertaken on a national basis, with the pre-commitment from the overwhelming majority of Local Governments across all jurisdictions to switch to the system, so to provide the scale to warrant investment as would be required. To this end, WALGA could raise the issue at ALGA meeting of state associations to gauge wider sector interest.	February 2022	Craig Hansom A/Executive Manager, Commercial chansom@walga.asn.au 9213 2061
------------------	---	---	--	----------------------	--

ZONE COMMENT

This is an opportunity for Member Councils to consider the response from WALGA in respect to the matters that were submitted at the previous Zone Meeting.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Central Country Zone WALGA February 2022 Status Report be noted.

CARRIED

7.3 Review of WALGA State Council Agenda's – Matters for Decision

7.3.1 Special State Council Meeting Agenda – 23 February 2022

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Special Meeting Agenda 23 February 2022](#) and attached (Attachment 3).

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

3.1 Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

WALGA Recommendation

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Executive Committee Consideration

The Executive Committee considered this item in detail and have raised items that they would like amended to the WALGA recommendation for the Zones consideration as per below:

- **Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints**

Supports the proposed reforms and provides the following comments.

1. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
2. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.

- Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms

Supports the proposed reforms however do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.

Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.

Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.

- Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings

Not supported.

Believe it would curtail free discussion and that meetings would become stilted due to some participants feeling self-conscious. This may result in members having informal discussions before meetings to determine outcomes and may stifle free debate. At the other end of the spectrum, it may result in some members grandstanding (because they know they have a wider audience to play to) and to use the public exposure as a means to solicit support for re-election and to generally cultivate a public profile for whatever reason, rather than focussing on the most legitimate outcomes. Likely to create more problems for the sector and its image. Submission of recordings to DLGSC would be another “Red Tape” task and smacks of “Big Brother”. A further disincentive for people to run for Council.

- Item 3.2 Recording All votes

Proposed reforms not supported for following reasons.

1. As an Elected Member, they are required (under roles and responsibilities) to support the decisions of Council.
2. If someone feels strongly, they can request their vote/name to be recorded.
3. If the vote for/against is recorded, it may become difficult for a Councillor to defend the decision of Council, if they voted against the item.
4. May cause conflict with community members.

- Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference to the requirement for Councillors to ‘support the decisions of the Council’ which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).

- Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity

Overall supports the proposed reforms but notes that there is no reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.

- Item 6.2 Simply Strategic and Financial Planning

Do not support these proposed reforms due to the following concerns.

1. The proposed reference to innovation and community input into the strategic plans of Council are proposed as a ‘one size fits all’ and will become a tick-box exercise and not be specifically relevant to the local community.
2. Long term financial plans need to be 15 years, not 10, as the current requirement for 10 years does not allow for compliance with the Debt Service Ratio’ reporting
3. Rates and Revenue Policy – Is another resource reporting requirement burden on smaller local governments for questionable benefits.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: President Cr Bill Mulroney

1. That the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Reform Proposal *Submission*' be endorsed, subject to the following amendments:
 - a. Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints – Support, subject to;
 - i. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
 - ii. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
 - b. Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms – Support, subject to;
 - i. Do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.
 - ii. Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.
 - iii. Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.
 - c. Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings – Not Supported
 - d. Item 3.2 Recording All votes – Not Supported
 - e. Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity – Support subject to including reference to the requirement for Councillors to 'support the decisions of the Council' which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).
 - f. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity – Support subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.
 - g. Item 6.2 Simply Strategic and Financial Planning – Not Supported
 - h. Item 6.6 Audit Committees – Support subject to the requirement for independent members being mandatory not applying to Band 3 and 4 Local Governments.
 - i. Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published – Not Supported
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

CARRIED

Ten Local Government Reform Proposal submissions were received by WALGA from Members of the Central Country Zone.

7.3.2 Ordinary State Council Meeting Agenda – 2 March 2022

The full State Council Agenda can be found via link: [State Council Agenda 2 March 2022](#)

The Zone is able to provide comment or submit an alternative recommendation that is then presented to the State Council for consideration.

Matters for Decision

5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme

That the draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed

Matters for Noting

- 6.1 COVID-19 – Update
- 6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission
- 6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government
- 6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission
- 6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm
Seconded: Cr Katrina Crute

That the Central Country Zone

1. Supports Matters for Decision, item 5.1 as listed above in the March 2022 State Council Agenda; and
2. Notes all Matters for Noting and Organisational Reports as listed in the March 2022 State Council Agenda.

CARRIED

7.4 WALGA President's Report

The WALGA President's Report is attached to the Agenda (Attachment 4).

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney
Seconded: Cr Jonathan Hippisley

That the Central Country Zone notes the WALGA President's Report.

CARRIED

8. ZONE REPORTS

8.1 Zone President Report

By Cr Brett McGuinness

Cr Brett McGuinness advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

Noted

8.2 Local Government Agricultural Freight Group (LGAFG)

By Cr Katrina Crute

Cr Katrina Crute provided her report to the Zone, as attached.

RESOLUTION

Moved: President Cr Bill Mulroney

Seconded: Cr Des Hickey

That the Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report be received.

CARRIED

8.3 Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

By President Leigh Ballard

President Leigh Ballard was an apology for the meeting.

Noted

8.4 Regional Health Advocacy Representative

By Ms Natalie Manton

Ms Natalie Manton advised the Zone that there was nothing to report.

Noted

9. ZONE BUSINESS – MEMBER COUNCIL MATTERS

9.1 CBH – Non Grain Storage

Cr Katrina Crute, Shire of Brookton

Cr Crute enquired as to where does the CBH exemption from rates and the ex-gratia payment sit for the storage of Non Grain products by CBH.

Cr Crute's understanding is they get the exemption on the basis of Grain Storage but in the case of the Aldersyde Bin it has lime in it for sale to Growers at a significantly cheaper rate than local contractors can do it for.

Action: WALGA to research this question and report back to the Zone.

10. ZONE BUSINESS – OTHER BUSINESS/URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11. ZONE BUSINESS – EMERGING ISSUES

11.1 Regional Telecommunications

Shire of Dumbleyung

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Julie Ramm

Seconded: Cr Neil Morrell

That WALGA partner with Telstra and Western Power to scope, design and cost a solution to enable full mobile and interface connectivity through the Central Country Zone area, including suitable back up power generation to ensure continued mobile connectivity during emergency outage events.

CARRIED

12. OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

12.1 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

No representative from the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries, was present at the meeting.

Noted

12.2 Wheatbelt Development Commission

Rob Cossart, Wheatbelt Development Commission – Chief Executive Officer, provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

12.3 Main Roads Western Australia

Ammar Mohammed, A/Regional Manager Wheatbelt and Brad Pearce, Operations Manager, from Main Roads provided an update to the Zone.

Noted

12.4 Wheatbelt RDA

Mandy Walker, Director Regional Development RDA Wheatbelt presented to the Zone. (Attachment 5)

Noted

13. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Committee will next meet on 13 April 2022 via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Central Country Zone will be held on Friday, 22 April 2022, commencing at 9:30am. This meeting will be hosted by the Shire of Wickepin.

14. CLOSURE

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at **12:08pm**.



WA Country Health Service WALGA COVID update 18 February 2022

COMMUNITY | COMPASSION | QUALITY | INTEGRITY | EQUITY | CURIOSITY

Wendy Newman, WACHS Deputy Board Chair
Melissa Vernon, WACHS ED Operations Hub &
Emergency Operations Centre



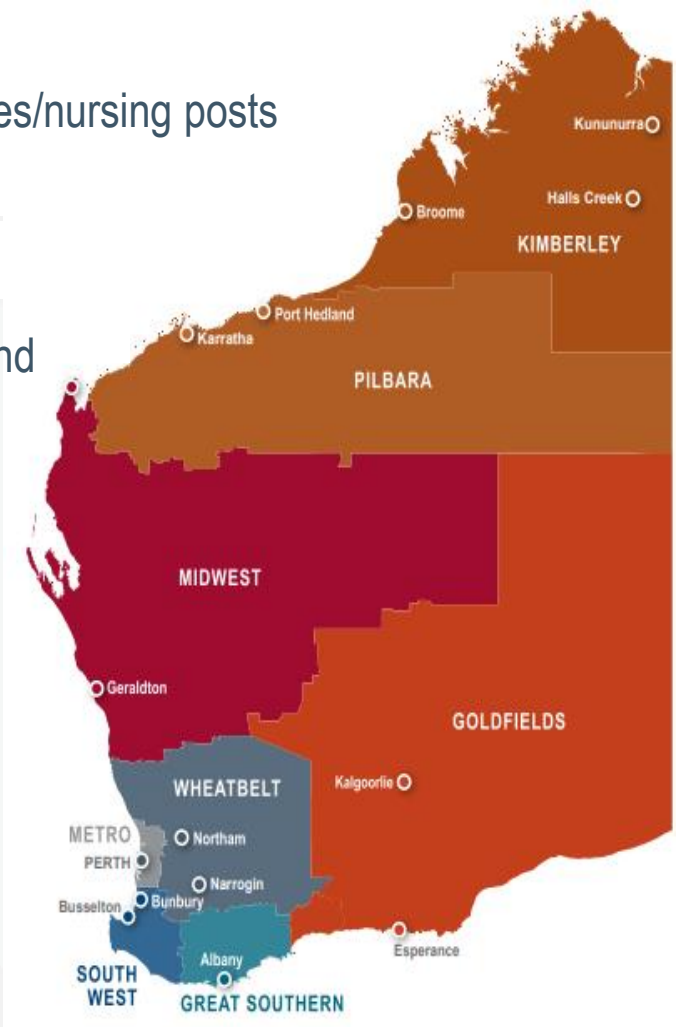
Topics

- Principles driving COVID response & WACHS Commitment to country communities and small/Community hospitals
- Planning and response to date:
 - individual, communities, State, WACHS
 - test, trace, isolate, quarantine
- Situation update WA
- How can we work together to support country communities?
 - Communications, workforce, other?
- Q&A



WACHS services and activity 2020-21

- Provided emergency care to 450,000 patients across 88 sites
- Hospitals = 6 Regional, **15 District**, **48 small**, 31 health centres/nursing posts
- Facilitated more than 166,000 admissions and discharges
- Cared for 1,044 people in our 38 residential aged care sites and 2,555 older residents with community based aged care
- Supported delivery of 4,500 babies in our 18 maternity sites
- 52,640 dialysis services (OOS) 14 WACHS dialysis units

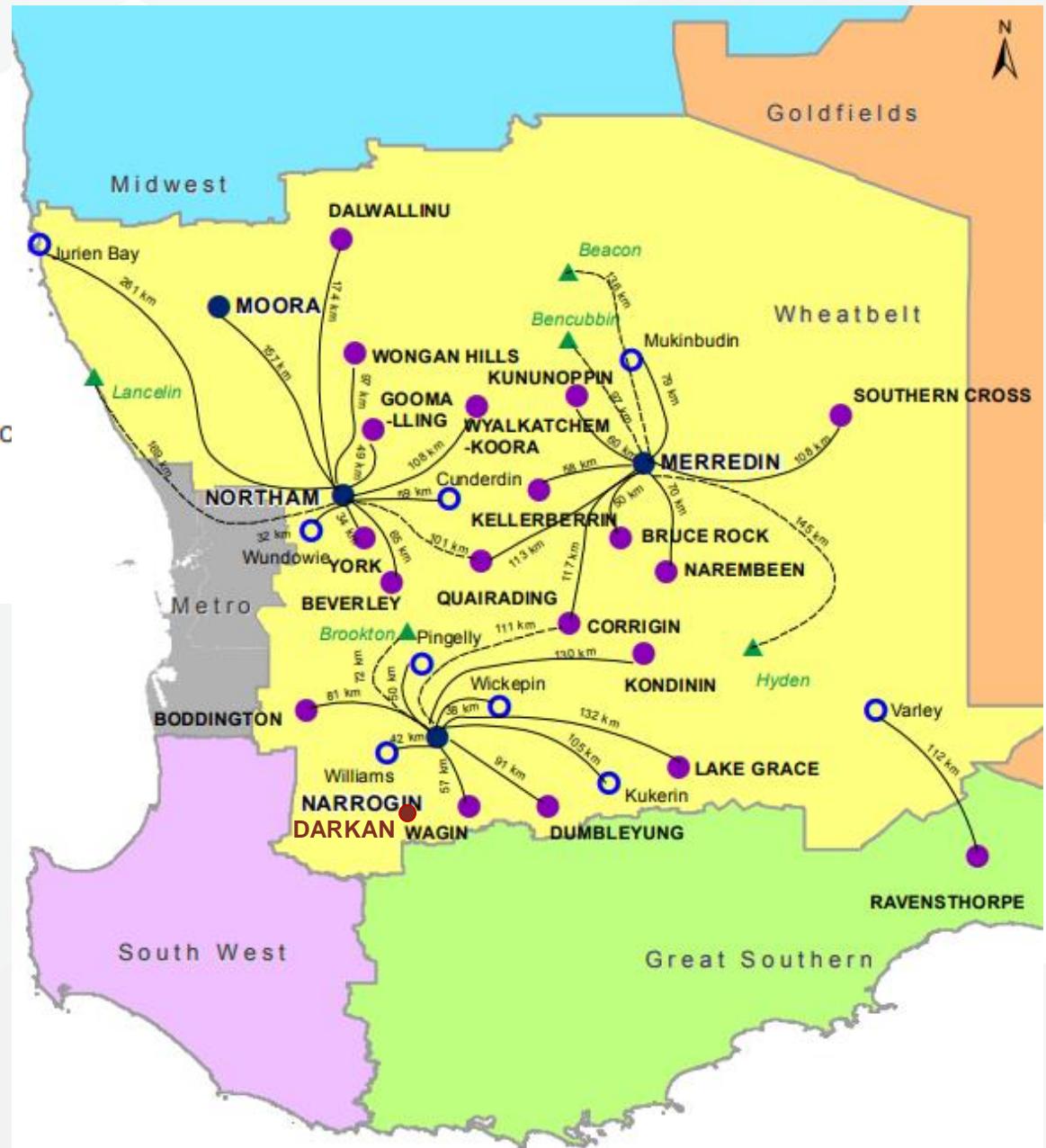




Wheatbelt

LEGEND FOR WACHS SITES

- WACHS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
- WACHS DISTRICT HOSPITAL
- WACHS SMALL HOSPITAL
- WACHS HEALTH CENTRE
- ▲ ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC/SERVICE
- ▲ SILVER CHAIN FACILITY/SERVICE
- ▲ WACHS MANAGED REMOTE AREA CLINIC
- ▲ RFD'S PRIMARY HEALTH CLINIC
- WACHS OPERATIONALLY MANAGED LINKS
- - - CLINICAL LINKS ONLY





WACHS hospitals with most presentations / admissions for these residents in 2021

Residents	Emergency Department attendances		Inpatient admissions		
6225 Bowelling	81% to Collie	14% to Bunbury	58% in Bunbury	34% in Collie	
6315 Arthur River	51% to Wagin	36% to Narrogin	76% in Narrogin	11% in Wagin	
6392 Darkan	38% to Collie	19% to Narrogin	40% in Bunbury	25% in Narrogin	22% in Collie
Total Nos.	7799		4279		



WACHS's commitment to small communities & hospitals

Infrastructure, Service & Workforce - Millions \$s invested in small hospitals

Virtual Services - Built to ensure access and support workforce



Telehealth – delivering virtual care closer to home



Regional outpatient access to telehealth



Almost **30,000**¹
outpatient appointments
in 2020–21

125,802
appointments
delivered since 2012



13,086²
mental health outpatient
consultations in 2020–21



Almost **1/3**
of these appointments at
a non-WA Health site, e.g.
community centre or at home



570%
growth since
2012



65,515
mental health outpatient
services delivered
since 2004

In 2020–21, telehealth by
video conference saved
WA patients travelling



Fuel savings
\$6.6 million⁵

40 million kilometres
for outpatient appointments³



7,385 tonnes
less CO₂ emissions⁶

That's to the moon and back
52.5 times!⁴



or equivalent to planting
110,000 trees⁷

Emergency Telehealth Service (ETS)



21,749
consultations in 2020–21
(average 400 a week)



71%
of patients avoided
transfer



86
emergency
sites statewide



135,000
consultations since
ETS began in 2012

Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service



1,764
emergency mental health
consultations in 2020–21



86
emergency mental health
virtual care sites statewide



3,000
emergency mental health
consults since 2019

Emergency Telehealth Service staff education



1,876
staff at 90 sessions
in 2020–2021



308
staff at
52 simulations

Inpatient Telehealth Service (ITS)



341
patients accepted
in 2020–21



90%
of patients
avoided transfer



58
inpatient virtual care
sites statewide



799
patients treated closer
to home since 2018



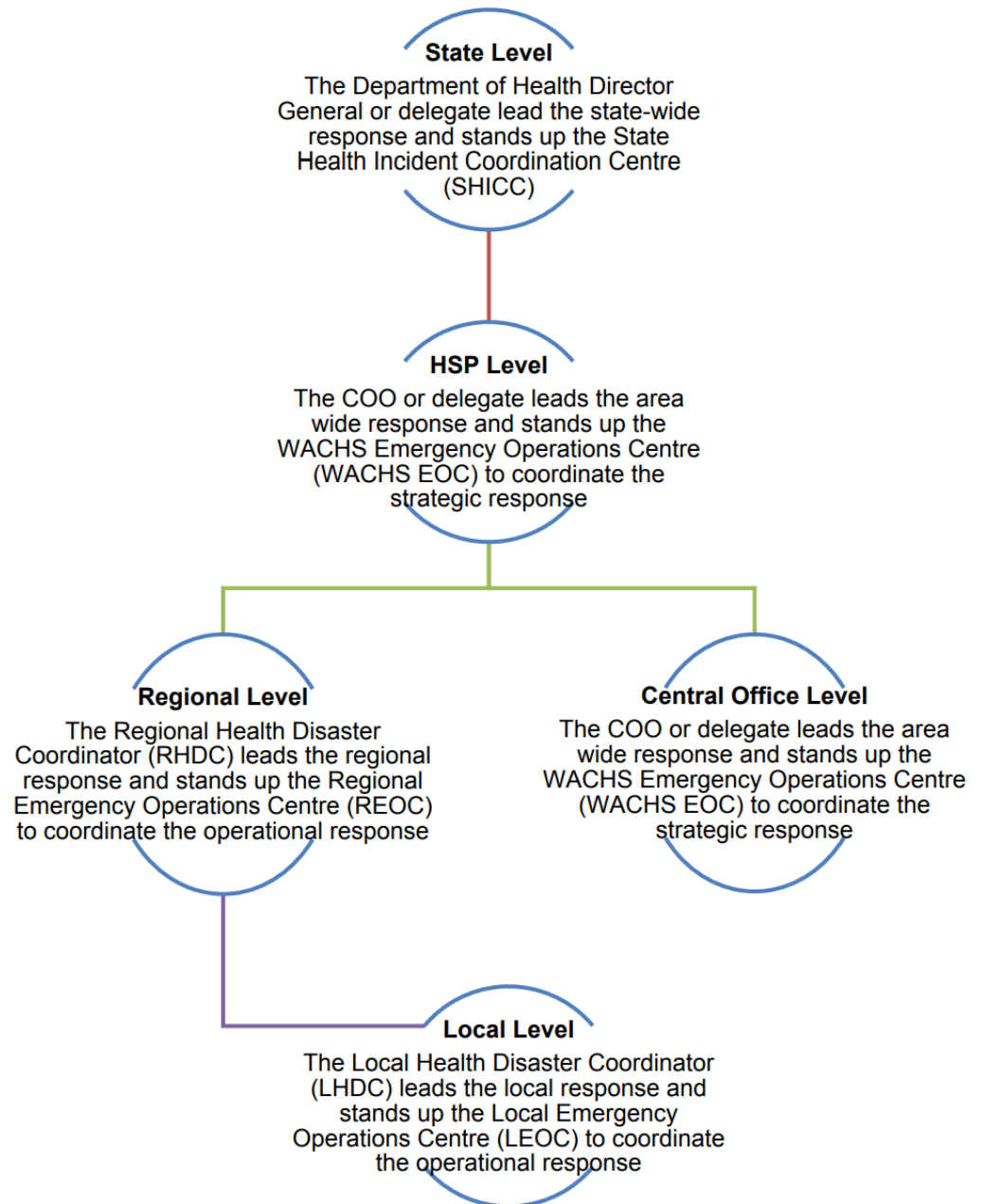
Command Centre – new services

Virtual Services - built to ensure access and support workforce 24/7

- **ACUTE PATIENT TRANSFER COORDINATION (APTC):** a coordination centre that oversees safe, timely and efficient patient transfer to and from regional and metropolitan hospitals for admitted country patients. A collaboration with WACHS Command Centre, SJAA and RFDS.
- **MATERNAL OBSTETRIC EMERGENCY TELEHEALTH SERVICE (MOETS):** supports country clinicians caring for antenatal & intrapartum women by providing 24/7 access to senior midwives & obstetricians by videoconference & other advanced technologies.
- **PALLIATIVE CARE ACUTE TELEHEALTH SERVICE (PalCATS):** supports country clinicians caring for patients by providing after hours access to senior palliative care nurses via videoconference.
- **BACKUP:** virtual nursing graduate clinical support and development.



WA Health response





WACHS COVID preparedness

- **Individual staff** (vaccination, PPE, fit testing)
- **Ventilation assessments, infrastructure upgrades, equipment**
- **Team**
 - drills, simulations, patient flow
 - deployment teams, upskilling
 - guidelines, teaching and training
- **Community and partners** (OASG, ACCHO, GPs, Aged Care, Corrections, SHICC multiagency exercises etc)



Service preparedness

- Ensuring access to
 - Emergency care
 - Residential aged care
 - Cancer – tele-chemotherapy services
 - Palliative care
 - Dialysis & chronic condition
 - Mental health
 - Maternity / obstetric emergency
 - Acute patient transport coordination
- **COVID – protecting the vulnerable**



Government of **Western Australia**
WA Country Health Service

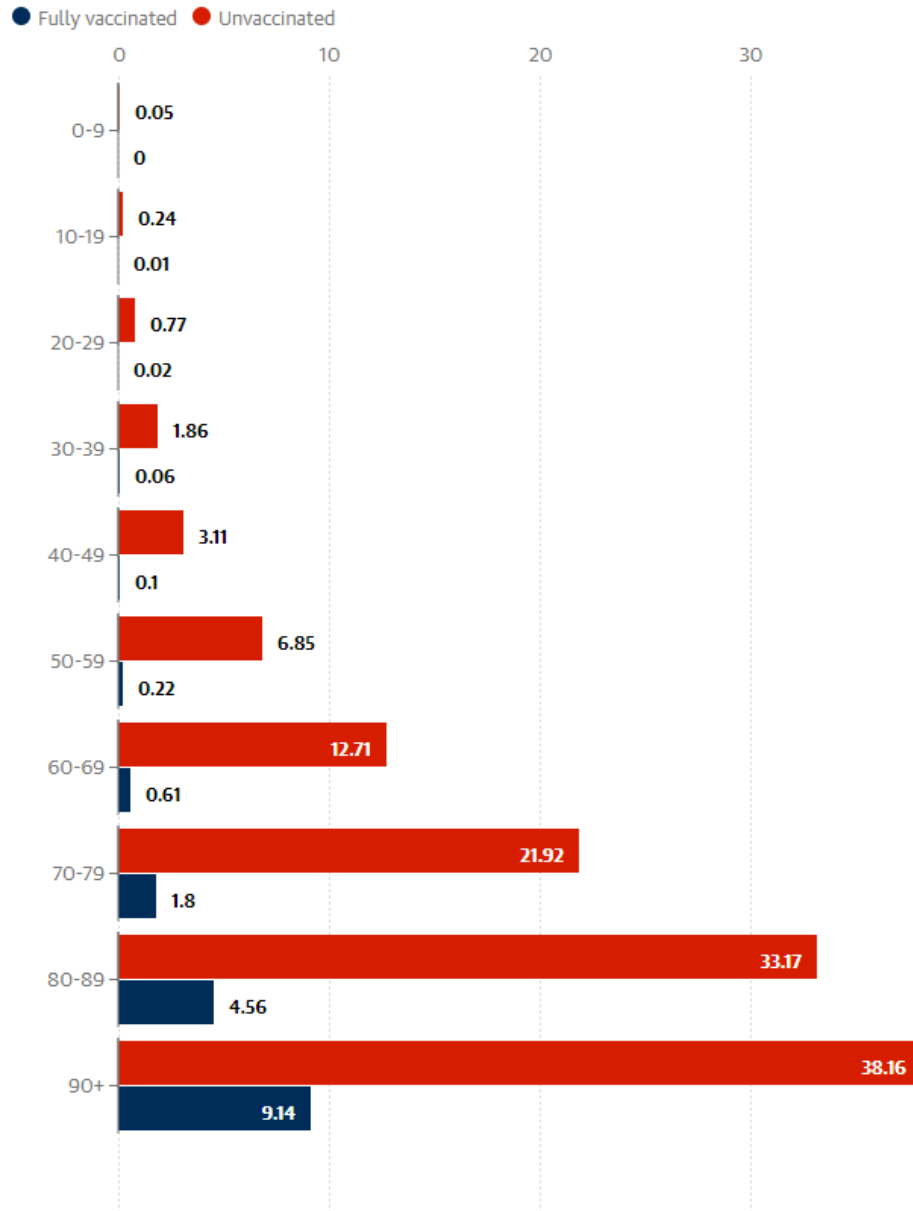
**OMICRON INFECTS MORE
PEOPLE, MORE QUICKLY,
EVEN IF VACCINATED**

**ADMISSION RATE 0.5%
GENERALLY MILD
ILLNESS**

**EFFECTIVENESS OF
VACCINATION!**

NSW DATA
GUARDIAN.COM DATABLOG

Showing deaths and ICU admissions as a percentage of Covid cases, split by vaccination status and age. Data covers June 2021 to 1 January 2022

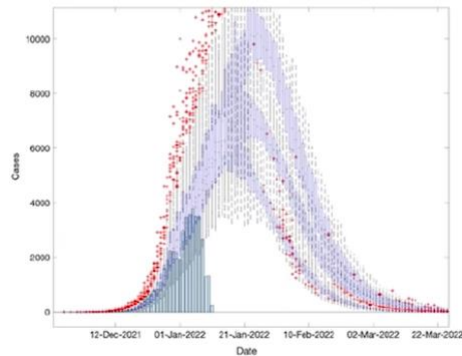




South Australia updated modelling

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COVID-19 OMICRON MODELLING | SA HEALTH

Current trajectory and possible futures



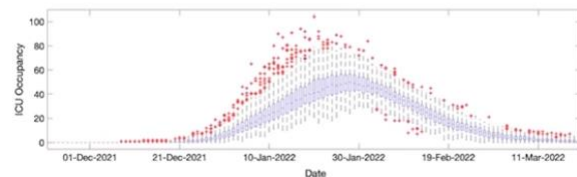
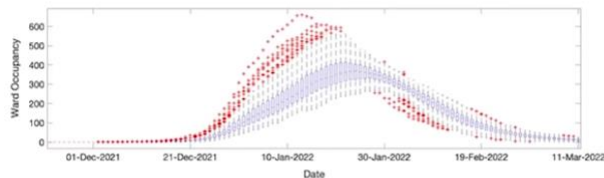
WA statewide: 95% (12 +) double vax

Regional: 88.6% (12 +) double vax

50.2% Booster

HIGH VAX RATES & STRONG PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES modify the curve – flattening, reducing

Hospitals



Public Health measures - reduced transmission by 50% (masks, isolation, testing)

- Possible future based on SA
 - 6 weeks to peak
 - 4 months duration
 - Possible 370 pts in hospital at peak
 - 50 ICU beds at peak



Regional experience - OMICRON

- More impact in community than Delta
- Widespread & varying impact in regions over time
- More cases remain in **local services home / hospital**
- **Local relationships & communication the key**
- WACHS likely impact:
 - staff sick, isolated, furloughed from community exposure
 - more patients admitted with COVID
- **Actions to mitigate**
 - Agency & metro partnerships, recruitment +++, \$ incentives, internal deployment
 - Remaining AGILE to context – contingency planning for service disruption



System alert response

- **WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR)**
 - Overarching guidance for HSPs / hospitals/masks/PPE/visiting
 - Reflects disease & service risks

WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response				
Alert Level	Green: COVID-19 READY Nil to very limited, and stable, case numbers in community Satisfactory vaccination rates and testing capacity	Amber: COVID-19 ALERT Disease in community with growing spread and risk Concerns over vaccination rates and/or testing capacity	Red: WIDESPREAD TRANSMISSION Increasing and high rates of community transmission of COVID-19	Black: SYSTEM AT CAPACITY Service demand exceeds COVID-19 service response capacity

As at 17 February:

- South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern, metro = Amber
- Pilbara = Interim Amber
- Midwest, Goldfields, Kimberley = Interim Amber from 21 February



State-wide WA COVID @ home pathway launched

January 31, 2022

- Most people can manage COVID at home with GP
- WA COVID @ Home - free state-wide, private provider telehealth for COVID patients at higher risk
- People with COVID register online OR others register for them
- Oximeters delivered in advance to people at risk in country WA



Where are we at in WACHS?

- Based on interstate - workforce pressures
- Staff surveyed feel supported and prepared
- We will continue to care for patients in the best place for their clinical needs
- Working with transport partners to optimise service for people with / without COVID who need transport to care



Remote Aboriginal communities

- Working with the State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC) and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) on:
 - First 48-72 hour plans
 - Accommodation plans
 - Garrijang Village Kununurra
 - Alternative interim solutions in Derby & Kununurra
 - Transport plans
 - Communications / public information
 - Command and control
 - Cultural considerations



What do individuals do to prepare?



Prepare self



Prepare with
family/neighbours/
friends/GP/
pharmacy



Mental
checklist-
practice

- All of us
 - Vaccination - 3rd dose
 - Masks, sanitiser, reduce exposure
 - Medications stocked for 1 month in advance
 - Food, fluids, Panadol
 - Keep informed
 - Keep key numbers at hand
 - Promote to others



How do we work together to support communities?



Effective comms?



Workforce/
Volunteers?



Other

- Local & regional conversations – OASG, LHDC & LHEOCs
- What are the issues for you?



State Council December 2021

Phillip Blight

State Councillors Report.

Item

5.2 Paid Domestic Violence Leave

There was a move to extend this to ten days however almost all zones had supported five days so the initial motion was foreshadowed and supported with the amended wording of " five days' paid FDVL per year as a minimum entitlement"

5.11 Constitution and Governance Review (01-004-05-002 TL/TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services, and Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich Seconded: Cr Doug Thompson

That the proposed Constitution and Governance Review as outlined in this report be endorsed.

RESOLUTION 301.7/2021 CARRIED

5.12 WALGA President Vacation of Office

By Nick Sloan, Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary

☐ WALGA President Mayor Tracey Roberts has advised of her resignation effective at the completion of the 1 December State Council meeting.

☐ State Council has discretion on how to proceed with regards to the Presidency, as outlined in the WALGA Constitution.

☐ There are two options available to State Council.

MOTION

Moved: President Cr Michelle Rich Seconded: President Cr Chris Pavlovich

1. That State Council note and accept the President's resignation and thank her for her service to WALGA and wish her best for the future.

2. That State Council determine that the vacancy be filled by the current Deputy President until the next scheduled election (being 2 March 2022).

RESOLUTION 302.7/2021 CARRIED

Local Government Agricultural Freight Group Report

I have attended two meetings, one on the 26th of November 2021, and the next on Friday 4th February 2022, the minutes of both meetings are attached to the Zone Agenda.

The basis of the November's meeting was to elect the chair, and discuss the role of the group, with discussion occurring around our advocacy for the Agricultural Freight Task. Outgoing Chair Rod Forsyth sent a letter detailing where he thought our focus should go. The feedback from the other two member zones was that the group should continue, but really in an advocacy role as detailed in the minutes.

The outcomes from the meeting where letters were to be sent to the Minister Safioti requesting an update on Revitalising Agricultural Regional Freight Strategy was at and the timeline for implementation, an update on the Ag Supply Chain Improvement Program funding, and an online mapping program showing funding projects and priorities. A second letter was to be sent to Federal Government seeking additional funding for road and rail. These letters were to be ratified by the group in early 2022.

The second meeting held via Teams on Friday 4th Feb 2022, ratified the draft letters (final letters attached).

It is my view that the membership of the LG Ag Freight Group is too small, and therefore lacks a good deal of robustness behind it, and credibility. A group or Policy Forum established under the auspice of WALGA would have a much broader view and look more holistically at the freight task. If 20m Tonne crops are going to become the norm, our local roads are going to come under considerable pressure by transport operators, with the volume of inputs growing as well, we need a wholistic approach to what the network looks like and its capacity vs. who's going to pay. This needs to be a whole of LG approach, not just three zones. The pressure to open local roads to "concessional loading" is becoming harder and harder to ignore, and the state network can't handle the volume either, so some long term (30+ years) planning needs to be undertaken involving all forms of transport.

As always, I welcome your feedback, suggestions, or concerns whether by phone or email.

Katrina Crute
Shire.president@brookton.wa.gov.au



State Council

Full Minutes

Special Meeting

23 February 2022

Via MS Teams

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

OPEN and WELCOME

The Chair declared the meeting open at **4:00pm**.

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 Attendance

Members	Acting President of WALGA, Northern Country Zone - Chair	President Cr Karen Chappel JP
	Avon-Midland Country Zone	Cr Ken Seymour
	Central Country Zone	President Cr Phillip Blight
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Paul Kelly
	Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Helen Sadler
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Catherine Ehrhardt
	East Metropolitan Zone	Cr John Daw
	Goldfields Esperance Country Zone	President Cr Laurene Bonza
	Gascoyne Country Zone	President Cr Eddie Smith (Deputy)
	Great Eastern Country Zone	President Cr Stephen Strange
	Great Southern Country Zone	President Cr Chris Pavlovich
	Kimberley Country Zone	Cr Chris Mitchell JP
	Murchison Country Zone	Cr Les Price
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Frank Cvitan JP
	North Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Mark Irwin
	North Metropolitan Zone	Cr Russ Fishwick JP
	Peel Country Zone	President Cr Michelle Rich
	Pilbara Country Zone	Mayor Peter Long
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Cr Carl Celedin
	South East Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Ruth Butterfield
	South Metropolitan Zone	Cr Doug Thompson
	South Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Carol Adams OAM
	South Metropolitan Zone	Mayor Logan Howlett JP
	South West Country Zone	President Cr Tony Dean
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer	Mr Nick Sloan
	EM Governance & Organisational Services	Mr Tony Brown
	EM Infrastructure	Mr Ian Duncan
	Acting EM Strategy, Policy & Planning	Ms Nicole Matthews
	Principal Special Projects and Acting EM Communications	Ms Narelle Cant
	Acting EM Commercial	Mr Craig Hansom
	Manager Strategy & Association Governance	Mr Tim Lane
	Manager Governance & Procurement	Mr James McGovern
	Principal, Policy and Advocacy	Ms Kelly McManus
	Governance Specialist	Ms Lyn Fogg
	Governance Specialist	Mr Willem Bouwer
	Procurement Specialist	Ms Tania Narkevich
	Executive Officer Governance	Ms Kathy Robertson
Observers	Deputy State Councillor, Avon-Midland Country Zone	President Cr Rosemary Madacsi
	Deputy State Councillor, Central Country Zone	President Cr Katrina Crute
	Deputy State Councillor, Central Metropolitan Zone	Cr Kerry Smith

Deputy State Councillor, East Metropolitan Zone
Deputy State Councillor, Northern Country Zone
Deputy State Councillor, Peel Country Zone
Deputy State Councillor, South East Metropolitan Zone
City of Albany Chief Executive Officer
City of Albany Executive Director Corporate and Commercial Services
City of Bayswater Councillor

Cr Paige McNeil
President Cr Moira Girando
Cr Lauren Strange
Cr Melissa Northcott

Mr Andrew Sharpe
Mr Duncan Olde

Cr Giorgia Johnson

1.2 Apologies

- State Councillor President Cr Cheryl Cowell, Gascoyne Country Zone
- The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas
- LG Professionals WA President, Ms Annie Riordan

1.3 Announcements

1.3.1 Acknowledgement of Country

WALGA acknowledges the Whadjuk Nyoongar people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet in person today and acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which people are remotely participating in this meeting and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

1.3.2 Vale Troy Pickard

WA Local Government Association State Council and Staff are greatly saddened at the passing of former WALGA President Troy Pickard.

Mr Pickard was committed to bringing about positive change for his local communities in Stirling and Joondalup and a passionate advocate for the sector at both the State and National level as President of WALGA and the Australian Local Government Association.

Across his 15 years of service as an Elected Member, Troy made an immense contribution to the local communities of Stirling and Joondalup, both as a Councillor and in leadership roles of Deputy Mayor and Mayor.

Mr Pickard made great strides in representing the WA Local Government sector in his roles as WALGA President from 2010 and 2015 and Deputy President for three years prior; and on the national stage as ALGA President from 2014 to 2016 and Deputy President from 2010 to 2014.

He also achieved significant wins for the Local Government sector in his role as ALGA President including securing \$1.1 billion dollars in additional road funding, which formed the biggest single funding commitment from any Federal Government since Federation to the Local Government sector at the time.

Troy will be sadly missed and we offer our condolences to his family and friends.

The Chair provided an opportunity for State Councillors to make comments acknowledging the significant contribution made by Troy.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

Nil

3. MATTER FOR DECISION

3.1 Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance and Organisational Services & James McGovern, Manager Governance and Procurement

WALGA RECOMMENDATION

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Executive Summary

- The Minister for Local Government, Hon. John Carey MLA, commenced the consultation period for the Local Government Reform Proposals on 10 November 2021.
- WALGA distributed a Discussion Paper to the sector on 24 November 2021, including commentary on the sector's current positions contained in the reform proposals together with recommendations on new positions required on matters not canvassed in the reforms.
- Feedback from Local Governments was initially requested by 5pm on Wednesday, 12 January 2022, however this was adjusted following the Minister's extension to the consultation period.
- WALGA received 65 submissions by close of response on Friday, 28 January 2022

Attachments

- Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

Policy Implications

The adoption of advocacy positions will inform WALGA policy positions and will be incorporated in WALGA's [Advocacy Positions Manual](#).

Budgetary Implications

Nil

Background

The proposed Local Government Reforms are based on six themes:

1. Earlier intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties
2. Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity
3. Greater transparency and accountability
4. Stronger local democracy and community engagement
5. Clear roles and responsibilities
6. Improved financial management and reporting.

Information is available on the [Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries](#) website.

Comment

65 Local Governments responded by 28 January 2022, categorized by band as follows:

- Band 1 – 17%
- Band 2 – 15%
- Band 3 – 22%
- Band 4 – 46%

The overall response indicates majority support for many of the proposed reforms, most commonly where reforms align with current sector advocacy positions.

There was strong commentary from the sector on the following proposed reforms that were not supported:

Item 6.6 Audit Committees – 89% Opposed

The proposed reform to require a majority of independent members on Audit Committees, and mandate that the Audit Committee chair be an independent person, was strongly challenged. The fundamental purpose of an Audit Committee is to provide the vehicle for governance of a Local Government's affairs, a primary role of Council under Section 2.7(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1995* ('the Act'). For this reason, the sector supports a Council Member majority on Audit Committees and acknowledges the role of the Office of the Auditor General as the independent auditor of Local Governments. The sector confirmed that appointing independent members to Audit Committees is supported and practiced, and that Audit Committees can elect an independent member as Chair under provisions of s.5.12 of the Act. The sector supports the concept of shared regional Audit Committees on proviso there be a majority of Council Members, and the payment of meeting fees or defined reimbursements to independent Audit Committee members be legislatively authorised (State Council resolution no. 293.7/2021).

Item 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting – 85% Opposed

The sector remains in favour of the first past the post method of vote counting. Risk of the infiltration of party politics, and that preference swapping leading to alliances among candidates has potential for factionalisation of Councils were pre-eminent in the response. First past the post voting remains favoured on the grounds of its simplicity, efficiency, ease of voter understanding, transparency and candidates campaigning based on the merits of the individual. However, if 'first past the post' is not retained then optional preferential voting is preferred.

Item 4.4 Public Vote to Elect Mayor or President of Band 1 and 2 Local Governments – 66% Opposed

Retaining the discretion to choose between popularly-elected Mayors and Presidents of Band 1 and 2 Local Governments remains the favoured option. Respondents queried the lack of detailed benefit of the proposal to enshrine one system of election over another, commenting that the alternate method of election provided under s.2.11 and s.2.12 of the Act permits both a Local Government and electors of the district to exercise agency for change.

Item 4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors – 67% Opposed

There is broad support for WALGA's proposed option that Local Governments with populations up to 5,000 be represented by between 5 and 7 Council Members. The remaining categories of representation are supported.

Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators – 62% Opposed

There is support for the reporting of CEO KPI's that reflect the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, to the exclusion of reporting KPI's of a confidential nature (i.e workplace or risk-based matters). There is also support for the exclusion of reporting performance review results which is regarded as a private matter between employer and employee to be maintained as a confidential record of the Local Government.

Local Governments were requested to provide comment on the reform proposal under Item 5.7 'Remove WALGA from the Act'.

The basis of the reform proposal is a recommendation from the Local Government Review Panel that WALGA not be constituted under the Act, with the following comment:

The Panel deliberated the merits of WALGA being constituted under the Local Government Act and determined that it was not appropriate to incorporate a member body under this legislation. This created confusion as to the extent of the Minister's powers over the organisation and WALGA's level of independence.¹

WALGA has concerns that unforeseen negative consequences might arise should the reform proposal proceed in the absence of surety for the protection of the preferred supplier program and mutual insurance scheme provisions that are currently embedded in the Act, the merits of which are supported by the Review Panel. WALGA will continue with the due diligence review of the broader implications of the proposal and will consult further with member Local Governments.

There is significant commentary throughout the sector response that the proposed reforms lack necessary detail in terms of how they will be operationalized, and the associated implications to Local Government in terms of implementation cost and resourcing. WALGA supports the view that additional information is required and that it should be part of future consultation. It is recommended the Minister for Local Government provide assurance that the detail of each proposed reform be the subject of further consultation with the sector.

It is also recommended that once a comprehensive and detailed consultation process has concluded, that WALGA participates in the legislative drafting process to provide an operational perspective necessary to the development of a workable Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Zone Resolutions

Avon Midland Country Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Central Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Gascoyne Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Kimberley Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
North Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
Pilbara Zone	WALGA recommendation supported
South East Metropolitan Zone	WALGA recommendation supported

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ZONE

1. That the following recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed subject to the following amendment:
 - a. Item 5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members – support
 - WALGA supports mandating Local Governments superannuation contributions for Elected Members
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and

¹ Local Government Review Panel - Final Report '*Recommendations for a new Local Government Act for Western Australia*' May 2020, page 46

- b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

PEEL COUNTRY ZONE

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.
3. Given the strong feedback from the Sector, that the following recommendations be removed from the reform package:
 - a. Having the majority of the Audit Committee members, including the Chair, be removed;
 - b. Preferential Voting in Local Government Elections be removed;
 - c. Publicly Elected Mayor/Presidents mandate be removed;
 - d. Tiered Limits on the number of Councillors; and that
 - e. CEO Performance Review results remain confidential.

EAST METROPOLITAN ZONE

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed, subject to the following amendment:
 - a. Deletion of optional preferential voting from the submission recommendation for Item 4.3 Introduction for Preferential Voting.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

GREAT EASTERN COUNTRY ZONE

1. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed, subject to:
 - a. Item 2.2: Support on the basis that there cannot be a one size fits all State-wide approach to crossovers.
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

GOLDFIELDS ESPERANCE COUNTRY ZONE

GVROC support the WALGA recommendation as presented.

GVROC also request WALGA State Council to note and consider the Goldfields Zone concerns around continual requests for special electors' meetings being called (e.g. currently around Covid-19 Mandates but also in general) and consider making provision of some form of protection for LGAs in the Act/Regulations that does not allow continued requests on the same matter once Council has resolved a decision for a specified time period (e.g. normal decisions of Councils cannot be revisited at another meeting for at least three months).

SOUTH WEST COUNTRY ZONE

The South West Country Zone supports the WALGA recommendation as presented.

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide protections against the misuse of special electors meetings by:

1. prohibiting a matter previously considered being resubmitted; and
2. ensuring that motions to be considered are relevant to Local Government.

GREAT SOUTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

That the Great Southern Zone of WALGA:

1. Supports the comments and recommendations made by WALGA in its Local Government Reform Proposal Submission, and
2. Opposes the following three Reform Proposals, namely:
 - 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators,
 - 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting, and
 - 6.6 Audit Committees

NORTHERN COUNTRY ZONE

1. That the Northern Country Zone of WALGA's position on WALGA's recommendations in the Local Government Reform Proposal Submission is as shown in the table below; and
2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

REFORM ITEM	NCZ POSITION ON WALGA RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
3.5 CEO KPIs to be Published	Not Supported	

REFORM ITEM	NCZ POSITION ON WALGA RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
4.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Charters	Conditional Support	1. Depending upon nature/scope of charter this may simply form an additional compliance requirement with no practical benefit – particularly in smaller shires where there is often strong and regular community engagement by virtue of community size - optional for Tier 3 and 4 Local Governments. 2. Agree with Model Charter, but not mandated
5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members	Not Supported	
5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker Period	Not Supported	
6.6 Audit Committees	Not Supported	

CENTRAL COUNTRY ZONE

1. That the recommendations contained in the 'Local Government Reform Proposal *Submission*' be endorsed, subject to the following amendments:
 - a. Item 1.6 Vexatious complaints – Support, subject to:
 - i. The Information Commissioner should also have the power to declare repeated FOI requests as vexatious.
 - ii. Legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
 - b. Item 1.7 Minor Other reforms – Support, subject to:
 - i. Do not support the Minister being the author/publisher of guidance notices.
 - ii. Initial guidance notices should be published by the DG, Dept of Local Government, with subsequent corrective guidance notices coming from the Inspector.
 - iii. Any guidance advice/notices provided should recognise its resourcing implications.
 - c. Item 3.1 Recording and Live Streaming Council meetings – Not Supported
 - d. Item 3.2 Recording All votes – Not Supported
 - e. Item 5.2.3 Elected Member role clarity – Support subject to including reference to the requirement for Councillors to 'support the decisions of the Council' which will be important when communicating the decisions of the Council to the community (sub dot point 5).
 - f. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role clarity – Support subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.
 - g. Item 6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning – Not Supported
 - h. Item 6.6 Audit Committees – Support subject to the requirement for independent members being mandatory not applying to Band 3 and 4 Local Governments.
 - i. Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published – Not Supported
2. That WALGA:

- a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
- b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

1. That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA support the recommendations contained in the Local Government Reform proposal submission subject to the following provisions:

PROPOSED REFORMS	MCZ POSITION ON WALGA RECOMMENDATION	COMMENT
1.5 Rapid Red Card Resolutions	Supported – see comment	The red card should be item specific therefore the Councillor is not removed for the whole meeting.
2.1 Resource Sharing	Supported – see comment	Distances are too vast for the sharing of CEO's in the Murchison. This is already being done for other services where practicable but see no need to enshrine into legislation.
2.6 Standardised Meeting Procedures, Including Public Question Time	Not Supported	We don't agree that small LG's use the same standing orders as a City does. It should be up to each individual council.
3.1 Recordings and Live Streaming of All Council Meetings	Not Supported	
3.2 Recording All Votes in Council Minutes	Not Supported	Our response is we would like it to remain optional.
3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential	Supported	We do not support the recording being submitted to the Department on confidential items
3.4 Additional Online Registers	Not Supported	
3.5 CEO KPI's be Published	Not Supported	
4.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Charters	Not Supported	
4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors	Not Supported and strongly opposed	
5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members	Not Supported	

5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period	Not Supported	
5.8 CEO Recruitment	Not Supported	
6.3 Rates and Revenue Policy	Supported with the following considerations – see comment	Acknowledges that mining rates are significantly different to other UV rates and create a new category of rating therefore negating the annual need to apply for Ministerial approval to raise mining rates that are consistently more than two times the pastoral rates. This could also be considered for GRV mining camps. Review of section 6.26 of LG Act in relation to land that is exempt from rates.
6.6 Audit Committees	Not Supported and strongly opposed	
6.7 Building Upgrade Finance	Not Supported	

2. That WALGA:
 - a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
 - b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

SECRETARIAT COMMENT

There is significant commentary throughout the sector response that the proposed reforms lack necessary detail in terms of how they will be operationalized, and the associated implications to Local Government in terms of implementation cost and resourcing. Additional information is required and should be part of future consultation. It is recommended the Minister for Local Government provide assurance that the detail of each proposed reform be the subject of further consultation with the sector.

Noting the importance of the sector's involvement through WALGA in the detailed design of the proposals, it is suggested that the order of the recommendations be reversed.

COMPOSITE RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mayor Ruth Butterfield

Seconded: Cr Paul Kelly

1. That WALGA:

- a. seek assurance from the Minister for Local Government that further detail on the proposed reforms will be provided to the sector for comment prior to the formulation of a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill; and
- b. seek a formal commitment from the Minister for Local Government that WALGA actively participates in the legislative drafting process necessary to formulate a draft Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

2. That the recommendations contained in the '*Local Government Reform Proposal Submission*' be endorsed subject to:

- a. Item 1.6 Vexatious Complaint Referrals: Support proposed reform subject to the legislation to include the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.
- b. Item 3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential: Support proposed reform subject to deleting the requirement to provide confidential items to the DLGSC.
- c. Item 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting:
 1. Oppose the proposal for preferential voting and support 'first past the post' as the method of counting votes.
 2. However, if 'first past the post' is not retained then optional preferential voting is preferred.
- d. Item 4.4 Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President: Oppose this proposal and support retaining the current provision, that the election of Mayors and Presidents be at the discretion of each Local Government.
- e. Item 5.2.4 CEO Role: Support proposed reform subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment, and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.
- f. Additional Reform Proposal: Elector's Meetings: That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide protections against the misuse of special electors meetings by:
 1. prohibiting a matter previously considered being resubmitted; and
 2. ensuring that motions to be considered are relevant to Local Government.

RESOLUTION 312.1/2022

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

4 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at **4:38pm**.

Local Government Reform Proposal

Submission

February 2022

About WALGA

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) is working for Local Government in Western Australia. As the peak industry body, WALGA advocates on behalf of 139 Western Australian Local Governments. As the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia, WALGA is an independent, membership-based organization representing and supporting the work and interests of Local Governments in Western Australia. WALGA provides an essential voice for 1,215 Elected Members, approximately 22,000 Local Government employees (16,500 Full Time Equivalents) as well as over 2.5 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia.

Contacts

Nick Sloan
Chief Executive Officer
nsloan@walga.asn.au

Tony Brown
Executive Manager Governance and
Organisational Services
tbrown@walga.asn.au

James McGovern
Manager Governance and Procurement
jmcgovern@walga.asn.au

Local Government Act Review Process

WALGA, through consultation with the Local Government Sector, endorsed sector advocacy positions relating to Local Government Act amendments in March 2019 and December 2020. These advocacy positions were developed considering (but not limited to):

- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) consultation on Act Reform (2017-2020)
- The City of Perth Inquiry Report (mid 2020)
- The State Parliament's Select Committee Report into Local Government (late 2020)

In December 2020, WALGA endorsed the following principles for any review of the Local Government Act:

Local Government Reform – WALGA Principles

That the following key principles be embodied in the Local Government Act:

1. Uphold the general competence principle currently embodied in the Local Government Act
2. Provide for a flexible, principles-based legislative framework
3. Promote a size and scale compliance regime
4. Promote enabling legislation that empowers Local Government to carry out activities beneficial to its community taking into consideration Local Governments' role in creating a sustainable and resilient community through:
 - a. Economic development
 - b. Environmental protection, and
 - c. Social advancement
5. Avoid red tape and 'de-clutter' the extensive regulatory regime that underpins the Local Government Act, and
6. The State Government must not assign legislative responsibilities to Local Governments unless there is provision for resources required to fulfil the responsibilities.

It is worth noting that of the above principles, items 1, 2 and 3 are addressed in these legislative reform proposals and principles 4 and 5 are partially addressed.

Local Government Response

WALGA released the Local Government Reform Proposals – Summary of Proposed Reforms Discussion Paper on 24 November 2021, calling for a response by 28 January 2022.

This document is based on submissions made by 65 respondent Local Governments. The overall response indicates majority support for many of the proposed reforms, most commonly where reforms align with current sector advocacy positions.

Key Issues

The submissions included strong commentary on the following proposed reforms that are of concern:

Item 6.6 Audit Committees

The proposed reform to require a majority of independent members on Audit Committees, and mandate that the Audit Committee chair be an independent person, was strongly challenged. A fundamental purpose of an Audit Committee is to provide the vehicle for governance of a Local Government's affairs, and this links directly with the role of Council under Section 2.7(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act* ('the Act'). For this

Local Government Reform Proposal Submission

reason, the sector supports a Council Member majority on Audit Committees and acknowledges the role of the Office of the Auditor General as the independent auditor of Local Governments. The sector confirmed that appointing independent members to Audit Committees is supported and practiced, and that Audit Committees can elect an independent member as Chair under provisions of s.5.12 of the Act. The sector supports the concept of shared regional Audit Committees on proviso there be a majority of Council Members, and the payment of meetings fees or defined reimbursements to independent Audit Committee members be legislatively authorised.

Item 4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting

The sector remains in favour of the first past the post method of vote counting. Risk of the infiltration of party politics, and that preference swapping leading to alliances amongst candidates has potential for factionalisation of Councils, were pre-eminent in the response. 'First past the post' voting remains favoured on the grounds of its simplicity, efficiency, ease of voter understanding, transparency and candidates campaigning based on the merits of the individual. However, if 'first past the post' is not retained, then optional preferential voting is preferred.

Item 4.4 Public Vote to Elect Mayor or President of Band 1 and 2 Local Governments

Retaining the discretion to choose between popularly-elected Mayors and Presidents of Band 1 and 2 Local Governments remains the favoured option. Respondents queried the lack of detailed benefit of the proposal to enshrine one system of election over another, commenting that the alternate method of election provided under s.2.11 and s.2.12 of the Act permits both a Local Government and electors of the district to exercise agency for change.

Item 4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors

There is broad support for WALGA's proposed option that Local Governments with populations up to 5,000 be represented by between 5 and 7 Council Members. The remaining categories of representation are supported.

Item 3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators

There is support for the reporting of CEO KPIs that reflect the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, to the exclusion of reporting KPIs of a confidential nature (i.e. workplace or risk-based matters). There is also support for the exclusion of reporting performance review results which is regarded as a private matter between employer and employee, to be maintained as a confidential record of the Local Government.

The following provides a detailed response to each legislative reform proposal.

Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation and Stronger Penalties

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
1.1 Early Intervention Powers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to establish a Chief Inspector of Local Government (the Inspector), supported by an Office of the Local Government Inspector (the Inspectorate). The Inspector would receive minor and serious complaints about elected members. The Inspector would oversee complaints relating to local government CEOs. Local Governments would still be responsible for dealing with minor behavioural complaints. The Inspector would have powers of a standing inquiry, able to investigate and intervene in any local government where potential issues are identified. The Inspector would have the authority to assess, triage, refer, investigate, or close complaints, having regard to various public interest criteria – considering laws such as the <i>Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003</i>, the <i>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984</i>, the <i>Building Act 2011</i>, and other legislation. The Inspector would have powers to implement minor penalties for less serious breaches of the Act, with an appeal mechanism. The Inspector would also have the power to order a local government to address non-compliance with the Act or Regulations. The Inspector would be supported by a panel of Local Government Monitors (see item 1.2). The existing Local Government Standards Panel would be replaced with a new Conduct Panel (see item 1.3). Penalties for breaches to the Local Government Act and Regulations will be reviewed and are proposed to be generally strengthened (see item 1.4). These reforms would be supported by new powers to more quickly resolve issues within local government (see items 1.5 and 1.6). 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Items 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 <u>generally align</u> with WALGA Advocacy Position 2.6.8 - 'Establish Office of Independent Assessor'</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Establishing an Office of the Independent Assessor to replace the Standards Panel to provide an independent body to receive, investigate and assess complaints against Elected Members and undertake inquiries.</i> <i>Remove the CEO from being involved in processing complaints.</i> <i>That an early intervention framework of monitoring to support Local Governments be provided with any associated costs to be the responsibility of the State Government.</i> <i>An external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework.</i> <p>Comment The Local Government sector is in favour of early intervention and a swift response to potentially disruptive or dysfunctional behaviours. The Proposed Reforms state '<i>Local Governments would still be responsible for dealing with minor behavioural complaints</i>' and therefore do not go as far as the Sector's recent request for an external oversight model for the independent assessment of local level complaints (State Council Res: 264.5/2021 – September 2021). However this will be mitigated with the Inspector able to respond to a Local Government having unresolved matters by appointing a monitor to assist the Local Government.</p> <p>It is expected the Local Government Inspectorate would be funded by the State Government, however it is noted that the cost of the Local Government Monitors and the Conduct Panel would be borne by the Local Government concerned.</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p><u>Recommendation – Items 1.1 to 1.3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the proposed reforms as they align with the sectors position on external oversight and support. 2. Request the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.
1.2 Local Government Monitors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A panel of Local Government Monitors would be established. • Monitors could be appointed by the Inspector to go into a local government and try to resolve problems. • The purpose of Monitors would be to proactively fix problems, rather than to identify blame or collect evidence. • Monitors would be qualified specialists, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Experienced and respected former Mayors, Presidents, and CEOs - to act as mentors and facilitators ◦ Dispute resolution experts - to address the breakdown of professional working relationships ◦ Certified Practicing Accountants and other financial specialists - to assist with financial management and reporting issues ◦ Governance specialists and lawyers - to assist councils resolve legal issues ◦ HR and procurement experts - to help with processes like recruiting a CEO or undertaking a major land transaction. • Only the Inspector would have the power to appoint Monitors. • Local governments would be able to make requests to the Inspector to appoint Monitors for a specific purpose. <p>Monitor Case Study 1 – Financial Management</p> <p>The Inspector receives information that a local government is not collecting rates correctly under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>. Upon initial review, the Inspector identifies that there may be a problem. The Inspector appoints a Monitor who specialises in financial management in local government. The Monitor visits the local government and identifies that the system used to manage rates is not correctly issuing rates notices. The Monitor works with</p>	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 1.1 to 1.3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the proposed reforms as they align with the sectors position on external oversight and support. 2. Request the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>the local government to rectify the error, and issue corrections to impacted ratepayers.</p> <p>Monitor Case Study 2 – Dispute Resolution The Inspector receives a complaint from one councillor that another councillor is repeatedly publishing derogatory personal attacks against another councillor on social media, and that the issue has not been able to be resolved at the local government level. The Inspector identifies that there has been a relationship breakdown between the two councillors due to a disagreement on council.</p> <p>The Inspector appoints a Monitor to host mediation sessions between the councillors. The Monitor works with the councillors to address the dispute. Through regular meetings, the councillors agree to a working relationship based on the council's code of conduct. After the mediation, the Monitor occasionally makes contact with both councillors to ensure there is a cordial working relationship between the councillors.</p>	
1.3 Conduct Panel	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standards Panel is proposed to be replaced with a new Local Government Conduct Panel. • The Conduct Panel would be comprised of suitably qualified and experienced professionals. Sitting councillors will not be eligible to serve on the Conduct Panel. • The Inspector would provide evidence to the Conduct Panel for adjudication. • The Conduct Panel would have powers to impose stronger penalties – potentially including being able to suspend councillors for up to three months, with an appeal mechanism. • For very serious or repeated breaches of the Local Government Act, the Conduct Panel would have the power to recommend prosecution through the courts. • Any person who is subject to a complaint before the Conduct Panel would have the right to address the Conduct Panel before the Panel makes a decision. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 1.1 to 1.3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the proposed reforms as they align with the sectors position on external oversight and support. 2. Request the Minister to explore alternate mechanisms for resolving local level complaints.

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
1.4 Review of Penalties	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalties for breaching the Local Government Act are proposed to be strengthened. It is proposed that the suspension of councillors (for up to three months) is established as the main penalty where a councillor breaches the Local Government Act or Regulations on more than one occasion. Councillors who are disqualified would not be eligible for sitting fees or allowances. They will also not be able to attend meetings, or use their official office (such as their title or council email address). It is proposed that a councillor who is suspended multiple times may become disqualified from office. Councillors who do not complete mandatory training within a certain timeframe will also not be able to receive sitting fees or allowances. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Items 1.4 and 1.5 <u>expand upon</u> Advocacy Position 2.6.9 - 'Stand Down Proposal'</p> <p><i>WALGA supports, in principle, a proposal for an individual elected member to be 'stood down' from their duties when they are under investigation, have been charged, or when their continued presence prevents Council from properly discharging its functions or affects the Council's reputation, subject to further policy development work being undertaken. Further policy development of the Stand Down Provisions must involve active consultation with WALGA and specific consideration of the following issues of concern to the Sector:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>That the Department of Local Government endeavour to ensure established principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are embodied in all aspects of the proposed Stand Down Provisions; and</i> <i>That activities associated with the term 'disruptive behaviour', presented as reason to stand down a defined Elected Member on the basis their continued presence may make a Council unworkable, are thoroughly examined and clearly identified to ensure there is awareness, consistency and opportunity for avoidance.</i> <p>Comment The Local Government sector has long-standing advocacy positions supporting stronger penalties as a deterrent to disruptive Council Member behaviours. Clear guidance will be required to ensure there is consistent application of the power given to Presiding Members.</p> <p><u>Recommendation - Item 1.4</u> Supported</p>
1.5 Rapid Red Card Resolutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that Standing Orders are made consistent across Western Australia (see item 2.6). Published recordings of all meetings would also become standard (item 3.1). 	

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that Presiding Members have the power to “red card” any attendee (including councillors) who unreasonably and repeatedly interrupt council meetings. This power would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require the Presiding Member to issue a clear first warning If the disruptions continue, the Presiding Member will have the power to “red card” that person, who must be silent for the rest of the meeting. A councillor issued with a red card will still vote, but must not speak or move motions If the person continues to be disruptive, the Presiding Member can instruct that they leave the meeting. Any Presiding Member who uses the “red card” or ejection power will be required to notify the Inspector. Where an elected member refuses to comply with an instruction to be silent or leave, or where it can be demonstrated that the presiding member has not followed the law in using these powers, penalties can be imposed through a review by the Inspector. 	<p><u>Recommendation - Item 1.5</u> Supported subject to a provision permitting council members to call a point of order to overrule the presiding member by absolute majority.</p>
1.6 Vexatious Complaint Referrals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments already have a general responsibility to provide ratepayers and members of the public with assistance in responding to queries about the local government’s operations. Local governments should resolve queries and complaints in a respectful, transparent and equitable manner. Unfortunately, local government resources can become unreasonably diverted when a person makes repeated vexatious queries, especially after a local government has already provided a substantial response to the person’s query. It is proposed that if a person makes repeated complaints to a local government CEO that are vexatious, the CEO will have the power to refer that person’s complaints to the Inspectorate, which after assessment of the facts may then rule the complaint vexatious. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 1.6 <u>expands upon</u> Advocacy Position 2.6.11 – ‘Vexatious complainants in relation to FOI applications’ <i>WALGA advocates for the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA) to be reviewed, including consideration of:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enabling the Information Commissioner to declare vexatious applicants similar to the provisions of section 114 of the Right to Information Act 2009 (QLD);</i> <i>Enabling an agency to recover reasonable costs incurred through the processing of a Freedom of Information access application where the application is subsequently withdrawn; and</i> <i>Modernisation to address the use of electronic communications and information.</i> <p>Comment The Act has been expanded significantly in recent years to permit an increased level of public involvement, scrutiny and access to information</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>relating to the decisions, operations and affairs of Local Government in WA. Introducing a means to limit capacity for unreasonable complainants to negatively impact Local Governments will provide a necessary balance between the openness and transparency of the sector and the reasonable entitlement of citizens to interact with their Local Government.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 1.6</u> Supported, subject to the legislation including the ability of a person to lodge an appeal with the Inspector.</p>
1.7 Minor Other Reforms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential other reforms to strengthen guidance for local governments are being considered. For example, one option being considered is the potential use of sector-wide guidance notices. Guidance notices could be published by the Minister or Inspector, to give specific direction for how local governments should meet the requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations. For instance, the Minister could publish guidance notices to clarify the process for how potential conflicts of interests should be managed. It is also proposed (see item 1.1) that the Inspector has the power to issue notices to individual local governments to require them to rectify non-compliance with the Act or Regulations. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 1.7 <u>aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6 - ‘Support DLGSC as service provider / capacity builder’</p> <p><i>WALGA supports the continuance of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries as a direct service provider of compliance and recommend the Department fund its capacity building role through the utilisation of third party service providers. In addition, WALGA calls on the State Government to ensure there is proper resourcing of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to conduct timely inquiries and interventions when instigated under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995.</i></p> <p><u>Comment</u> Operational guidance from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries leads to consistent understanding and application of statutory provisions by Local Government. The proposed reform that the Inspector issue non-compliance notices appears to replicate the Minister’s powers under Section 9.14A – ‘Notice to prevent continuing contravention’.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 1.7</u> Supported</p>

Theme 2: Reducing Red Tape, Increasing Consistency and Simplicity

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
2.1 Resource Sharing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendments are proposed to encourage and enable local governments, especially smaller regional local governments, to share resources, including Chief Executive Officers and senior employees. Local governments in bands 2, 3 or 4 would be able to appoint a shared CEO at up to two salary bands above the highest band. For example, a band 3 and a band 4 council sharing a CEO could remunerate to the level of band 1. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 2.1 aligns with Advocacy Position 2.6 – Local Government Legislation – ‘Avoid red tape and ‘de-clutter’ the extensive regulatory regime that underpins the Local Government Act’ and Advocacy Position 2.3.1 - ‘Regional Collaboration’.</p> <p><i>Local Governments should be empowered to form single and joint subsidiaries, and beneficial enterprises. In addition, compliance requirements of Regional Councils should be reviewed and reduced.</i></p> <p>Comment The proposed reforms will rely upon statutory provisions that enable and enhance regional collaboration. Recent over-regulation of Regional Subsidiaries in 2016 resulted in no subsidiaries being formed since that time.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 2.1</u> Supported</p>
2.2 Standardisation of Crossovers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to amend the <i>Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996</i> to standardise the process for approving crossovers for residential properties and residential developments on local roads. A Crossover Working Group has provided preliminary advice to the Minister and DLGSC to inform this. The DLGSC will work with the sector to develop standardised design and construction standards. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u></p> <p>Comment WALGA developed the Template Crossover Guideline and Specification resource in 2017 and have been part of the Minister’s working group on red tape reduction that has been looking at standardisation of crossovers.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the process for crossovers will be standardised, however the design standards would be different dependant on location.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 2.2</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
2.3 Introduce Innovation Provisions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New provisions are proposed to allow exemptions from certain requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term trials and pilot projects Urgent responses to emergencies. 	<p>Comment</p> <p>It is arguable communities expect all levels of Government will apply innovative solutions to complex and emerging issues difficult to resolve by traditional means. Exemptions constructed with appropriate checks and balances, particularly where expenditure of public funds are concerned, has potential to facilitate efficient and effective outcomes.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 2.3</u> Supported</p>
2.4 Streamline Local Laws	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that local laws would only need to be reviewed by the local government every 15 years. Local laws not reviewed in the timeframe would lapse, meaning that old laws will be automatically removed and no longer applicable. Local governments adopting Model Local Laws will have reduced advertising requirements. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u></p> <p>Items 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 <u>expand upon</u> Advocacy Position 2.6.35 - ‘Local law-making process should be simplified’.</p> <p><i>The Local Law making process should be simplified as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The requirement to give state-wide notice should be reviewed, with consideration given to Local Governments only being required to provide local public notice;</i> <i>Eliminate the requirement to consult on local laws when a model is used;</i> <i>Consider deleting the requirement to review local laws periodically. Local Governments, by administering local laws, will determine when it is necessary to amend or revoke a local law; and</i> <i>Introduce certification of local laws by a legal practitioner in place of scrutiny by Parliament’s Delegated Legislation Committee.</i> <p>Comment</p> <p>Proposed reforms meet the Sector’s preference for simplified local law-making processes. Model local laws are supported, whilst recognising the models themselves will require review by State Government departments with the relevant administrative responsibility. For example, the Model Local Law (Standing Orders) 1998 formed the basis of many Local Government meeting procedures local law but no review was completed. This model was</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>superseded by individual local laws with added contemporary provisions. This pattern will repeat itself if model local laws are not reviewed to remain contemporary to the Sector's requirements.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 2.4 to 2.6</u> Supported</p>
2.5 Simplifying Approvals for Small Business and Community Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed reforms would introduce greater consistency for approvals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alfresco and outdoor dining minor small business signage rules running community events. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 2.4 to 2.6</u> Supported</p>
2.6 Standardised Meeting Procedures, Including Public Question Time	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide greater clarity for ratepayers and applicants for decisions made by council, it is proposed that the meeting procedures and standing orders for all local government meetings, including for public question time, are standardised across the State. Regulations would introduce standard requirements for public question time, and the procedures for meetings generally. Members of the public across all local governments would have the same opportunities to address council and ask questions. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 2.4 to 2.6</u> Supported</p>
2.7 Regional Subsidiaries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is continuing to consider how Regional Subsidiaries can be best established to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable Regional Subsidiaries to provide a clear and defined public benefit for people within member local governments Provide for flexibility and innovation while ensuring appropriate transparency and accountability of ratepayer funds Where appropriate, facilitate financing of initiatives by Regional Subsidiaries within a reasonable and defined limit of risk 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 2.7 <u>aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.3.1 - 'Regional Collaboration': <i>Local Governments should be empowered to form single and joint subsidiaries, and beneficial enterprises. In addition, compliance requirements of Regional Councils should be reviewed and reduced.</i></p> <p><u>Comment</u> Under the Regional Subsidiary model, two or more Local Governments can</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensure all employees of a Regional Subsidiary have the same employment conditions as those directly employed by member local governments. 	<p>establish a regional subsidiary to undertake a shared service function on behalf of its member Local Governments. The model provides increased flexibility when compared to the Regional Local Government model because regional subsidiaries are primarily governed and regulated by a charter rather than legislation. While the regional subsidiary model's governance structure is primarily representative, it allows independent and commercially focussed directors to be appointed to the board of management.</p> <p>A key advantage of the regional subsidiary model is the use of a charter, as opposed to legislation, as the primary governance and regulatory instrument. Accordingly, the legislative provisions governing the establishment of regional subsidiaries should be light, leaving most of the regulation to the regional subsidiary charter, which can be adapted to suit the specific circumstances of each regional subsidiary.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 2.7</u> Supported subject to the use of a charter as the primary governance and regulatory instrument.</p>

Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
3.1 Recordings and Live-Streaming of All Council Meetings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that all local governments will be required to record meetings. • Band 1 and 2 local governments would be required to livestream meetings, and make video recordings available as public archives. • Band 1 and 2 are larger local governments are generally located in larger urban areas, with generally very good telecommunications infrastructure, and many already have audio-visual equipment. • Band 1 and 2 local governments would be required to livestream meetings, and make video recordings available as public archives. • Several local governments already use platforms such as YouTube, Microsoft Teams, and Vimeo to stream and publish meeting recordings. • Limited exceptions would be made for meetings held outside the ordinary council chambers, where audio recordings may be used. • Recognising their generally smaller scale, typically smaller operating budget, and potential to be in more remote locations, band 3 and 4 local governments would be required to record and publish audio recordings, at a minimum. These local governments would still be encouraged to livestream or video record meetings. • All council meeting recordings would need to be published at the same time as the meeting minutes. Recordings of all confidential items would also need to be submitted to the DLGSC for archiving. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 3.1 <u>expands upon</u> Advocacy Position 2.6 – ‘Promote a size and scale compliance regime’ and Advocacy Position 2.6.31 - ‘Attendance at Council Meetings by Technology’</p> <p><i>A review of the ability of Elected Members to log into Council meetings should be undertaken.</i></p> <p><u>Comment</u> Local Governments introducing electronic meeting procedures and the means for remote public attendance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic led to a swift uptake of streaming Council meetings. The proposed reform that Band 1 and 2 Local Governments will be required to livestream meetings may be problematic where technical capability such as reliable bandwidth impacts the district.</p> <p>The sector does not support the requirement to submit recordings of confidential items to the Department. Confidential items may include legal advice which is subject to legal privilege. Such privilege is at risk of being lost by the dissemination of the advice.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 3.1</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support live streaming the ordinary and special council meetings of Band 1 and 2 Local Governments and audio recording the ordinary and special council meetings of Band 3 and 4 Local Governments. 2. Do not support archiving the recordings of confidential matters by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
3.2 Recording All Votes in Council Minutes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support the transparency of decision-making by councillors, it is proposed that the individual votes cast by all councillors for all council resolutions would be required to be published in the council minutes, and identify those for, against, on leave, absent or who left the chamber. Regulations would prescribe how votes are to be consistently minuted. 	<p>Comment There is an evolving common practice that Council Minutes record the vote of each Council Member present at a meeting.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 3.2</u> Supported</p>
3.3 Clearer Guidance for Meeting Items that may be Confidential	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognising the importance of open and transparent decision-making, it is considered that confidential meetings and confidential meeting items should only be used in limited, specific circumstances. It is proposed to make the Act more specific in prescribing items that may be confidential, and items that should remain open to the public. Items not prescribed as being confidential could still be held as confidential items only with the prior written consent of the Inspector. All confidential items would be required to be audio recorded, with those recordings submitted to the DLGSC (see Item 3.1). 	<p>Comment Clarifying the provisions of the Act has broad support within the sector. New reforms requiring Local Governments to video or audio record Council meetings (Item 3.1) will add to the formal record of proceedings that includes written Minutes. While being supported, the requirement to provide audio recordings of confidential matters to the DLGSC is queried on the basis that written and audio records can be readily accessed from a Local Government if required.</p> <p>The sector has concerns with submitting confidential items to the DLGSC is supported.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 3.3</u> Supported, subject to deleting the requirement to provide confidential items to the DLGSC.</p>
3.4 Additional Online Registers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to require local governments to report specific information in online registers on the local government's website. Regulations would prescribe the information to be included. The following new registers, each updated quarterly, are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease Register to capture information about the leases the local government is party to (either as lessor or lessee) Community Grants Register to outline all grants and funding 	<p>Comment This proposal follows recent Act amendments that ensure a range of information is published on Local Government websites. WALGA has sought clarity that the contracts register excludes contracts of employment.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 3.4</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>provided by the local government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interests Disclosure Register which collates all disclosures made by elected members about their interests related to matters considered by council ○ Applicant Contribution Register accounting for funds collected from applicant contributions, such as cash-in-lieu for public open space and car parking ○ Contracts Register that discloses all contracts above \$100,000. 	
3.5 Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for minimum transparency, it is proposed to mandate that the KPIs agreed as performance metrics for CEOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be published in council meeting minutes as soon as they are agreed prior to (before the start of the annual period) ○ The KPIs and the results be published in the minutes of the performance review meeting (at the end of the period) ○ The CEO has a right to provide written comments to be published alongside the KPIs and results to provide context as may be appropriate (for instance, the impact of events in that year that may have influenced the results against KPIs). 	<p>Comment</p> <p>In principle, this proposal has some merit and would be particularly effective if all CEO KPIs consistently reflect Strategic Community Plans and Corporate Business Plans of Local Governments, together with KPIs reflective of the CEO's statutory functions under Section 5.41 of the Act. This approach would inform the community of the CEO's performance related to the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government.</p> <p>In practice, the drafting of statutory provisions will require sensitive consideration of certain KPIs i.e. those relating to issues affecting the workplace or identified risk-based concerns, to reflect the way Audit Committees currently deal with some internal control, risk and legislative compliance issues confidentially. This approach will protect the interests of Local Governments and other parties associated with such KPIs. It would be prudent for exemptions to be provided, based on matters of confidentiality. The proposed reforms and recent Act amendments signal a clear intent to permit closer community involvement and scrutiny of Local Government. However, negative consequences are likely if Local Government Council's responsibility as the employing authority of the CEO became blurred due to perceived community entitlement to comment, question and influence KPIs and the performance review process. Additionally, the publication of CEO KPI's will elevate this employment position to a high degree of public scrutiny seldom evident in the public or private sector, if at all. It is worth investigating whether the proposed reforms considered whether this factor could impact on the recruitment of</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>CEO's, particularly from outside the Local Government sector. The results of performance reviews should be confidential information between the employer and employee and should not be published and should remain within the confidential human resource records of the organisation.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 3.5</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conditionally support the reporting of CEO KPIs that are consistent with the strategic direction and operational function of the Local Government, subject to exemptions for publishing KPI's of a confidential nature; 2. Do not support the results of performance reviews being published.

Theme 4: Stronger Local Democracy and Community Engagement

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
4.1 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Charters	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to introduce a requirement for local governments to prepare a community and stakeholder engagement charter which sets out how local government will communicate processes and decisions with their community. A model Charter would be published to assist local governments who wish to adopt a standard form. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Items 4.1 and 4.2 <u>generally align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6.34 - 'Support responsive, aspirational and innovative community engagement principles'</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Responsive, aspirational and innovative community engagement principles</i> <i>Encapsulation of aims and principles in a community engagement policy, and</i> <i>The option of hosting an Annual Community Meeting to present on past performance and outline future prospects and plans.</i> <p>Comment As indicated in Item 4.1 commentary, many Local Governments have already developed stakeholder engagement charters, or similar engagement strategies, that reflect their unique communities of interest. The development of guidance by the DLGSC, based on standards such as the International Standard for Public Participation practice, is supported in favour of taking a prescriptive approach or conducting a survey for the sake of a survey. Item 4.2 has potential to provide benchmarking of community satisfaction levels across Band 1 and 2 Local Governments.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 4.1</u> Supported</p>
4.2 Ratepayer Satisfaction Surveys (Band 1 and 2 local governments only)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to introduce a requirement that every four years, all local governments in bands 1 and 2 hold an independently-managed ratepayer satisfaction survey. Results would be required to be reported publicly at a council meeting 	<p><u>Recommendation – Item 4.2</u> Support the conduct of community, rather than ratepayer, satisfaction surveys.</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>and published on the local government's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All local governments would be required to publish a response to the results. 	
4.3 Introduction of Preferential Voting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preferential voting is proposed be adopted as the method to replace the current first past the post system in local government elections. In preferential voting, voters number candidates in order of their preferences. Preferential voting is used in State and Federal elections in Western Australia (and in other states). This provides voters with more choice and control over who they elect. All other states use a form of preferential voting for local government. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 4.3 <u>does not align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.5.1 – ‘First Past the Post voting system’</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector supports:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Four year terms with a two year spill</i> <i>Greater participation in Local Government elections</i> <i>The option to hold elections through:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Online voting</i> <i>Postal voting, and</i> <i>In-person voting</i> <i>Voting at Local Government elections to be voluntary</i> <i>The first past the post method of counting votes</i> <p><u>Comment</u> It should be noted that the sector's advocacy against compulsory voting and ‘All in, All out’ 4 year terms has been successful and these items are not included in the reform proposals.</p> <p>The introduction of preferential voting will be a return to the system of voting prior to the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>. The Local Government Advisory Board reported on voting systems in 2006 (<i>‘Local Government Structural Reform in Western Australia: Ensuring the Future Sustainability of Communities’</i>) and provided the following comments in support of both first past the post voting and preferential voting: ‘Comments in support of retaining first past the post include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Quick to count. Preferential voting is time consuming to count.</i> <i>Easily understood.</i> <i>Removes politics out of campaigning. Preferential will encourage</i>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p><i>alliances formed for the distribution of preferences and party politics into local government.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Preferential voting allows election rigging through alliances or ‘dummy’ candidates.</i> <i>• In a preferential system, the person that receives the highest number of first preference votes does not necessarily get elected.’</i> <p><i>‘Comments in support of replacing first past the post include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Preferential voting is more democratic and removes an area of confusion.</i> <i>• Preferential voting ensures that the most popular candidates are elected who best reflect the will of the voters.</i> <i>• Preferential system should be introduced. In FPP elections, candidates work together to get votes for each other. Preferential would make it more difficult for this practice to take place.</i> <i>• FPP does not adequately reflect the wishes of electors when there are three candidates or more.</i> <i>• FPP is unsuitable when there is more than one vacancy.</i> <i>• Allows for a greater representation from a range of interest groups and prevents domination of elections by mainstream party politics.’</i> <p>The Sector supports first past the post voting for its simplicity and fundamental apolitical nature, therefore the proposed reforms are not supported.</p> <p>A number of Local Governments raised the need for a fall back position if this proposal is progressed by the State Government. Optional Preferential voting was considered as the better preferential voting system according to the feedback.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 4.3</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oppose the proposal for preferential voting and support first past the post method of counting votes. 2. However, if ‘first past the post’ is not retained then optional preferential voting is preferred.

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
4.4 Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayors and Presidents of all local governments perform an important public leadership role within their local communities. • Band 1 and 2 local governments generally have larger councils than those in bands 3 and 4. • Accordingly, it is proposed that the Mayor or President for all band 1 and 2 councils is to be elected through a vote of the electors of the district. Councils in bands 3 and 4 would retain the current system. • A number of Band 1 and Band 2 councils have already moved towards Public Vote to Elect the Mayor and President in recent years, including City of Stirling and City of Rockingham. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 4.4 <u>does not align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.5.2 - ‘Election of Mayors and Presidents be at the discretion of Local Government.’ <i>Local Governments should determine whether their Mayor or President will be elected by the Council or elected by the community.</i></p> <p><u>Comment</u> There are 43 Band 1 and 2 Local Governments with 22 popularly electing the Mayor or President: Band 1 - 15 Band 2 - 7</p> <p>The remaining 21 Local Governments have a Council-elected Mayor or President. The sector does not support a requirement for the role of Mayor or President to be determined by electors. The sector considers that its current system of having the Mayor elected directly by Council assists in ensuring the Mayor/President has the support of the majority of Council. Further, it assists in avoiding party politics.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 4.4</u> Oppose this proposal and support retaining the current provision, that the election of Mayors and Presidents be at the discretion of each Local Government.</p>
4.5 Tiered Limits on the Number of Councillors	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to limit the number of councillors based on the population of the entire local government. • Some smaller local governments have already been moving to having smaller councils to reduce costs for ratepayers. • The Local Government Panel Report proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For a population of up to 5,000 – five councillors (including the President) 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 4.5 <u>does not align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.5.1 – ‘Councils consist of between six and 15 (including the Mayor/President)’ <i>Local Governments being enabled to determine the number of Elected Members required on the Council between six and 15 (including the Mayor/President)</i></p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ population of between 5,000 and 75,000 – five to nine councillors (including the Mayor/President) ○ population of above 75,000 – nine to fifteen councillors (including Mayor). 	<p>Comment</p> <p>The proposed reform to restrict Local Governments with populations under 5,000 to 5 Council Members does not reflect the varied communities of interest within this grouping. Some Local Governments are essentially regional centres such as the Shires of Katanning (9), Dandaragan (9), Merredin (9), Moora (9) and Northampton (9) (current Councillor numbers bracketed). Local Governments such as the Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku (9) manage substantial land areas, manage isolated communities such as the Shire of Meekatharra (7) and culturally diverse communities such as the Shire of Christmas Island (9). Some Local Governments with populations up to 5,000 warrant a greater number of Councillors to effectively share the representative role that Council Members play within their communities.</p> <p>The additional proposed reforms in population categories over 5,000 generally reflect the current Councillor numbers.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 4.5</u> Recommend 5 to 7 Council Members for populations up to 5,000 and support the remaining proposed reforms.</p>
4.6 No Wards for Small Councils (Band 3 and 4 Councils only)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that the use of wards for councils in bands 3 and 4 is abolished. • Wards increase the complexity of elections, as this requires multiple versions of ballot papers to be prepared for a local government's election. • In smaller local governments, the population of wards can be very small. • These wards often have councillors elected unopposed, or elect a councillor with a very small number of votes. Some local governments have ward councillors elected with less than 50 votes. • There has been a trend in smaller local governments looking to reduce the use of wards, with only 10 councils in bands 3 and 4 still having wards. 	<p>Comment</p> <p>The proposed reform to discontinue wards in Band 3 and 4 Local Governments brings alignment with the majority and provides that affected Local Governments will no longer have to conduct 8 year ward reviews or make representation to the Local Government Advisory Board to revert to a no wards system.</p> <p>Remaining proposed reforms will improve and clarify election processes.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 4.6 to 4.9</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
4.7 Electoral Reform – Clear Lease Requirements for Candidate and Voter Eligibility	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms are proposed to prevent the use of “sham leases” in council elections. Sham leases are where a person creates a lease only to be able to vote or run as a candidate for council. The City of Perth Inquiry Report identified sham leases as an issue. Electoral rules are proposed to be strengthened: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum lease period of 12 months will be required for anyone to register a person to vote or run for council. Home based businesses will not be eligible to register a person to vote or run for council, because any residents are already the eligible voter(s) for that address. Clarifying the minimum criteria for leases eligible to register a person to vote or run for council. The reforms would include minimum lease periods to qualify as a registered business (minimum of 12 months), and the exclusion of home based businesses (where the resident is already eligible) and very small sub-leases. The basis of eligibility for each candidate (e.g. type of property and suburb of property) is proposed to be published, including in the candidate pack for electors. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 4.6 to 4.9</u> Supported</p>
4.8 Reform of Candidate Profiles	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work will be undertaken to evaluate how longer candidate profiles could be accommodated. Longer candidate profiles would provide more information to electors, potentially through publishing profiles online. It is important to have sufficient information available to assist electors make informed decisions when casting their vote. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 4.6 to 4.9</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
4.9 Minor Other Electoral Reforms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor other electoral reforms are proposed to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of standard processes for vote re-counts if there is a very small margin between candidates (e.g. where there is a margin of less than 10 votes a recount will always be required) The introduction of more specific rules concerning local government council candidates' use of electoral rolls. 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 4.6 to 4.9</u></p> <p>Supported</p>

Theme 5: Clear Roles and Responsibilities

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recognition of Aboriginal Western Australians Tiering of local governments (with bands being as assigned by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal) Community Engagement Financial Management. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 5.1 <u>generally aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6 - Legislative Intent <i>Provide flexible, principles-based legislative framework.</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.1</u> Supported</p>
5.2 Greater Role Clarity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Act Review Panel recommended that roles and responsibilities of elected members and senior staff be better defined in law. It is proposed that these roles and responsibilities are further defined in the legislation. These proposed roles will be open to further consultation and input. These roles would be further strengthened through Council Communications Agreements (see item 5.3). <p>5.2.1 - Mayor or President Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor or President. While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the Mayor or President is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representing and speaking on behalf of the whole council and the local government, at all times being consistent with the resolutions of council Facilitating the democratic decision-making of council by presiding at council meetings in accordance with the Act Developing and maintaining professional working relationships between councillors and the CEO Performing civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the local 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 5.2 <u>aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6.36 - 'Roles and Responsibilities'</p> <p><i>That clarification of roles and responsibilities for Mayors/ Presidents, Councillors and CEOs be reviewed to ensure that there is no ambiguity.</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.2</u> Supported</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.2.1</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>government Working effectively with the CEO and councillors in overseeing the delivery of the services, operations, initiatives and functions of the local government.</p> <p>5.2.2 - Council Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Council, which is the entity consisting of all of the councillors and led by the Mayor or President. • While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the Council is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making significant decisions and determining policies through democratic deliberation at council meetings ○ Ensuring the local government is adequately resourced to deliver the local governments operations, services and functions - including all functions that support informed decision-making by council ○ Providing a safe working environment for the CEO; ○ Providing strategic direction to the CEO; <p>Monitoring and reviewing the performance of the local government.</p> <p>5.2.3 - Elected Member (Councillor) Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of all elected councillors. • While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that every elected councillor is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Considering and representing, fairly and without bias, the current and future interests of all people who live, work and visit the district (including for councillors elected for a particular ward) ○ Positively and fairly contribute and apply their knowledge, skill, and judgement to the democratic decision-making process of council ○ Applying relevant law and policy in contributing to the decision-making of the council ○ Engaging in the effective forward planning and review of the local governments' resources, and the performance of its operations, services, and functions 	<div></div> <div> <u>Recommendation – Item 5.2.2</u> Supported </div> <div> <u>Recommendation – Item 5.2.3</u> Supported </div>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communicating the decisions and resolutions of council to stakeholders and the public ○ Developing and maintaining professional working relationships with all other councillors and the CEO ○ Maintaining and developing their knowledge and skills relevant to local government ○ Facilitating public engagement with local government. <p>It is proposed that elected members should not be able to use their title (e.g. “Councillor”, “Mayor”, or “President”) and associated resources of their office (such as email address) unless they are performing their role in their official capacity.</p> <p>5.2.4 - CEO Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> requires local governments to employ a CEO to run the local government administration and implement the decisions of council. • To provide greater clarity, it is proposed to amend the Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of all local government CEOs. • While input and consultation will inform precise wording, it is proposed that the Act is amended to generally outline that the CEO of a local government is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinating the professional advice and assistance necessary for all elected members to enable the council to perform its decision-making functions ○ Facilitating the implementation of council decisions ○ Ensuring functions and decisions lawfully delegated by council are managed prudently on behalf of the council ○ Managing the effective delivery of the services, operations, initiatives and functions of the local government determined by the council ○ Providing timely and accurate information and advice to all councillors in line with the Council Communications Agreement (see item 5.3) ○ Overseeing the compliance of the operations of the local government with State and Federal legislation on behalf of the council ○ Implementing and maintaining systems to enable effective planning, management, and reporting on behalf of the council. 	<p>5.2.4 There is the requirement for more detail for this item. The general direction of the proposal is supported, subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Items 5.2.4</u> Supported, subject to including reference that the CEO is responsible for the recruitment and performance management of all staff as indicated in the current Act/Regulations.</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
5.3 Council Communication Agreements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In State Government, there are written Communication Agreements between Ministers and agencies that set standards for how information and advice will be provided. • It is proposed that local governments will need to have Council Communications Agreements between the council and the CEO. • These Council Communication Agreements would clearly specify the information that is to be provided to councillors, how it will be provided, and the timeframes for when it will be provided. • A template would be published by DLGSC. This default template will come into force if a council and CEO do not make a specific other agreement within a certain timeframe following any election. 	<p>Comment The availability of information not already in the public domain to Councillors under Section 5.92 of the Act can become contentious in the absence of a clear statement in support of the function the Council Member is performing. This can place CEO's in the invidious position of ruling on the availability of a record of the Local Government, when it is also their function under Section 5.41(h) of the Act to <i>'ensure that records and documents of the local government are properly kept for the purposes of this Act and any other written law'</i>. Consistent availability of information motivates this proposed reform and it does not appear that individual Council Communication Agreements will be a means to that end. There is a better case for a uniform approach in the form of a regulated Agreement, in much the same way that the Communication Agreements between Ministers and agencies are based on provisions of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i>.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.3</u> Support a consistent, regulated Communications Agreement.</p>
5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is proposed that local governments should be able to decide, through a vote of council, to pay superannuation contributions for elected members. These contributions would be additional to existing allowances. • Superannuation is widely recognised as an important entitlement to provide long term financial security. • Other states have already moved to allow councils to make superannuation contributions for councillors. • Allowing council to provide superannuation is important part of encouraging equality for people represented on council – particularly for women and younger people. • Providing superannuation to councillors recognises that the commitment to elected office can reduce a person's opportunity to undertake employment and earn superannuation contributions. 	<p>Comment WALGA was in the process of consulting with the sector when this reform was announced. The feedback to date from Local Governments has majority support. The proposed discretionary approach will permit Local Governments to exercise general competence powers to make their own determination on paying superannuation to Council Members.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.4</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
5.5 Local Governments May Establish Education Allowances	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments will have the option of contributing to the education expenses for councillors, up to a defined maximum value, for tuition costs for further education that is directly related to their role on council. Councils will be able to decide on a policy for education expenses, up to a maximum yearly value for each councillor. Councils may also decide not to make this entitlement available to elected members. Any allowance would only be able to be used for tuition fees for courses, such as training programs, diplomas, and university studies, which relate to local government. Where it is made available, this allowance will help councillors further develop skills to assist with making informed decisions on important questions before council, and also provide professional development opportunities for councillors. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 5.5 <u>generally aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.8 - Elected Member Training <i>Support Local Governments being required to establish an Elected Member Training Policy to encourage training and include budgetary provision of funding for Elected Members;</i></p> <p><u>Comment</u> The proposal augments recent Act amendments that require Local Governments to adopt a professional development policy for Council Members. Many Local Governments now budget for training requirements that align with the policy statement.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.5</u> Supported</p>
5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A statewide caretaker period for local governments is proposed. All local governments across the State would have the same clearly defined election period, during which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councils do not make major decisions with criteria to be developed defining 'major' Incumbent councillors who nominate for re-election are not to represent the local government, act on behalf of the council, or use local government resources to support campaigning activities. <p>There are consistent election conduct rules for all candidates.</p>	<p><u>Comment</u> WALGA developed a template Caretaker Policy in 2017 on request for a consistent approach. There are no know instances where Caretaker Policy have led to unforeseen or unmanageable consequences impacting on decision-making functions.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.6</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
5.7 Remove WALGA from the Act	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Panel Report recommended that WALGA not be constituted under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>. Separating WALGA out of the Act will provide clarity that WALGA is not a State Government entity. 	<p>Comment WALGA is conducting its own due diligence on this proposal, previously identified in the Local Government Review Panel Report. The outcome of this reform would require a transition of WALGA from a body constituted under the Act to an incorporated association. It is important to the Local Government sector that the provisions relating to the mutual self-insurance scheme and tender exempt prequalified supply panels remain in the Act and are not affected by this proposal. Further work is being carried out by WALGA to fully understand the effect this proposal will have on WALGA and the sector.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.7</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support for this proposal is subject to WALGA undertaking further due diligence on the broader implications of the proposal and subsequent consultation with the sector. Any proposed reforms ensure that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Local Government Act retain statutory provisions permitting WALGA to provide the sector with the mutual self-insurance scheme and preferred supplier program tender exemptions; and There be no disadvantages to WALGA’s capacity to provide services and represent the interests of the sector.
5.8 CEO Recruitment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that DLGSC establishes a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels. Councils will be able to select an independent person from the approved list. <p>Councils will still be able to appoint people outside of the panel with the approval of the Inspector.</p>	<p>Comment The proposed reform augments the CEO Standards in relation to recruitment introduced in February 2021.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 5.8</u> Supported on the proviso that no cost is associated with the use of the approved panel.</p>

Theme 6: Improved Financial Management and Reporting

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
6.1 Model Financial Statements and Tiered Financial Reporting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Minister strongly believes in transparency and accountability in local government. The public rightly expects the highest standards of integrity, good governance, and prudent financial management in local government. • It is critically important that clear information about the financial position of local governments is openly available to ratepayers. Financial information also supports community decision-making about local government services and projects. • Local governments differ significantly in the complexity of their operations. Smaller local governments generally have much less operating complexity than larger local governments. • The Office of the Auditor General has identified opportunities to improve financial reporting, to make statements clearer, and reduce unnecessary complexity. • Recognising the difference in the complexity of smaller and larger local governments, it is proposed that financial reporting requirements should be tiered – meaning that larger local governments will have greater financial reporting requirements than smaller local governments. • It is proposed to establish standard templates for Annual Financial Statements for band 1 and 2 councils, and simpler, clearer financial statements for band 3 and 4. • Online Registers, updated quarterly (see item 3.4), would provide faster and greater transparency than current annual reports. Standard templates will be published for use by local governments. • Simpler Strategic and Financial Planning (item 6.2) would also improve the budgeting process. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Items 6.1 and 6.2 <u>generally align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6 – Support a size and scale compliance regime and Advocacy Position 2.6.24 – Financial Management and Procurement.</p> <p><i>The Local Government sector:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Requests the Minister for Local Government to direct the Department of Local Government to prepare a Model set of Financial Statements and Annual Budget Statements for the Local Government sector, in consultation with the Office of the Auditor General.</i> 2. <i>Requests the Department of Local Government to re-assess the amount of detail required to be included in annual financial reports, in particular for small and medium sized entities as suggested by the Office of Auditor General.</i> <p><u>Comment</u> The Sector has a long-standing position for a broad review of the financial management and reporting provisions of the Act, which remain largely unchanged since commencing in 1996.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.1</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
6.2 Simplify Strategic and Financial Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having clear information about the finances of local government is an important part of enabling informed public and ratepayer engagement and input to decision-making. • The framework for financial planning should be based around information being clear, transparent, and easy to understand for all ratepayers and members of the public. • In order to provide more consistency and clarity across the State, it is proposed that greater use of templates is introduced to make planning and reporting clearer and simpler, providing greater transparency for ratepayers. • Local governments would be required to adopt a standard set of plans, and there will be templates published by the DLGSC for use or adaption by local governments. • It is proposed that the plans that are required are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Simplified Council Plans that replace existing Strategic Community Plans and set high-level objectives, with a new plan required at least every eight years. These will be short-form plans, with a template available from the DLGSC ○ Simplified Asset Management Plans to consistently forecast costs of maintaining the local government's assets. A new plan will be required at least every ten years, though local governments should update the plan regularly if the local government gains or disposes of major assets (e.g. land, buildings, or roads). A template will be provided, and methods of valuations will be simplified to reduce red tape ○ Simplified Long Term Financial Plans will outline any long term financial management and sustainability issues, and any investments and debts. A template will be provided, and these plans will be required to be reviewed in detail at least every four years ○ A new Rates and Revenue Policy (see item 6.3) that identifies the approximate value of rates that will need to be collected in future years (referencing the Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan) – providing a forecast to ratepayers (updated at least every four years) 	<p>As above</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.2</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of simple, one-page Service Proposals and Project Proposals that outline what proposed services or initiatives will cost, to be made available through council meetings. These will become Service Plans and Project Plans added to the yearly budget if approved by council. This provides clear transparency for what the functions and initiatives of the local government cost to deliver. Templates will be available for use by local governments 	
6.3 Rates and Revenue Policy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rates and Revenue Policy is proposed to increase transparency for ratepayers by linking rates to basic operating costs and the minimum costs for maintaining essential infrastructure. • A Rates and Revenue Policy would be required to provide ratepayers with a forecast of future costs of providing local government services. • The Policy would need to reflect the Asset Management Plan and the Long Term Financial Plan (see item 6.2), providing a forecast of what rates would need to be, to cover unavoidable costs. • A template would be published for use or adaption by all local governments. • The Local Government Panel Report included this recommendation. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 6.3 generally aligns with Advocacy Position 2.1.6 - Rate Setting and WALGA's Rate Setting Policy Statement. <i>Councils' deliberative rate setting processes reference their Integrated Planning Framework – a thorough strategic, financial and asset management planning process – and draw upon the community's willingness and capacity to pay.</i></p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.3</u> Supported</p>
6.4 Monthly Reporting of Credit Card Statements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The statements of a local government's credit cards used by local government employees will be required to be tabled at council at meetings on a monthly basis. • This provides oversight of incidental local government spending. 	<p><u>Comment</u> This proposed reform reflects widespread common practice for credit card transactions to be included in monthly financial reports and lists of accounts paid.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.4</u> Supported</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
6.5 Amended Financial Ratios	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial ratios will be reviewed in detail, building on work already underway by the DLGSC. The methods of calculating ratios and indicators will be reviewed to ensure that the results are accurate and useful. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 6.5 <u>aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6.25 - Review and reduce financial ratios. <i>Advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 to prescribe the following ratios:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Operating Surplus Ratio,</i> <i>b. Net Financial Liabilities Ratio,</i> <i>c. Debt Service Coverage Ratio, and</i> <i>d. Current Ratio.</i> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.5</u> Supported</p>
6.6 Audit Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure independent oversight, it is proposed the Chair of any Audit Committee be required to be an independent person who is not on council or an employee of the local government. Audit Committees would also need to consider proactive risk management. To reduce costs, it is proposed that local governments should be able to establish shared Regional Audit Committees. The Committees would be able to include council members but would be required to include a majority of independent members and an independent chairperson. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 6.6 <u>does not align</u> with Advocacy Position 2.2.4 – Accountability and Audit</p> <p><i>That audit committees of Local Government, led and overseen by the Council, have a clearly defined role with an Elected Member majority and chair.</i></p> <p>Comment The Sector's view is well established, that the Council must maintain, and be seen by the community to have, majority involvement and investment in the purpose of an Audit Committee. There is sector support for some independent members on the Audit Committee, however not a majority.</p> <p>The dual effect of the proposed reform is to guarantee a place for a majority of independent persons on Audit Committees, with the additional requirement that an independent person Chair this Committee. Presently, not all Local Government Audit Committees are able to include an independent person. This may be for a variety of reasons not least of which</p>

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
	<p>is a lack of suitable, available candidates with the required qualification, skill and experience.</p> <p>It would be counter-productive if the proposed reforms led to the appointment of unsuitable independent persons to a skills-based role. The concept of Regional Audit Committees has apparent merit in this case but there is no detail regarding practicalities; for example, is the Regional Audit Committee intended to include the same independent persons who will meet separately with each Local Government within the region?</p> <p>There is too little certainty that the imperative question of appropriate representation will be managed as a consequence of the proposed reforms for it to be supported.</p> <p>The proposal for the Audit Committees to also consider proactive risk management is supported.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.6</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the role of the Office of the Auditor General as the responsible entity for independent oversight of Local Government audits. 2. Support Audit Committees of Local Government <u>with an Elected Member majority</u> including independent members, and to consider proactive risk management issues. 3. Support the proposal to establish shared regional Audit Committees 4. Support the appointment of an independent member as chair of the Audit Committee to remain at the discretion of each Local Government. 5. Support the payment of meeting fees or defined reimbursements to independent Audit Committee members.

PROPOSED REFORMS	WALGA COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS
6.7 Building Upgrade Finance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms would allow local governments to provide loans to third parties for specific building improvements - such as cladding, heritage and green energy fixtures. This would allow local governments to lend funds to improve buildings within their district. Limits and checks and balances would be established to ensure that financial risks are proactively managed. 	<p><u>Current Local Government Position</u> Item 6.7 <u>aligns</u> with Advocacy Position 2.6.26 - Building Upgrade Finance.</p> <p><i>The Local Government Act 1995 should be amended to enable a Building Upgrade Finance mechanism in Western Australia.</i></p> <p>Comment Building Upgrade Finance would enable Local Governments to guarantee finance for building upgrades for non-residential property owners. In addition to building upgrades to achieve environmental outcomes, Local Governments have identified an opportunity to use this approach to finance general upgrades to increase the commercial appeal of buildings for potential tenants. In this way, BUF is viewed as means to encourage economic investment to meet the challenges of a soft commercial lease market and achieve economic growth.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.7</u> Supported</p>
6.8 Cost of Waste Service to be Specified on Rates Notices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed that waste charges are required to be separately shown on rate notices (for all properties which receive a waste service). This would provide transparency and awareness of costs for ratepayers. 	<p>Comment This proposed reform will require a relatively simple calculation.</p> <p><u>Recommendation – Item 6.8</u> Supported</p>

Additional Reform Proposals

In December 2020, WALGA State Council considered the sector's feedback on the discussion paper 'Advocacy Positions for a New Local Government Act: Key Issues from Recent Inquiries into Local Government' (Rec: 142.6/2020).

It is **recommended** that the Local Government Reform Proposals process be conducted in alignment with the following WALGA advocacy position.

Legislative Intent

That the following key principles be embodied in the Local Government Act:

1. Uphold the general competence principle currently embodied in the Local Government Act
2. Provide for a flexible, principles-based legislative framework
3. Promote a size and scale compliance regime
4. Promote enabling legislation that empowers Local Government to carry out activities beneficial to its community taking into consideration Local Governments' role in creating a sustainable and resilient community through:
 - a. Economic development;
 - b. Environmental protection; and
 - c. Social advancement
5. Avoid red tape and 'de-clutter' the extensive regulatory regime that underpins the Local Government Act, and
6. The State Government must not assign legislative responsibilities to Local Governments unless there is provision for resources required to fulfil the responsibilities.

It is **recommended** that the following additional advocacy positions be included in the sector's response:

Rating Exemptions

That an independent review of all rate exemptions be undertaken.

Fees and Charges

That:

1. An independent review be undertaken to remove fees and charges from legislation and regulation; and
2. Local Government be empowered to set fees and charges for Local Government services.

Financial Management and Procurement

That the Local Government sector:

- Supports Local Governments being able to use freehold land to secure debt; and
- Supports the alignment of Local Government procurement thresholds, rules and policies with the State Government.

Disposal of Property Exemption

Regulation 30 (3) of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* should not include any financial threshold limitation on a disposition where it is used exclusively to purchase other property. The current limit is \$75,000 and this type of activity commonly applies to a trade-in situation.

Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services

That the reform proposals provide for inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities.

Elector's Meetings

That WALGA advocate to the Minister for Local Government to amend the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide protections against the misuse of special electors meetings by:

1. prohibiting a matter previously considered being resubmitted; and
2. ensuring that motions to be considered are relevant to Local Government.

Technical Amendment Proposals

WALGA's Governance and Organisational Service team monitors the Local Government Act and associated regulations for inconsistencies and potential error. The following matters are proposed for inclusion in the reform process.

Part 4 – Elections and other Polls

s.4.9 <i>Election day for extraordinary elections</i>	<p>Section 4.9(1)(a) provides that the President/Mayor may exercise authority to determine the extraordinary election day, if not already fixed under paragraph (b), with s.4.9(1)(b) stating 'if a day has not already been fixed under paragraph (a)'</p> <p>Additionally, s.4.17 provides for Council to determine, with approval of the Electoral Commissioner, to allow a vacancy to remain unfilled. This has potential to lead to a further anomaly in the exercise of power under s.4.9(1)(a) and (b).</p> <p><u>Recommend legislative amendment that brings chronological order to the decision-making powers for considering vacancies and determination of extraordinary election day.</u></p>
--	---

Part 5 – Administration

s.5.36(4) & (5A) Admin. r.18A(2) <i>Local government employees</i>	<p>Administration Regulations, Schedule.2, clause 6 requires a Local Government to advertise the position of CEO <u>if the position is vacant</u>. Regulations do not, however, prescribe classes of persons under s.5.36(5A). Compliance with Admin.r.18A(2) advertising is unrealistic when a CEO leaves the Local Governments employment with little or no notice period.</p> <p>The WALGA Template Policy for Temporary Employment or Appointment of CEO (s.5.39C), includes protocols for Temporary CEO appointments.</p> <p><u>Recommend regulations be made under s.5.36(5A) prescribing classes of persons as a 'temporary CEO appointed under short term contract, where the person appointed is NOT an existing employee of the Local Government'.</u></p>
--	---

s.5.94	<p>The Act requires public access or inspection rights for documents that contain personal information, i.e. electoral roll, owner / occupier, rate record [s.5.94(m) and (s)]. The Act only limits the right to access this information where the CEO is unable to be satisfied that the information will not be used for a commercial purpose [Admin.r.29B].</p>
<p><i>Public can inspect certain local government information</i></p>	<p>WALGA members have expressed concern of the risks that may extend to information when combined with other personal information, for example, cyber security / identity theft risks or personal safety risks.</p> <p><u>Recommend</u> there be an analysis of the public benefit versus public risk arising from statutory provisions that requires public disclosure of documents containing personal details (i.e. electoral rolls, rate record) in the context of the potential for this information to be manipulated or misused for improper purposes.</p>

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

<p>Admin.r. 29D</p> <p><i>Period for which information to be kept on official website</i></p>	<p>Requires list of council members and staff positions that provide primary and annual returns to be kept on the website for 5 years. S.5.88(3) requires returns to be removed from the register when a person is no longer relevant. Admin.r.29D is inconsistent with s.5.88(3), meaning that the names and positions will remain on the website despite the returns being removed from the Financial Interests Register.</p> <p><u>Recommend</u> amending Admin.r.29D so that it is consistent with s.5.88(3).</p>
---	--

State Council Agenda

2 March 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting No. 1 of 2022 of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) State Council to be held at WALGA, ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville on Wednesday, 2 March beginning at **4:00pm**.

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1. Attendance

Members	Acting President of WALGA - Chair Avon-Midland Country Zone Central Country Zone Central Metropolitan Zone Central Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone East Metropolitan Zone Goldfields Esperance Country Zone Gascoyne Country Zone Great Eastern Country Zone Great Southern Country Zone Kimberley Country Zone Murchison Country Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone North Metropolitan Zone Peel Country Zone Pilbara Country Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South East Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South Metropolitan Zone South West Country Zone	President Cr Karen Chappel JP Cr Ken Seymour President Cr Phillip Blight Cr Paul Kelly Cr Helen Sadler Cr Catherine Ehrhardt Cr John Daw President Cr Laurene Bonza President Cr Cheryl Cowell President Cr Stephen Strange President Cr Chris Pavlovich Cr Chris Mitchell JP Cr Les Price Cr Frank Cvitan JP Mayor Mark Irwin Cr Russ Fishwick JP President Cr Michelle Rich Mayor Peter Long Cr Carl Celedin Mayor Ruth Butterfield Cr Doug Thompson Mayor Carol Adams OAM Mayor Logan Howlett JP President Cr Tony Dean
Ex Officio	Lord Mayor – City of Perth Local Government Professionals WA	Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas Ms Annie Riordan
Secretariat	Chief Executive Officer EM Governance & Organisational Services EM Infrastructure Acting EM Strategy, Policy & Planning Principal Special Projects and Acting EM Communications Acting EM Commercial Manager Strategy & Association Governance Manager Governance & Procurement Chief Financial Officer Principal, Policy and Advocacy	Mr Nick Sloan Mr Tony Brown Mr Ian Duncan Ms Nicole Matthews Ms Narelle Cant Mr Craig Hansom Mr Tim Lane Mr James McGovern Mr Rick Murray Ms Kelly McManus

1.2. Apologies

1.3. Announcements

- 1.3.1. WALGA acknowledges the Whadjuk Nyoongar people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

2. MINUTES

2.1. Minutes of the Meeting held 1 December 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the WALGA State Council Meeting held on [Wednesday, 1 December 2021](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

2.2. Flying Minute – Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Local Government Remuneration Inquiry

RECOMMENDATION

That the [Flying Minute – Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Local Government Remuneration Inquiry](#) be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to our Code of Conduct, State Councillors must declare to the Chair any potential conflict of interest they have in a matter before State Council as soon as they become aware of it.

4. EMERGING ISSUES

Notification of emerging issues must be provided to the Chair no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting.

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- As per matters listed.
- Items Under Separate Cover to State Council only.

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

- As per matters listed.

7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Key Activity Reports

- 7.1.1 Commercial and Communications Unit
- 7.1.2 Governance and Organisational Services Unit
- 7.1.3 Infrastructure Unit
- 7.1.4 Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit

7.2 Policy Forum Report

7.3 Policy Team Reports

- 7.3.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team
- 7.3.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team
- 7.3.3 Infrastructure Policy Team
- 7.4.4 People and Place Policy Team

7.4 President's Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the President's Report for March 2022 be received.

7.5 CEO's Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the CEO's Report for March 2022 be received.

7.6 Ex Officio Reports

- 7.6.1 Local Government Professionals WA President, Annie Riordan, to provide the LG Professionals report to the meeting.
- 7.6.2 The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas to provide City of Perth report to the meeting.

8. ADDITIONAL ZONE RESOLUTIONS

To be advised following Zone meetings.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the WALGA State Council will be hosted by the South Metropolitan Zone at the City of Cockburn Administration Centre on Wednesday, 4 May.

10. CLOSURE

Agenda Items

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION	5
5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme (05-036-03-0016 CH).....	5
6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION.....	16
6.1 COVID-19 – Update.....	16
6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission (05-088-03-0004 DM)	19
6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government (05-046-03-0017 RZ)	21
6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission (05-036-03-0070 AR)	23
6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry (05-034-01-0102 TL)	25
7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS.....	27
7.1 Key Activity Reports	27
7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit (01-006-03-0017 CH)	27
7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services Unit (01-006-03-0007 TB)	29
7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID).....	32
7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit (01-006-03-0017 NM)	34
7.2 Policy Forum Report (01-006-03-0007 TB).....	37
7.3 Policy Team Reports.....	38
7.3.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report	38
7.3.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report.....	39
7.3.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report	42
7.3.4 People and Place Policy Team Report	44
STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS.....	48

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme (05-036-03-0016 CH)

By Chris Hossen, Policy Manager, Planning and Building

RECOMMENDATION

That the draft Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Reform submission be endorsed

Executive Summary

- In December 2021, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released [Draft Position Statement: Planning for Tourism and Guidelines](#) (the position statement) for public consultation.
- The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGCS) simultaneously [sought comment](#) on the implementation of a new state-wide registration system for short-term accommodation.
- The proposal is in response to the State Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation by the Legislative Assembly's Economics and Industry Standing Committee in 2019.
- The proposals are broadly consistent with the Inquiry's findings that Local Governments are best placed to plan for tourism within their communities and WALGA's existing Advocacy Position on short-term accommodation.

Attachment

- Draft Short-Term Accommodation submission

Policy Implications

WALGA's existing policy position on short-term accommodation was adopted in 2017 (Advocacy Position 6.40 Short-Stay Accommodation). This position called for a review of the planning framework for short-term accommodation, contemporary land-use definitions and a preferred approach for home-sharing in the planning framework. The proposed policy measures in the [Draft Position Statement: Planning for Tourism and Guidelines](#) are broadly consistent with the existing position. It is proposed that recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the draft submission will supersede the existing policy position, and the existing position will be deleted.

Background

The short-term accommodation sector, and the tourism sector more broadly, plays an important role in local economic development, providing employment, training opportunities, and injections of tourist expenditure into local communities across the State. Changes in the short-term accommodation market have been challenging for Local Governments and their communities, particularly amenity issues such as noise, parking and waste management. Several Local Governments have sought to address these challenges through their local planning frameworks and through local registration schemes governed by local laws. These approaches have had varying degrees of success in addressing amenity concerns.

In 2017, WALGA prepared a [Short-Term Rental Accommodation Discussion Paper](#) in consultation with Local Governments. This Discussion Paper led to the adoption of a formal advocacy policy position by WALGA State Council in December 2017.

WALGA made a [submission](#) to the Legislative Assembly Economics and Industry Standing Committee [Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation](#) in 2019 and appeared before the Committee with a number of other Local Governments. The [Inquiry Report](#), tabled in September 2019, was generally welcomed by the Local Government sector. All 45 of the Inquiry's findings and 9 of the 10 recommendations were accepted by the State Government. The sector was pleased that the Government accepted Recommendations 2 (updated land use definitions), 3 (updated planning guidance), 7 (working group to be established), 9 (data sharing) and 10 (Local Government

responsibilities as part of registration scheme) and these recommendations form the basis of the matters included in the current consultation being administered by the DPLH and DLGSC.

The [Draft Position Statement: Planning for Tourism and associated Guidelines](#) are part of the Government's response to the Inquiry's recommendations. Consultation on the Statement and Guidelines is open from 6 December 2021 until 7 March 2022.

No formal consultation with Local Government or WALGA occurred prior to the release of the position statement and that the consultation does not include any details to justify certain aspects of the position statement or policy guidance. The items outlined in Recommendation 7 of the Inquiry provided a robust set of considerations that would have adequately guided the working group. The recommendation and the Government's response also outlined the importance of engaging with the Local Government sector to support the working group's activities. However, there has not been a formal approach by the working group to Local Government or WALGA to support their work.

WALGA hosted a sector webinar with officers of DPLH and DLGSC on 16 December 2021 which was attended by officers and Councillors from over 50 Local Governments. Attendees were surveyed on key elements of the position statement and proposed regulatory scheme, with this feedback used to inform the draft Submission.

WALGA sought comment on the draft Submission from Local Governments over a three-week period in January 2022. Officer comments were received from the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Dowerin, and Serpentine Jarrahdale, the Towns of East Fremantle and Victoria Park, and the City of Vincent. Formal Council support was received from the Shire of Merredin.

Comment

The Position Statement is a positive step forward in the provision of clear and consistent direction to Local Governments on the definition and treatment of short-term rental accommodation in the Western Australia planning framework. In particular:

- Planning Bulletin 99 - Holiday Home Guidelines, has been superseded and replaced with a contemporary range of 'Land Use' definitions and a preferred model for the management of home-sharing in the planning framework. These approaches are consistent with WALGA's current policy advocacy positions.
- The Position Statement identifies that *'Local Governments are best placed to plan for tourism within their communities, with local knowledge of tourism activities, opportunities, constraints, including potential impacts and what requirements, if any, should be places on tourism proposals'*. The general and specific policy measures generally align with this intent and the position statement's intent and objectives are supported.
- The Association supports the establishment of a state-wide registration scheme for short-term accommodation. Local Governments have indicated strong support for such a scheme and the benefits it would bring to the regulation of short-term accommodation in their localities. However, given the limited detail provided, the Association's support for the scheme is conditional upon a range of conditions being satisfied.

The sector has raised significant concerns regarding the proposal to exempt 'unhosted accommodation' from the need to obtain development approval where this use is not proposed to be let for more than 60 days per calendar year. This policy response was not proposed in either the Parliamentary Inquiry or the Government's response. There is broad sector support for the exemption of 'hosted accommodation', and incorporation of the existing bed and breakfast land-use definition into this definition.

Item 5.1 Short-Term Accommodation Regulatory Scheme Attachment – Draft Short-Term Accommodation Submission

Introduction

The Western Australian Local Government Association is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based group representing and supporting the work and interests of 139 Local Governments in Western Australia.

The Association provides an essential voice for 1,212 elected members and approximately 22,600 Local Government employees, as well as over 2 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that provide financial benefits to the Local Governments and the communities they serve.

The short-term accommodation sector, and the tourism sector more broadly, plays an important role in local economic development, providing employment, training opportunities, and injections of tourist expenditure into local communities across the state.

Changes in the composition of the short-term accommodation market have been challenging for Local Governments and their communities, particularly amenity issues such as noise, parking and waste management. Several Local Governments have sought to address these challenges through their local planning frameworks and through local registration schemes governed by local laws. These approaches have had varying degrees of success in addressing amenity concerns. Most concerningly, requirements set at the local level have not been sufficient to compel compliance from peer-to-peer platforms on matters such as data sharing and compliance with local requirements.

The Association therefore welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on short-term accommodation to the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and Department of Local Government, Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to inform the effective and efficient regulation of this sector.

This submission reflects the Association's existing positions as well as key issues and concerns raised by WALGA members during the consultation period.

Background

The emergence and rapid rise of the 'sharing economy', which utilises peer-to-peer platforms to rapidly connect customers and service providers, has produced several challenges for Local Government. In particular, platforms that support short-term rental accommodation offer these services in residential buildings and neighbourhoods that have not been designed to accommodate or provide these services.

The growth in short-term rental accommodation platforms and associated services has been rapid; however, planning legislation that governs short-term accommodation in Western Australia has not been revised since 2009. The absence of adequate State Government guidance about how to manage these services has been challenging for some Local Governments, which has led to many Local Governments regulating short-term accommodation through their local planning framework and the *Local Government Act 1995*.

In 2017, the Association prepared a *Short-Term Rental Accommodation Discussion Paper* in consultation with Local Governments. This discussion paper led to the adoption of a formal advocacy policy position by the WALGA State Council in December 2017, which states:

1. That WALGA request the Minister for Planning to establish, through the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, a Technical Working Group, with a goal to reviewing the planning framework in relation to short-term rental accommodation, that gives consideration to:

- a. A review of Planning Bulletin 99 – Holiday Home Guidelines, with a particular emphasis on expanding the scope of Planning Bulletin 99 beyond ‘Holiday Homes’, to reflect changes in the accommodation market,
- b. A review of ‘Land Use’ definitions within the Planning framework that relate to short-term accommodation, and
- c. Establishing a ‘preferred’ approach for the management of ‘home-sharing’ within the planning framework

Parliamentary Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation

Considering WALGA’s adopted policy advocacy positions, the Association welcomed the nature and scope of the terms of reference for the Inquiry into Short-Stay Accommodation by the Legislative Assembly’s Economics and Industry Standing Committee in 2019.

The detail of the Association’s submission to the inquiry focused on points one (1) and three (3) of the terms of reference, providing a snapshot of the way Local Governments regulate short-term accommodation in Western Australia. WALGA’s submission also outlined the various concerns of Local Government and local communities regarding the impact that changes to the short-term accommodation market have had, and are continuing to have, on their localities. Finally, commentary was made on the issue of data-sharing, or lack thereof, between online listing websites, holiday house providers and government authorities and the issues this creates for authorities.

The findings and recommendations of the Inquiry, tabled in September 2019, were generally welcomed by the Local Government sector. For example, Recommendations 2 and 3 sought to contemporise land-use definitions through the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015* and update planning guidance to reflect the changes to the definitions. These recommendations largely aligned with the Association’s adopted policy advocacy positions.

Recommendations 7 through 10 proposed the need for a state-wide registration scheme, established through appropriate legislative or regulatory mechanisms, and developed by an interdepartmental government working group in consultation with industry and the Local Government sector. The Committee’s findings placed considerable weight on the collective evidence provided by Local Government on how the short-term accommodation sector needs to be managed in line with local conditions and context. Recommendation 7 makes clear reference to the need for any state-wide registration scheme to ‘ensure that Local Governments maintain the ability to require the provision of additional information and impose additional licencing or operational requirements, depending on their circumstances’. Recommendation 10 listed a range of matters that Local Governments should be responsible for. The State Government accepted both recommendations noting that the relationship between State and Local Government will be a critical issue in implementing a state-wide scheme.

The Association was pleased that the Government accepted Recommendations 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and notes that these recommendations form the basis of the matters included in the current consultation being administered by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC).

General Comments

The Association welcomes the recent release of the *draft Position Statement: Planning for Tourism* and associated Guidelines for public consultation. The draft Position Statement and Guidelines are a positive step forward in the provision of clear and consistent direction to Local Governments on the definition and treatment of short-term rental accommodation in the Western Australia planning framework. Amongst other things, the draft Position Statement and Guidelines supersede and replace Planning Bulletin 99 and provide a more contemporary range of ‘Land Use’ definitions and a preferred model for the management of home-sharing in the planning framework. These approaches are consistent with WALGA’s current policy advocacy positions.

The draft Position Statement identifies that *'Local Governments are best placed to plan for tourism within their communities, with local knowledge of tourism activities, opportunities, constraints, including potential impacts and what requirements, if any, should be places on tourism proposals'*. The general and specific policy measures generally align with this intent and the draft Position Statement's intent and objectives are supported.

The Association does have significant concerns regarding the proposal to exempt 'unhosted accommodation' from the need to obtain development approval where this use is not proposed to be let for more than 60 days per calendar year. This policy response was not proposed in either the Parliamentary Inquiry or the Government's inquiry response. Furthermore, the draft Position Statement provides limited justification as to why the exemption is being proposed. Consultation with Local Governments indicates that there is broad opposition to this exemption for a range of reasons. Detailed commentary on this matter is outlined in the Specific Comments section (Appendix 1).

The Association supports the exemption of 'hosted accommodation', and incorporation of the existing bed and breakfast land-use definition into this definition. Detailed commentary on this can be found in the Specific Comments section (Appendix 1).

The Association is concerned that there has not been any consultation with Local Government or WALGA prior to the release of the position statement and that the consultation does not include any details to justify certain aspects of the position statement or policy guidance. The Government accepted the finding of the Inquiry in February 2020 and shortly after formed the interdepartmental working group to advance the matter. The items outlined in Recommendation 7 of the Inquiry provided a robust set of considerations that would have adequately guided the working group. The recommendation and the Government's response also outlined the importance of engaging with the Local Government sector to support the working group's activities. However, there has not been a formal approach by the working group to Local Government or WALGA to support their work. The Association understands that the DLGSC has only recently been appointed as the lead agency for the proposed registration scheme. WALGA looks forward to the opportunity to engage with the Department on the development of this scheme in line with the Inquiry's recommendations and the State Government's response.

The Association supports in-principle the establishment of a state-wide registration scheme. Local Governments have indicated strong support for a scheme and the benefits it would bring to the regulation of short-term accommodation in their localities. However, given the limited detail provided, the Association's support for the scheme is conditional upon inclusion of the following features:

1. All hosted and un-hosted short-term accommodation must be required to be registered with the scheme before being able to advertise the property
2. All peer-to-peer platforms that seek to let short-term accommodation must be regulated through the scheme as a host platform
3. Obligations of registration for both hosts and platforms must be clear and appropriate infringements and compliance tools should be embedded in the regulatory framework
4. Local Governments must be able to maintain the ability to require the provision of additional information and impose additional licencing or operational requirements, depending on their circumstances
5. Local Government's must be able to set fees commensurate with the cost of providing the service for any role undertaken as part of the scheme, and
6. Local Governments must have access to all necessary data collected by the scheme to adequately manage the potential impacts of short-term accommodation providers and to ensure local requirements are being met by hosts.

Recommendations:

1. **The intergovernmental working group be re-formed to guide the establishment of a state-wide registration scheme, which includes Local Government as a key stakeholder to ensure that the experience and knowledge of the sector informs the scheme's formulation.**

2. A state-wide registration scheme be developed for short-term accommodation and peer-to-peer platforms with the inclusion of the following features:
 - a. All hosted and un-hosted short-term accommodation must be required to be registered with the scheme before being able to advertise the property
 - b. All peer-to-peer platforms that seek to let short-term accommodation must be regulated through the scheme as a host platform
 - c. Obligations of registration for both hosts and platforms must be clear and appropriate infringements and compliance tools should be embedded in the regulatory framework
 - d. Local Governments must be able to maintain the ability to require the provision of additional information and impose additional licencing or operational requirements, depending on their circumstances
 - e. Local Government's must be able to set fees commensurate with the cost of providing the service for any role undertaken as part of the scheme, and
 - f. Local Governments must have access to all necessary data collected by the scheme to adequately manage the potential impacts of short-term accommodation providers and to ensure local requirements are being met by hosts.
3. No exemptions for 'unhosted accommodation' are allowed until the details of the state-wide registration scheme are finalised and deemed sufficient to adequately manage the impacts of short-term accommodation.

Specific Comments

Section	Comment
Hosted accommodation	<p>The draft Position Statement proposes that a new definition of ‘hosted accommodation’ be incorporated into the Local Planning Scheme Regulations as a model provision. It is proposed that the definition of hosted accommodation will encompass all low-scale proposals where a host resides on site, this would include bed and breakfasts. The current definition of bed and breakfast would be deleted from the model provisions. The proposed definition of hosted accommodation would apply to all dwelling types and limit the number of visitors to 4 adult persons in a maximum of 2 bedrooms, this aligns with the current definition of bed and breakfast. Comments received in response to WALGA’s discussion paper in 2017 and in response to this consultation indicate broad support for the new definition of hosted accommodation and the subsequent deletion of bed and breakfast from the LPS Regulations. The Association supports this change.</p> <p>It is also proposed that hosted accommodation be exempt from requiring development approval through an amendment to clause 61 of the Deemed Provisions. That is to say that where the proposal meets certain conditions, such as the number of rooms and number of guests, there would be no requirement to seek development approval for the use. Local Governments indicated broad support for the use of exemptions for hosted accommodation. The Association supports this change.</p> <p>The draft Position Statement indicates that all hosted accommodation (including those not requiring development approval) would be required to be registered on the state-wide registration scheme. This would ensure that Local Governments are aware of relevant matters that would enable suitable regulation of the land uses to protect amenity issues should they arise.</p> <p>The Draft Guidelines indicate that Local Governments should consider including hosted accommodation as a ‘permitted’ land use in the residential zone and as Local Governments deem appropriate in other zones. Current practice generally specifies bed and breakfast as either an ‘A’ or ‘D’ use in most suitable zones. It is unusual for a bed and breakfast to be a ‘P’ use. DPLH will need to consider transitional arrangements for existing schemes and definitions and how the exemption will be incorporated into</p>

	<p>the deemed provisions to facilitate the policy objectives of the Draft Position Statement. DPLH will also need to consider the appropriateness of exempting unhosted accommodation in bushfire prone areas and the alignment of such a decision with the intent and objectives of <i>State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning for Bushfire Protection</i>.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Establish new definitions for hosted accommodation 5. Include hosted accommodation as a matter exempt from seeking development approval in clause 61 of the Deemed Provisions, subject to suitable conditions relating to number of guests and number of rooms, and consideration of bushfire or other natural hazard.
Unhosted short-term accommodation	<p>The draft Position Statement proposes that two new and one amended definition related to unhosted accommodation be incorporated into the LPS Regulations as a model provision. Currently the model provisions provide a single definition for 'holiday house'. It is proposed to split this definition into three definitions that reflect the three types of dwellings in the Residential Design Codes: Single House, Grouped Dwelling, and Multiple Dwelling. The definitions are identical except for the type of dwelling.</p> <p>Several Local Governments currently use definitions to distinguish between holiday homes in single houses and either grouped or multiple dwellings. Generally, land-use permissibility and number of guests vary between the two definitions with lower maximum guests' numbers on proposals in grouped and multiple dwellings. The draft Position Statement proposes that guest numbers and room caps would be managed through the local planning framework.</p> <p>There is merit in splitting the land-use definitions by dwelling type, and this is supported. It is recommended that the words, 'for hire or reward' be added to the end of all three draft definitions. This will clarify that this land use is only to be applied to those holiday houses/units that are being used in a commercial manner and not for the personal use of a holiday home by the owner. Consideration should also be given to maintaining limits on the maximum number of guests and number of rooms that can be accommodated in each proposed definition. For example, limiting the maximum number of guests to 2 persons per bedroom.</p> <p>The Draft Guidelines indicate that Local Governments should consider including holiday house/unit/apartments as a 'discretionary' land use in appropriate zone and suggest</p>

	<p>that advertising be required for proposals with more than 7 or more guests. This is generally consistent with current practice and supported.</p> <p>Lastly, it is proposed that unhosted short-term accommodation (in a single house, grouped or multiple dwelling) will be exempt from requiring development approval where it is let for less than 60 days per calendar year. As already stated, no justification has been provided to support this proposal and this proposal was not contemplated or deemed necessary by the Parliamentary Inquiry. Submissions from Local Governments indicate that the practicalities of enforcing this requirement would be impossible and for many Local Governments that have established comprehensive regulatory regimes the change would mean a significant reduction in the ability to adequately manage short-term accommodation and manage the amenity issues in line with community expectations.</p> <p>It is noted that all unhosted accommodation, including those exempt from development approval, would be required to be registered through the state-wide scheme, and that this may allow for adequate regulatory oversight of unhosted accommodation. The lack of information in this consultation on how the scheme will operate, the data reporting requirements, and how local requirements will be incorporated into the scheme does not allow positions to be taken or recommendations made by the Association. Until such a time that additional information is provided, the Association is not able to support or oppose the exemption for unhosted accommodation. This position will be reassessed following the release of information on the Scheme and further consultation with Local Government.</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Include the words ‘for hire or reward’ to the draft definitions of holiday house, holiday unit and holiday apartment 7. Consider the need for maximum guest and room limits for each draft definition
State-wide registration scheme	<p>The Association supports the establishment of a state-wide registration scheme for short-term accommodation. Consultation with members demonstrates overwhelming support for a scheme and the benefits it would bring to the regulation of short-term accommodation in their localities.</p>

	<p>Local Government experience of local regulation of short-term accommodation through local laws shows the benefits of registration and regulation outside the planning system. The planning system has traditionally not been a useful instrument to manage ongoing compliance, and the use of local laws has shown to be successful at ensuring amenity is maintained and hosts are held to account for the behaviour of their guests and the suitability of the premises.</p> <p>Experience shows that local laws, and their registration scheme in Western Australia, has had limited success in compelling peer-to-peer hosting platforms to ensure compliance with local requirements prior to accepting properties for hire. As has been experienced in New South Wales and Tasmania, state-managed schemes have the power to compel such platforms to follow the rules and ensure compliance. This is vital for the success of any scheme.</p> <p>As has been identified in the draft Guidelines, several Local Governments in Western Australia currently operate local registration and regulatory schemes. This is reflective of the varying impact short-term accommodation has on different communities. It is important that any state-wide scheme be able to capture this variation and reflect the desire of some communities to restrict and/or manage short-term accommodation.</p> <p>In the Government's response to Inquiry recommendation 7 it was noted that the design of the system '<i>...needs to be flexible and not too onerous</i>' and '<i>simple, low cost and user friendly</i>'. Considering these requirements alongside the need to incorporate local requirements into registration, the development of a system similar in design to the section 39 and 40 requests in the liquor licencing regime has merit. This operates by an applicant lodging a request for registration with a state agency, as part of the application process a request for a certificate of compliance from the Local Government would be issued. This would allow the Local Government to determine if all local requirements, such as local registration, development approval, pool permit and food licence etc, had been met. Should those items not be required, this would be indicated in the response. This system would be consistent with the intent of Inquiry recommendation 10 and if adequately resourced would not act as an impediment to registration.</p> <p>As previously stated, as there is limited detail on the scheme, the Association's support for the scheme should be read alongside several features already mentioned in the general comments.</p>

<p>Implications for Building Classification</p>	<p>Under the National Construction Code apartments are designated as Class 2 Buildings while buildings hosting tourist accommodation are generally classified as Class 3. There are significant differences between the two classes, such as sprinkler protection in Class 3. The design of Class 2 buildings regularly relies on performance solutions that assume a level of resident familiarity with the building, which is not the case for short-term guests. Class 3 buildings address this through higher safety standards.</p> <p>The existence of short-term accommodation in residential class 2 buildings causes difficulties for Local Governments when approving uses. Under current legislation, a change in the classification triggers compliance with the current standards. This would likely be onerous upgrades, particularly in older buildings. Secondly, it is unclear if the trigger would apply to only the apartment or the whole building. More guidance is needed on this issue.</p> <p><i>Recommendation:</i></p> <p>8. DLGSC should seek guidance from DMIRS on possible solutions regarding the different safety standards for Class 2 and 3 buildings for short-term accommodation. This issue should be discussed in collaboration with Local Government.</p>
---	---

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

6.1 COVID-19 – Update

By Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning / COVID-19 Response

Please note: The information in this report is current as of 31 January 2022. Supplementary information will be provided at Zone and State Council meetings, as well as through other channels, including regular COVID-19 Updates from the WALGA President and CEO.

RECOMMENDATION

That the COVID-19 Update report be noted.

Executive Summary

- At the time of writing the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is circulating Western Australia with community cases reported in many regions of the State.
- The reopening of Western Australia's borders that was scheduled for February 5 has been delayed, with further reviews of border controls to be considered over the next 2-3 weeks.
- State of Emergency Directions, particularly in relation to mandatory vaccination, proof of vaccination and mask wearing have had significant implications for Local Governments.
- WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for Members, including regular updates, webinars, guidance and analysis.

Background

The Omicron COVID-19 variant, which appears to be milder but more contagious, is now the dominant strain of the virus in Australia and around the world. Case numbers, hospitalisations and deaths have increased dramatically since late December. At the time of writing, it appears some eastern states may have reached a peak in daily cases.

COVID-19 in WA

The latest information on COVID-19 in WA can be found at [COVID-19 coronavirus \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/department-of-health/covid-19) and on the [WA Department of Health website](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/).

Omicron is circulating in Western Australia, with cases reported in many regions of the State. The Chief Health Officer has indicated that it will not be possible to eliminate Omicron in WA.

Vaccinations

91 per cent of the WA 12+ population are double dose vaccinated and 36 per cent of 18+ Western Australians have received a third dose. Vaccination rates in country regions are lower at approximately 84 percent double dose, with particular areas of concern in the Pilbara (57 per cent), Kimberley (71 per cent) and Goldfields (79 per cent).

Current information on vaccination rates by Local Government Area can be found [here](#). It should be noted that for some Local Government areas the information is not available, may be inaccurate and is based on the 15+ population (WA vaccination rates are based on 12+ population).

Restrictions and Directions

[WA State of Emergency and State of Health Emergency Declarations](#) remain in force.

On Thursday, 20 January 2022 the Premier announced that the WA border would not be opening as planned on 5 February 2022 based on [advice from the Chief Health Officer](#).

A revised [Transition Plan for Western Australia](#) has been released.

The State Government has also [released the settings](#) that will apply when WA moves into a high COVID-19 caseload environment:

- a new close contact definition will apply, and casual contacts will cease
- new testing and isolation protocols will take effect, including the use of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)
- critical workers will be those that cannot work from home and are vital to maintain critical services and avoid catastrophic losses. For Local Governments this includes waste management services and social assistance services workers.

Mask Wearing

The wearing of face masks has been made mandatory in Perth, Peel, and the South West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern areas in all public indoor settings, vehicles (unless the person is travelling alone or with members of the same household), indoor and outdoor residential aged or disability care facilities and hospitals.

Mandatory Vaccination

The Government implemented mandatory vaccination requirements in late 2021. The Directions relating to these requirements are available [here](#). Local Governments employ 22,000 people in over more than 170 occupations groups which are impacted by at least 10 of the Directions.

It has been difficult for Local Governments to navigate, interpret and communicate the Mandatory Vaccination Directions which only provided for a very short implementation time. Local Governments are now in the process of managing those employees who do not wish to be vaccinated.

Vaccination Proof of Entry

Proof of vaccination requirements for ages 16+ were extended to venues and events state-wide on 31 January 2022. Local Government venues (and staff working in these venues) covered by the requirements include:

- Cafés and hospitality venues, which may be part of a larger facility for example in a recreation centre, sporting venue or hall
- Live music venues
- Indoor play centre
- Cinemas – including drive in and outdoor cinemas
- Gyms, indoor sporting centres, health clubs and dance studios
- A place where an event with more than more than 500 patrons, whether in public or private, and whether undertaken or engaged in on a for profit or not for profit basis (other than an excluded gathering).

Community sport, even if being undertaken in one of the venues covered by the Directions, are exempt from proof of vaccination requirements.

The Directions are available [here](#).

Comment

WALGA Sector Support and Advocacy

WALGA has continued to provide dedicated COVID-19 support and advocacy for the sector, including through:

- Direct engagement with the Chief Health Officer, Department of Health and Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding mandatory vaccination and proof of vaccination requirements under the Directions.
 - Based on feedback from the sector, WALGA strongly advocated for all Local Government owned and operated facilities and premises, and workers required to enter those facilities and premises, to be covered by the mandatory vaccination Directions to remove confusion. This outcome would have provided Local Governments with a mandate to ensure employees are vaccinated and to enable the continued provision of critical and essential Local Government services when there is widespread community transmission

- of COVID-19 in WA. The Government did not progress this approach which has caused considerable confusion across the sector and significant employee relations challenges.
- Proof of vaccination entry requirements are also causing considerable confusion and implementation issues for the sector. WALGA has received a large volume of queries from Local Governments, particularly in relation to mixed use facilities, such as recreation centres, and is seeking urgent clarification.
 - Responding to a large volume of COVID-19 related queries from the sector – more than 300 to WALGA Employee Relations and over 100 to WALGA COVID-19 Response from October 2021 to January 2022.
 - Representing the sector at Ministerial Roundtables, meetings of the State Emergency Management Committee COVID-19 Coordination Group, State Welfare Emergency Committee, State Recovery Advisory Group and the State Health Incident Coordination Centre.
 - Waste services continuity and planning – WALGA has updated the Mutual Assistance MoU for Local Government and preferred suppliers of waste collection, processing and disposal services. This provides a mechanism for assistance to be sought from other organisations if a workforce is impacted by COVID-19.
 - Undertaking a bulk purchase of competitively priced Rapid Antigen Test kits for the sector, with over 70,000 ordered in the first tranche.
 - Regular [WALGA COVID-19 Local Government Updates](#) – 136 updates have been issued since March 2020. There are over 1500 subscribers to these updates.
 - COVID-19 Local Government Survey – WALGA is surveying the sector monthly to inform its COVID-19 support and advocacy. 77 Local Governments responded to the first survey with 40 per cent reporting a shortage of workers or skilled workers, 70 per cent reporting shortages of building material supplies and 60 per cent reporting shortages of machinery, all of which are leading to longer lead times on contracts and resulting in higher costs.
 - Webinars and seminars:
 - 29 October 2021: HR Responses to COVID-19 Breakfast Seminar, attended by 86 representatives from Local Government
 - 21 January 2022: Preparing for Omicron, attended by 300 representatives from Local Government (webinar recording available [here](#))
 - 3 February 2022: COVID-19 Preparedness in the Regions
 - WALGA Employee Relations subscriber resources – 83 per cent of the sector subscribes to the WALGA ER Service. The Service has developed in-depth FAQs, template letters and checklists and COVID-19 specific ER alerts to assist Local Governments in implementing the COVID-19 mandatory vaccination requirements.

6.2 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission (05-088-03-0004 DM)

By Dana Mason, Manager Economics and Strategic Projects

RECOMMENDATION

That the 2022 WALGA Federal Budget Submission be noted.

Executive Summary

- The WALGA President has written to the Federal Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer to support the initiatives identified in ALGA's 2022-23 Federal Budget Submission.
- WALGA's submission also seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments:
 1. funding to build the capacity, reliability and resilience of telecommunications infrastructure across remote, regional and peri-urban areas;
 2. additional funding for road programs, including Local Government road priorities across the agricultural region; and
 3. the creation of a funding model for managing coastal erosion hot spots and additional funding from the Commonwealth to support the implementation of coastal hazard risk planning;
- The submission was provided to Commonwealth Treasury, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer in January 2022, and will be sent to all WA Members of Federal Parliament in coming weeks.

Attachment

- [WALGA 2022 Federal Budget Submission Letter](#)
- [ALGA 2022 Federal Budget Submission](#)

Background

The Federal Assistant Treasurer recently called for submissions for the 2022-23 Budget.

Each year, ALGA prepares a submission on behalf of the Local Government sector nationally. The 2022-23 ALGA submission requests funding for a range of initiatives across the following key themes:

- Economic recovery;
- Transport and Community Infrastructure;
- Building Resilience (including disaster mitigation; climate change; Closing the Gap initiatives; health; and arts and culture); and
- Circular economy.

These initiatives have been assessed by independent economists, and if funded and implemented would contribute at least \$6.58 billion to Australia's Gross Domestic Product and create 44,436 new jobs per annum.

A copy of ALGA's 2022-23 Budget Submission is attached.

The WALGA Acting President wrote to the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer in January 2022 in support of the ALGA submission. WALGA's submission (attached) also seeks a commitment to address additional issues of particular importance for WA Local Governments:

- Telecommunications and digital connectivity – Additional funding to build the capacity, reliability and resilience of critical telecommunications infrastructure across remote, regional and peri-urban Western Australia through programs such as the Mobile Network Hardening Program (MNHP); Strengthening Communications Against Natural Disasters (STAND); and Peri-urban Mobile Program (PUMP);
- Road Transport – In addition to funding for key programs such as Roads to Recovery and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, additional funding of \$50 million is being sought for the Local Government roads prioritised across the agricultural region; and

- Managing coastal erosion hot spots – Creation of a sustainable, equitable and efficient funding model to enable the implementation of coastal hazard risk planning. A funding contribution from the Commonwealth is being sought to assist Local Governments with the costs associated with the implementation of coastal hazard risk planning.

These priorities have previously been endorsed by State Council in September 2017, March 2018 and December 2021.

WALGA's submission has also been provided to all WA Members of Federal Parliament to highlight these priority initiatives.

Comment

The 2022-23 Federal Budget is an ideal opportunity to advocate for priority initiatives for the WA Local Government sector in advance of the upcoming Federal Election.

WALGA will be seeking opportunities to engage with WA Members of Federal Parliament on these and other key issues for the sector in advance of the 2022 Federal Election.

6.3 Detection of Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer and Implications for Local Government (05-046-03-0017 RZ)

By Renata Zelinova, Policy Officer, Biodiversity and Natural Area Management

RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note:

- 1. The emerging biosecurity threat following the detection of the polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) in the metropolitan area.**
- 2. That PSHB has the potential to significantly impact on Local Governments' street trees and public open space.**
- 3. The response activities being coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, including the imposition of a Quarantine Area Notice covering 17 Local Government areas and expanded surveillance program.**

Executive Summary

- Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB), an exotic wood-boring beetle not previously found in Australia, was detected in Perth in September 2021.
- Establishment of this pest would have significant impact on amenity trees, native vegetation and the fruit and nut industries.
- There is currently no known effective eradication treatment for PSHB. Early detection, removal and advanced treatment of infested trees/branches and tree stumps are the best control methods.
- A PSHB Quarantine Area (QA) has been imposed across 17 metropolitan Local Government areas that restricts the movement of wood and plant material from properties within the QA and requires machinery used to process green waste to be cleaned before leaving the QA.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has expanded PSHB surveillance to selected regional towns by distributing pest specific traps (which will remain in place for up to six months).
- DPIRD is continuing to work with Local Governments, other government agencies and residents to control PSHB populations while the incursion is fully considered as part of the nationally coordinated response to pest incursions.
- WALGA has facilitated DPIRD briefing sessions for the sector, is providing updates to the sector and has established a dedicated webpage for downloadable resources for Local Government to support communications to residents.
- WALGA will continue to work with DPIRD to ensure the implications of the incursion for Local Governments are considered in the ongoing response to PSHB.

Background

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) is a 2mm long wood boring beetle native to South-East Asia. It has a symbiotic relationship with a *Fusarium* fungus, cultivating it inside a tree for food. In susceptible trees, this fungus causes dieback and tree death, killing some trees within two years.

PSHB had not been detected in Australia until September 2021 when it was found in a tree in East Fremantle. It is believed to have arrived via infested wood products from its country of origin or other areas of known infestations.

Due to its small size and its lifecycle, PSHB detection and potential control treatments are challenging. Research is underway in South Africa and California on chemical treatment options but results to date are limited and chemicals tested are not registered for use in Australia.

An initial PSHB Quarantine Area (QA) imposed in September 2021 to control the spread of PSHB was further expanded in November to cover 17 Local Government areas: Cambridge, Canning, Claremont, Cockburn, Cottesloe, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Melville, Mosman Park, Nedlands, Peppermint Grove, Perth, South Perth, Stirling, Subiaco, Victoria Park and Vincent. The expanded

QA conditions are less onerous on impacted Local Governments as green waste movement within the QA is unrestricted. Exemptions have also been arranged for selected green waste processing facilities outside the QA to allow the continuation of green waste collections within the 17 Local Government areas.

DPIRD is working directly with impacted Local Governments to provide them with information on the borer, QA Notice restrictions and communications material to help support affected residents. Local Governments in the Perth metropolitan region have assisted DPIRD investigations by providing information on the locations of one of the key host trees, the box elder (*Acer negundo*) as well as information on green waste processing facilities.

DPIRD's has also undertaken extensive inspections of potential host trees (555 inspections completed during 13-16 December 2021), responded to public reports of suspected infestations and placed PSHB traps at strategic locations (358 traps deployed during 13-16 December 2021).

On 22 December 2021, DPIRD delivered a stakeholder update which noted that 39 properties were identified with infested trees, all within the QA. Analysis of tissue samples showed that the species of *Fusarium* fungi found in the Perth infestations is different to the species used elsewhere in the world. Consequently, a list of host tree species may also be different to the known list of hosts. [Twenty one species of trees](#) have been identified as host trees within the QA, including two new species; mango and sea hibiscus/cottonwood that were not previously listed elsewhere.

To determine how far PSHB may have spread, DPIRD is placing specifically designed traps in 18 regional Local Government areas, including Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Greater Geraldton, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Chittering, Dandaragan, Donnybrook-Ballingup, Esperance, Katanning, Lake Grace, Manjimup, Moora, Plantagenet, Wickpin, Wongan-Ballidu, Narrogin and Northam. Up to five traps are being placed in priority towns and will remain in place for up to six months.

The detection of PSHB has also triggered a national level response via the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests (CCEPP) and the National Management Group which consider the technical feasibility of eradication and response plans to new pest incursions in Australia. DPIRD's ongoing investigations inform the PSHB response decisions.

Comment

Since the establishment of the PSHB QA, WALGA has facilitated DPIRD briefing sessions, provided regular updates to the sector and established a dedicated [webpage](#) for downloadable resources for Local Government to support communications to residents.

PSHB has potentially significant implications for affected Local Governments' management of green waste, street trees and public open space. Initial WALGA analysis of street tree lists and street tree mapping data from four metropolitan Local Governments indicates that more than half of the tree species used by these Local Governments are potential hosts for the PSHB.

While DPIRD continues undertaking investigations to determine the most appropriate response to PSHB, Local Governments are encouraged to monitor their trees for any [signs of PSHB](#) and consider the implications of the establishment of the PSHB in their area, especially the impact on the tree canopy.

WALGA will continue to work with DPIRD to ensure the implications of the incursion for Local Governments are considered in the ongoing response to PSHB.

6.4 State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water - Submission (05-036-03-0070 AR)

By Ashley Robb, Senior Policy Advisor, Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That the endorsed Draft State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water submission be noted.

Executive Summary

- In August 2021, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released *Draft State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water* (the policy) and policy guidelines for public consultation.
- The draft policy is an amalgamation of six different state planning policies related to water, and the Government Sewerage Policy.
- WALGA provided extensive input on the draft policy's formulation as a member of the stakeholder reference group.
- Many of WALGA's recommendations were included in the draft policy and guidelines. Consequently, WALGA's submission proposed mostly minor amendments to strengthen existing provisions and support the policy's implementation.
- State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 8 November 2021. The submission was provided to the DPLH on 8 November 2021.

Attachment

- [Flying Minute: State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water](#)

Background

In August 2021, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) released [Draft State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water](#) and policy guidelines for public consultation.

The intent of the new policy is “to ensure that planning and development considers water resource management and includes appropriate water management measures to achieve optimal water resource outcomes”. The policy's objectives are broad and encompass environmental, social, cultural and economic water related values; protection of drinking water sources; riverine flooding; water supply and reuse; resiliency to climate change; and wastewater management.

The draft policy is an amalgamation of the *Government Sewerage Policy* (2019) and six different state planning policies related to water: *SPP 2.1 - Peel-Harvey coastal plain catchment* (1992); *SPP 2.2 - Gngangara Groundwater Protection* (2005); *SPP 2.3 - Jandakot Groundwater Protection* (2017); *SPP 2.7 - Public drinking water source* (2003); *SPP 2.9 - Water resources* (2006); and *SPP 2.10 - Swan-Canning river system* (2006).

Preparation of the new policy commenced in 2018. As part of the process, the DPLH established a stakeholder reference group that included representatives from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Main Roads Western Australia; Water Corporation; the Peel Harvey Catchment Council; and the Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA). WALGA was represented on this group by its Planning and Building Team and Environment Team.

WALGA's advocacy in relation to the preparation of SPP 2.9 and this submission included:

- Representation on the stakeholder reference group since 2018;
- A Local Government workshop in 2019 attended by approximately 30 participants including Local Government planners and engineers, representatives from DPLH, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and private consultant Urbaqua, to seek Local Government input early in the policy formulation process;
- Targeted consultation with Local Governments most likely to be affected by the policy, particularly those in Perth's growth areas in 2020;

- The release of WALGA's draft submission for sector feedback; and
- A webinar in October 2021 attended by approximately 70 Local Government planners, engineers and other officers with water related responsibilities, and representatives from the DPLH, to discuss the policy and draft submission.

Comment

Many of the recommendations proposed by WALGA during the policy review process were included in the draft policy and guidelines, demonstrating the productive working relationship between WALGA and the DPLH and the Department's comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement in preparing the policy.

The following key areas of WALGA advocacy and support were addressed in the draft policy:

- Clarity on the role of planning instruments that can be used to apply the policy, such as special control areas and local planning policies;
- The importance of preserving ecological linkages to mitigate ecological system fragmentation;
- Local Government discretion to exempt dams from the requirement to seek planning approval;
- Strengthening the need for proposals to manage nutrient exports within acceptable levels, particularly for intensive agricultural land uses and in accordance with State Government requirements;
- A four-stage process for assessing the cumulative impact of large development proposals;
- A clear presumption against the intensification of development within defined floodways;
- Requirement for site and soil evaluators to be accredited and registered; and
- Key implementation recommendations such as fact sheets, consistent planning scheme and policy provisions, and support for Local Governments to identify approaches that ensure appropriate development can continue on subdivided, unsewered lands within the bounds of the policy and guideline requirements.

WALGA's submission therefore contains mostly minor amendments to strengthen existing provisions within the policy and guidelines to ensure:

- Public open spaces have adequate fit-for-purpose water resources so new communities have access to irrigated public open spaces; and
- Proponents seek the support of the relevant Local Government when that Local Government is not the relevant planning authority, where it is intended that Local Government will be the infrastructure asset manager or where the proposed location of water infrastructure assets impact Local Government assets or facilities.

The submission also makes recommendations to support the policy's implementation. The DPLH has advised that budget has been allocated to support on-ground policy implementation following the policy's formal adoption.

The People and Place Policy Team endorsed the submission on 25 October 2021. State Council endorsed the submission by Flying Minute on 8 November 2021. The submission was submitted to the DPLH on 8 November 2021.

6.5 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry (05-034-01-0102 TL)

By Tim Lane, Manager Strategy and Association Governance

RECOMMENDATION

That the endorsed Submission to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Remuneration Inquiry for Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected member be noted.

Executive Summary

- The Salaries and Allowance Tribunal (SAT) are undertaking their annual Inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officer and Elected Member Remuneration, with submissions sought by Friday, 28 January 2022.
- Due to the timeframes involved, the submission was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute following consideration by the State Council Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team.
- The submission makes three recommendations relating to Elected Member remuneration and the Regional/Isolation Allowance that may be payable to Chief Executive Officers as follows:
 - That Elected Member Fees and Allowances (including maximum reimbursable expenses) are increased by up to four percent.
 - That the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance be increased for Local Governments that are particularly isolated, long distances from population centres with low amenity.
 - That the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal publish the methodology, criteria, and weightings for the Regional/Isolation Allowance.

Attachment

- [Flying Minute – Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Local Government Remuneration Inquiry](#)
- [Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal – Remuneration Inquiry: Local Government Chief Executive Officers and Elected Members](#)

Background

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal wrote to WALGA on 2 December 2021 advising of their annual Inquiry into Local Government Chief Executive Officers' and Elected Members' Remuneration with submissions invited from Local Governments and other stakeholders by Friday, 28 January 2022.

Given the late January deadline, which does not align with State Council's meeting schedule, the draft submission was considered by State Council via Flying Minute, following consideration by State Council's Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team.

Comment

The submission discusses two issues:

1. The need for a broad increase in remuneration for Elected Members given very limited increases over the past five years coupled with increasing responsibilities and time commitments of the role, and
2. A need for an increase in the maximum payable Regional/Isolation Allowance for particularly remote and isolated Local Governments, coupled with a request for more detail of the Regional/Isolation Allowance's methodology to be published.

In relation to Elected Member remuneration, the submission:

- Highlights that Elected Member remuneration has increased by one percent during the past five years while, in the four years to June 2021, the consumer price index for Perth has increased by 7.14 percent and the public sector wage price index has risen by 4.68 percent.

- Argues that the responsibilities and workload of Elected Members is increasing and references mandatory training requirements, data from the 2021 Local Government elections in terms of uncontested and unfilled vacancies, and the Minister for Local Government's proposal to reduce the number of Elected Members in many Local Governments.
- Argues that the remuneration framework should not be a barrier to enhanced diversity in Elected Member representation to reflect community demography.
- Recommends that Elected Member Fees and Allowances, including limits for reimbursable expenses, are increased by up to four percent.

In relation to the Regional/Isolation Allowance which may be payable to Chief Executive Officers, the submission:

- Notes the inadequacy of the Regional/Isolation Allowance is a concern to many of WALGA's members, particularly remote and isolated Local Governments, and therefore recommends that the maximum payable Allowance be increased for remote and isolated Local Governments to facilitate Chief Executive Officer attraction and retention.
- Highlights the confusion and uncertainty in the Local Government sector regarding the methodology for calculating the Regional/Isolation Allowance and, on that basis, recommends that further information regarding the methodology, criteria and weightings be published.

The [final submission](#), which was first considered and endorsed by State Council's Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team, was endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 25 January 2022 and has been put forward to the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal for their consideration.

The Local Government Remuneration Determination is expected to be published in early April 2022.

7. ORGANISATIONAL REPORTS

7.1 Key Activity Reports

7.1.1 Report on Key Activities, Commercial and Communications Unit (01-006-03-0017 CH)

By Craig Hansom, Acting Executive Manager Commercial

RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activity Report from the Commercial and Communications unit to the March State Council meeting be noted.

Commercial and Communications comprises of the following WALGA work units:

- Commercial Development
- Commercial Management
- LGIS Contract Management
- Communications (Marketing and Events)

Commercial Development

With the first phase of the Energy Contract now complete, and phased transitions into aggregate supply rates between now and 1 April 2022, attention will now turn towards scoping for PPA infrastructure, and options for bill verification and carbon measurement services.

The Commercial team has completed a number of small tenders with approximately 50 new Preferred Suppliers onboarded to the program.

A new Preferred Supplier Program (PSP) for Built Environment and Construction is being developed. Tenders will shortly be called for modular and temporary housing as the first category of supply for the new Panel.

The VMWare licensing arrangement that is utilised by 25 WALGA Members has been refreshed for a new Contract Term.

Commercial Management

PSP Annual Report

During the 2021-22 Q1 period, the program delivered \$80.06 million of goods, services and works, providing estimated savings of \$8.25 million. Additional benefits are realised through a reduction in administrative activities, alongside the added value of contract management oversight, due diligence and risk mitigation. More than 500 supplier engagements were facilitated through WALGA's eQuotes portal during this time.

Member Engagement

The Contract Management team continues with Member engagement to support use of the WALGA PSP. During the October to December 2021 quarter, there were 20 Member visits to the following regional Members:

- City of Greater Geraldton
- City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
- Shire of Broome
- Shire of Coolgardie
- Shire of Cue
- Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
- Shire of Dundas
- Shire of Esperance
- Shire of Halls Creek

- Shire of Laverton
- Shire of Leonora
- Shire of Meekatharra
- Shire of Menzies
- Shire of Mount Magnet
- Shire of Murchison
- Shire of Ravensthorpe
- Shire of Sandstone
- Shire of Wiluna
- Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
- Shire of Yalgoo

During the 2021 calendar year, more than 120 visits were made to regional Member by the Commercial Management Contract Managers. Metropolitan Members were engaged on a needs focused basis.

LGIS Contract Management

An item under separate cover for this State Council meeting covers a new LGIS Scheme Management Agreement between WALGA and JLT.

A summary of the LGISWA Scheme Board meeting held on 25 November along with the Minutes from that meeting are also provided under separate cover.

The following WALGA sponsored projects are currently in progress:

- Review of LGIS reporting against APRA standards;
- LGIS Board remuneration review; and
- Updates to the LGIS Corporate Governance Charter to reflect recent State Council endorsed changes.

Marketing and Communications

Happy Place Campaign Placements

The remaining sector promotion budget is being used to continue the Happy Place Campaign using TV and press advertising over summer. TV placements are run in nightly news and half-page press placements in the Saturday West on a light schedule to extend until March.

New Website

Work is complete on the refresh of the WALGA website that includes integration with the Preferred Supplier CRM and updated search functionality. Content on the site has been rearranged to match usage patterns.

Your Everyday Production

During the 2021 calendar year, more than 26 Your Everyday productions were published on the website. The Your Everyday now has over 242 productions promoting our Members right across the state.

This year will focus on any Members where there has been a change of Mayor or President and any other Members that have not yet been represented.

7.1.2 Report on Key Activities, Governance and Organisational Services Unit (01-006-03-0007 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activity Report from the Governance and Organisational Services Business Unit to the March 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

Governance and Organisational Services comprises of the following WALGA work units: Governance and Procurement, Employee Relations, Training, Regional Capacity Building and Strategy & Association Governance.

The following provides an outline of the key activities of Governance and Organisational Services since the last State Council meeting.

Strategy & Association Governance

Best Practice Governance Review

State Council, at their December 2021 meeting, resolved to undertake a Best Practice Governance Review during 2022 and 2023.

Identified as a key strategic initiative during the development of WALGA's [Corporate Strategy 2020-2025](#), the following drivers underscore the importance of the project:

1. Alignment with the Corporate Strategy: *We have contemporary governance and engagement models*,
2. State Council's 3 September 2021 resolution requesting amendment to the Constitution to "deal with matters related to State Councillors' Candidature for State or Federal Elections",
3. Misalignment between key governance documents – Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct, and Standing Orders – stemming from amendments over the past 15-20 years, and
4. Proposed legislative reforms to remove WALGA from being constituted under the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The project will incorporate the following five stages over the 2022 and 2023 calendar years:

1. Planning and Commencement – including appointment of a Steering Committee
2. Review and Assessment – incorporating a review of WALGA's governance model, examination of similar organisations, consideration of options, and development of recommendations
3. Recommendations and Determination – resulting in a final report to be considered at the December 2022 meeting of State Council
4. Drafting Governance Documents – ensuring the Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct and Standing Orders are contemporary and aligned, and
5. Final Approval and Implementation – following the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

The Local Government sector will be engaged and consulted as the project progresses.

2022 Local Government Honours Program

The Local Government Honours Program affords significant public recognition and celebration of the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions made by Elected Members and employees to their respective Councils, the Local Government sector and the wider community.

Nominations for this year's Program are now open. Following a thorough review of the Program last year, two new awards have been added, alongside four existing awards:

1. Local Government Medal
2. Life Membership
3. Eminent Service Award

4. Merit Award (*new for 2022*)
5. Local Government Distinguished Officer Award
6. Young Achievers Award (*new for 2022*)

The new Merit Award has combined two previous awards (Merit and Long & Loyal Service) and is intended to recognise notable contributions to WALGA, Local Government and/or the Local Government sector. The Young Achievers Award is open only to Elected Members and employees aged 35 years or younger, recognising notable commitment and demonstrated potential for professional success.

Nomination forms and further information can be found on the WALGA website [here](#). Nominations will close at 5:00pm on Friday, 24 June.

Employee Relations

New Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2021

The Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (IR Bill) was given [Royal Assent](#) on 22 December 2021 as Act No. 30 of 2021. Part 1 of the [Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2021](#) (WA) (IRLA Act) commenced on 22 December, which deals with preliminary matters. All other parts of the IRLA Act will be proclaimed by publishing a notice of proclamation in the Western Australian Government Gazette.

The declaration that all Local Governments are not national system employers will have the effect of transitioning all Local Governments to the State industrial relations system if it is endorsed by the Federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash.

We have not received confirmation on whether the declaration will be endorsed by the Federal Minister, however WALGA has secured an upcoming meeting with the General Advisor to the Federal Minister.

WA Government's Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

The WALGA Employee Relations service has been receiving a high number of queries regarding the WA Government's mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements for employees. WALGA Employee Relations is regularly updating its Frequently Asked Questions documents and has released a number of template letters and checklists to assist subscribers to the service.

Governance and Procurement

Council Meetings and COVID-19

During a state of emergency, public health emergency or under a Direction, options are available for Local Governments to meet online rather than in person.

In March 2020, in response to COVID-19, the Government introduced the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations* 14C, 14D and 14E. These provisions apply to ordinary council meetings, special council meetings, committee meetings and audit committee meetings.

A Local Government may determine to hold a meeting by electronic means (eMeeting) during a state of emergency, public health emergency or due to a Direction. To do so, either the Mayor/President or Council can authorise an eMeeting if they consider this appropriate due to a public health emergency or state of emergency, or if a Direction prevents meetings being held in person – r.14D(2). Please note that r.14D(2)(b)(ii) permits the Mayor/President or Council to authorise, by a single authorisation, that more than one council meeting will be held by electronic means, e.g. authorise that the March 2022 through to June 2022 council meetings will be held by electronic means.

If choosing to hold ordinary council meetings as eMeetings, the Local Government should give local public notice under r.12(3) to ensure the community is aware the meetings will not be held in-person. WALGA has had this advice confirmed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

The Mayor/President or Council, in consultation with the Local Government CEO, can determine the means by which an eMeeting will be held – r.14D(3).

Regulation 14C introduced the option that permits individual Council Members to seek authorisation to attend electronically at an in-person Council meeting if “*because of the public health emergency or state of emergency, the member is unable, or considers it inappropriate, to be present at an in person meeting*” – r.14C(2)(b).

When conducting eMeetings, Local Governments are to observe modifications made to the *Local Government Act* under r.14E relating to public question time, giving notice of meetings etc. WALGA developed the [Electronic Council Meetings \(eMeeting\) Guideline](#) to assist Local Governments meet the requirements for online meetings.

Annual Electors Meetings

WALGA has been receiving queries from Local Governments on the ability to hold Electors Meetings electronically in the case of the potential increase in community spread of COVID-19. Electors Meetings are treated differently to Council and Committee meetings and currently Electors Meetings are required to be held in-person.

Previously in 2020, there was a Ministerial Order that suspended Electors Meetings, and this could occur again should there be widespread community infection rates or in anticipation of the State border re-opening. We are in regular communication with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on this matter and will update the sector accordingly.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations (No.2) 2021– Electronic Meetings

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is looking at draft amendments to the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, to enable electronic meetings outside of a declared state of emergency. This will require amendments to Regulations 14A-E.

WALGA is generally supportive of this proposal subject to retaining the requirement for a Suitable Place to be approved, but only to the extent of the place providing for confidentiality and not based upon distance from meeting place.

7.1.3 Report on Key Activities, Infrastructure (05-001-02-0003 ID)

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activity Report from the Infrastructure Unit to the March 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

Roads

Condition Assessment of Roads of Regional Significance

Funding has been provided through the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement to perform visual condition surveys of Significant sealed roads and video of the Significant unsealed roads over a five-year cycle. The first two phases of this project, covering the Mid West, Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions have been completed. In addition, the survey has included condition reporting on access roads to remote Aboriginal communities. It is proposed to cover the Wheatbelt regions in the next phase which is scheduled for the start of 2022.

Road Safety Management System

WALGA, Main Roads WA and the South West Regional Road Group have finalised modifications to the project prioritisation guidelines and multi criteria assessment model to provide a greater focus on road safety when setting the annual roads program for the region. This is an important pilot to deliver the commitment agreed in the State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement 2018/19 to 2022/23 to work towards establishing a road safety management system. With agreement from the Regional Road Group chairs, WALGA will examine the common elements of the prioritisation guidelines and multi criteria assessment models for all the regions and develop a standard template including road safety and sustainability in the prioritisation process for setting the annual roads program for each region. Any changes will need to be supported by the relevant Regional Road Group.

Road – Rail Interface Agreements

WALGA, Main Roads WA and the Public Transport Authority (PTA) have made substantial progress toward developing a revised Road-Rail Interface Agreement. The draft Agreement, which identifies the responsibilities of the parties to manage risks associated with a road/rail crossing on the PTA network, will be provided to Local Governments for consideration and feedback, once finalised.

Local Government Road Research Program

WALGA and Main Roads will be developing a research program that will deliver guidance to Local Governments to assist in the adoption of technologies and practices that will enhance productivity and delivery of roads and transport initiatives. WALGA is currently collecting topic proposals that will then be prioritised by an operations team of Local Government practitioners.

Funding

State Road Funds to Local Government Agreement

The current Agreement expires in June 2023. The Minister of Transport and Planning has given approval to proceed with negotiations for a new Agreement and SAC has endorsed a timeline and process. WALGA and Main Roads will be meeting fortnightly to facilitate the process which will include consultation with Regional Road Groups, Zones and State Council.

Urban and Regional Transport

Regional Roadworks Signage Review

Recommendations from a working group, that included WALGA, overseeing a review of regional roadworks signage, presented a report to the Minister for Transport in August. The State Government announced in October that it had accepted all the recommendations. The data and trends in other jurisdictions indicate that effective identification and treatment of risks to road users and road workers

is required, even on low volume rural roads. Changes proposed will be reflected in the Codes and Standards that guide temporary traffic management for road works.

Road Safety

Traffic Management Information Seminar

WALGA and Main Roads WA recently held a Traffic Management Information Seminar, which provided an update on the state of practice of Traffic Management in Western Australia. This seminar provided an opportunity for Local Governments in the Perth Metropolitan area to receive an update on the state of practice and liaise directly with Main Roads WA and other Local Governments.

At the seminar, Main Roads provided an overview of the current Traffic Management for Works on Roads Code of Practice (updated 2021) and the AustRoads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (published 2021) and discussed other new developments in this area. The sessions closed with a presentation from the City of Swan, providing the Local Government perspective.

Road Safety Council Update

The Road Safety Council have met on two occasions since October 2021. At the 25 November meeting the Road Safety Council received presentations on the Regional Roadworks Signage Review (Department of Transport), the Road Safety Outcomes Framework designed to monitor the Driving Change road safety strategy (Road Safety Commission) and speed zoning policies and practices (Main Roads WA). Information around the new regulations for eRideables was noted and preliminary consideration given to the projects submitted for Road Trauma Trust Account (RTTA) funding in 2022-2023. The 17 December meeting focused on compiling the RTTA budget which has subsequently been recommended to the Minister responsible for road safety, in accordance with the *Road Safety Council Act 2022*.

7.1.4 Report on Key Activities, Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit (01-006-03-0017 NM)

By Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager, Strategy, Policy and Planning

RECOMMENDATION

That the Key Activity Report from the Strategy, Policy and Planning Unit to the March 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

The Strategy, Policy and Planning (SPP) Portfolio comprises:

- Economics and Strategic Projects
- Environment
- Planning and Building
- Resilient Communities
- Waste and Recycling (see MWAC Report)

The following provides outlines the key activities of SPP since the last State Council meeting.

Economics and Strategic Projects

Federal Budget Submission

WALGA's submission to the Federal Government in advance of the 2022-23 Budget supports the priorities put forward by ALGA and identifies the need for additional funding for local priorities including telecommunications, agricultural freight routes and coastal hazard management (Agenda Item 6.2 refers).

Economic Briefing

In December 2021, WALGA released its latest Economic Briefing, which contained updated forecasts for the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI). The LGCI is used to estimate future changes in costs to Local Governments based on the spending patterns of the sector across the State. WALGA forecasts the LGCI to rise 3.9% in 2021-22 as the increased demand from Government stimulus arrives at the same time as labour supply is constrained by closed interstate and international borders, and supply issues continue for materials from both domestic and global challenges. Cost increases experienced by Local Governments in recent months are now being reflected in the data.

The LGCI forecasts will be updated in February 2022. To subscribe to the quarterly briefing or find out more contact WALGA Economist Daniel Thomson on dthomson@walga.asn.au.

COVID-19 Survey

WALGA has commenced a monthly, sector-wide survey to gather data and an on-the-ground assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on Local Governments and their communities. This information will be used by WALGA to inform WALGA's advocacy on behalf of the sector.

Environment

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) Review

It is expected that the review of the BAM Act will commence in mid to late 2022. WALGA is continuing to engage with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and as a member of the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group to influence the direction and content of the review and ensure there is comprehensive consultation with the sector.

National Carbon Accounting Guidelines

WALGA is working with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) to promote a nationally consistent approach to carbon accounting for Local Governments to assist the sector in measuring its progress towards net zero emissions. The proposal, which was developed by WALGA in consultation with Climate Active (a Federal Government agency), will see Guidelines developed specifically for Local Government in measuring their emissions.

Electric Vehicles

Over 80 Local Government Officers from 39 Councils have responded to WALGA's expression of interest regarding transitioning fleets and EV Infrastructure arrangements. An internal WALGA working group will be progressing this work over coming months.

WALGA is holding an [Electric Vehicles and Hydrogen Technology Forum](#) on 31 March 2022, focussing on charging infrastructure governance and procurement considerations, guidance on transition strategies, heavy vehicles hydrogen fuel cell technology, and WALGA's new Energy Preferred Supplier Panel.

Planning and Building

Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Regulations

Consultation on proposed amendments to the DAP Regulations are expected to begin in early February, in response to previously flagged changes to the system as part of Phase 2 of the State's Planning Reform agenda. It is understood that this will include the introduction of a Special Matters DAP. WALGA will consult with the sector to prepare a submission and work with DPLH to ensure Local Government is engaged during the consultation period.

Swimming Pool Inspector Training

WALGA hosted a professional development day for Local Government swimming pool inspectors on 6 December 2021 attended by over 100 Local Government swimming pool inspectors. The provision of professional development was recommended by the Ombudsman WA in its report, Investigation into Ways to Prevent or Reduce Deaths of Children by Drowning.

Energy Efficiency Discussion Paper

The Planning and Building and Environment teams have been working with the Environmentally Sustainable Building Design Reference Group – represented by Local Government planners and building surveyors – to prepare a discussion paper on energy efficiency in the built environment. The discussion paper will identify key challenges and opportunities for Local Governments who are seeking to improve the thermal performance and energy use of residential and non-residential buildings in their local built environment. The paper is the next step following WALGA State Council's endorsement of a policy position to support the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings, in December 2021. The paper will be ready for consultation with Members in February.

Carport/Patio Fire Separation State Building Variation

The report to DMIRS to support a draft proposal for a state addition to the National Construction Code (NCC) to address the historical application of the carport exemption to patios in Western Australia has been finalised. Local Government building surveyors have been calling for this change through WALGA's working groups. The report supports WALGA's advocacy for clear and consistent regulations for the assessment of structures used as covered outdoor living areas which are currently not adequately addressed in the NCC. Meetings have been held with both DMIRS and DFES following the report's completion and WALGA's advocacy will continue in line with the current policy position to encourage good decision making and effective administration and regulation in building control.

Local Government Coastal Facilitator

WALGA has appointed a Local Government Coastal Facilitator with funding provided by the CoastWA Program. The Coastal Facilitator will support coastal and estuarine Local Governments to access CoastWA funding and develop and implement Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plans.

Resilient Communities

Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS Act) and Volunteer Bushfire Brigades

Following advocacy efforts by WALGA and other stakeholders, the commencement of the WHS legislation was delayed from January to March 2022.

WALGA and LGIS are continuing to support the sector with the transition to the WHS Act, particularly in relation to the management of volunteer Bushfire Brigades. On 9 February 2022 WALGA is hosting a sector webinar, with presentations from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) and LGIS providing an overview of the requirements of the new legislation for Local Governments with responsibility for managing Bushfire Brigades. LGIS is currently developing a resource to support Local Governments, and WALGA has developed a dedicated webpage with relevant information and resources.

Consolidated Emergency Management Legislation

In October 2021 the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) re-established the Interagency Working Group for the proposed *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, which had not met since 2015. The new legislation will replace the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, and the *Fire Emergency Services Act 1998*. It is anticipated that an Exposure Draft Bill will be released for public comment in mid-2022.

Local Government Emergency Management (LEMA) Review

WALGA and DFES have received grant funding to undertake a review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA). WALGA will engage an officer to undertake consultation with the sector in order to identify and pilot options for contemporary, scalable and sustainable emergency management arrangements for Local Governments.

Office of Auditor General Audit of Funding of Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Groups

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is conducting a performance audit of the management of funding for volunteer fire and emergency services groups in Western Australia. In December 2021 WALGA met with the OAG to provide preliminary information relating to Local Government management of volunteer bushfire brigades and the Local Government Grants Scheme for their consideration in determining the scope of the audit.

The Community Industry Reference Group (CIRG)

The CIRG has been established to provide WALGA with strategic advice and expertise to assist in the development of effective advocacy and policy. The CIRG comprises a diverse group of senior regional and metropolitan Local Government executives' extensive leadership experience in community development and social policy. The CIRG has identified five social policy priorities: Reconciliation; Community and Cultural Infrastructure; Homelessness and Housing; Mental Health and Wellbeing; and Volunteering.

Public Libraries Strategy

WALGA CEO Nick Sloan is the current chair of the Public Libraries Working Group (PLWG) which comprises WALGA, the State Library of Western Australia, Public Libraries WA, a representative from a Tier 2 regional public library, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Office of Digital Government, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and LG Professionals WA. The PLWG has developed a new 5-year Public Library Strategy. Public consultation on the draft strategy will commence in February 2022.

Upcoming Submissions

The Resilient Communities Team is developing the following submissions:

- Senate Estimates Committee *Homelessness Services Inquiry*;
- *Food Act* Review by the Department of Health; and
- WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework consultation by Department of Health.

7.2 Policy Forum Report (01-006-03-0007 TB)

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance and Organisational Services

The following provides an outline of the key activities of Policy Forums that have met since the last State Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the key activities of WALGA Policy Forums to the March 2022 State Council meeting be noted.

Mining Communities Policy Forum

The Mining Communities Policy Forum meet for the first time since 2019 on 8 November 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

In attendance were President Cr Karen Chappel (Chair), Mayor Peter Long, President Cr Malcolm Cullen, Cr Les Price, CEO Paul Martin, and from WALGA, CEO Nick Sloan, Executive Manager Tony Brown and Principal Policy and Advocacy Kelly McManus.

The Forum discussed how Local Governments have very little say about mining companies that operate within their boundaries. The *Mining Act* is old, and a review is long overdue. Mining companies are more focussed on mining than the community. Mining Agreements have become city centric with most major mining companies head offices located in the Perth CBD.

There is a need for a more formal communications structure as a point of reference for Local Government and mining companies.

More alignment is needed with the Aboriginal Heritage Bill and Native Title. Local Government must be recognised by the State Government as a significant stakeholder and engaged appropriately. One way to achieve this is to seek membership on the Mining and Management Program Liaison Group (MMPLG). The MMPLG is chaired by the Department of Industry and Resources on behalf of the Minister for State Development.

It was noted during the meeting that there is little Government appetite for a full review of the *Mining Act*. A suggestion was made that the sector seeks to identify the relevant parts of the Act associate Regulations that require Advocacy from WALGA.

The next meeting of the Mining Communities Policy Forum will be held in the first quarter of 2022.

7.3 Policy Team Reports

7.3.1 Environment and Waste Policy Team Report

By Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

The Environment and Waste Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- *Climate change*
- *Native vegetation and biodiversity*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Water resources*
- *Sustainability*
- *Waste management*

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team at its meeting held on 13 December 2021.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

Nil

2. Matters for Noting by State Council

2.1 Election of Chair

The Policy Team elected Cr Les Price (Murchison Country Zone), Chair.

2.2 Policy Team Priorities

The Policy Team discussed key priorities for 2022, which included:

- Climate Change – the Policy Team discussed the role of Local Government in all aspects of Climate change prevention, mitigation and adaption. There was also a focus on Electric Vehicles and an update was requested for the next meeting.
- Biosecurity – the Policy Team requested an item for noting for State Council on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer.
- A review of Environment Policies and the need for the sector to strong and focused advocacy on these key priority areas.

POLICY TEAM RECOMMENDATION

That State Council note the matters considered by the Environment and Waste Policy Team.

7.3.2 Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team Report

By Tony Brown, Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

The Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Employee relations
- Governance
- Strategy and Association Governance
- Training
- Regional Capacity Building / Local Government Reform

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Governance and Organisational Services (GOS) Policy Team at its meetings held on 6 July, 10 September, 2 November and 16 December 2021.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

1.1 WALGA Advocacy Position Reviews [GOS-06/07/2021-6.0]

The GOS Policy Team reviewed five WALGA Advocacy Positions as per below and provides recommendations for State Council consideration. Where the GOS Policy Team has recommended the Advocacy Position be retained, it may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

Advocacy Position 2.2 Local Government Reform

GOS Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND that WALGA Advocacy Position 2.2 Local Government Reform is retained.

Advocacy Position 2.2.1 Structural Reform

GOS Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND that WALGA Advocacy Position 2.2.1 Structural Reform is retained.

Advocacy Position 2.4.2 Country Local Government Fund

GOS Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND that WALGA Advocacy Position 2.4.4 Country Local Government Fund is retained.

Advocacy Position 2.1.13 Rates Notices

Position Statement *Section 6.41 of the Local Government Act 1995 should be amended to:*
1. *Permit rates notices to be issued electronically; and,*
2. *Introduce flexibility to offer regular rate payments (i.e. fortnightly, monthly etc.) without the requirement to issue individual instalment notices.*

State Council Resolution December 2017 – 123.6/2017

GOS Policy Team Comment: The [Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019](#) amended s.6.41 of the *Local Government Act 1995* inserting a new subsection s.6.41(4) as follows:

- (4) The rate notice may be given by email if the local government has obtained the consent of the owner or occupier, as the case requires, to giving the rate notice in that way.

This amendment achieved part 1 of the WALGA Advocacy Position 2.1.13 Rates Notices, however part 2 has not yet been achieved.

RECOMMEND that WALGA Advocacy Position 2.1.13 Rates Notices be reviewed and submitted for State Council consideration to:

- **Note that Part 1 was achieved through the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2019*; and therefore**
- **Delete Part 1 from the Advocacy Position.**

Advocacy Position 2.6.6 Panel Tenders

Position Statement WALGA supports amendment to the Functions and General Regulations to permit panel tenders.

State Council Resolution July 2015 – 74.4/2015
September 2014 – 88.4/2014

GOS Policy Team Comment: The [Local Government \(Functions and General\) Amendment Regulations 2015](#) were gazetted on 18 September 2015 resulting in Part 4, Division 3 being inserted into the Functions and General Regulations, which established new regulatory provisions enabling Local Governments to establish Panels of Prequalified Suppliers. WALGA's July 2015 Advocacy Position has therefore been achieved.

RECOMMEND that WALGA Advocacy Position 2.6.6 is noted as achieved and removed.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

2.1 Election of Policy Team Chair

At its meeting on 16 December 2021, the GOS Policy Team elected Cr Russ Fishwick (North Metropolitan Zone), Chair.

2.2 Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Local Government Remuneration Inquiry (GOS-17/01/2022-3.1)

At its meeting on 17 January 2022, the GOS Policy Team SUPPORTED the draft Secretariat submission recommendations regarding:

- Elected Members, subject to amending the recommendation for Elected Member Fees and Allowances to be increased by **up to four percent** ~~a minimum of three percent~~.
- Chief Executive Officers.

State Council endorsed the Submission to Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Local Government Remuneration Inquiry Submission by Flying Minute.

2.3 Local Government (Administration) Regulations (No.2) 2021 - Electronic Meetings (GOS-17/01/2022-3.2)

Also at the 17 January 2022 meeting, the GOS Policy Team SUPPORTED the draft Secretariat feedback on the Local Government (Administration) Regulations (No.2) 2021 – Electronic Meetings, subject to the following amendments:

- Retain the requirement for a Suitable Place to be approved, but only to the extent of the place providing for confidentiality and not based upon distance from meeting place.
- Provide for the Council or the Mayor/President to approve a request for Council Member to attend a meeting electronically, with provisions that enable the Council to review a decision of the Mayor/President [Reg.14D].

WALGA's feedback was provided to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on 18 January 2022.

2.4 Local Government Reform Proposals

The GOS Policy Team met on 2 February 2022 to consider the draft submission on the proposed Local Government reforms, as included in the Agenda for the special meeting of State Council on 23 February 2022.

POLICY TEAM RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. determine to:**
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:**
 - i. 2.2 Local Government Reform**
 - ii. 2.2.1 Structural Reform**
 - iii. 2.4.2 Country Local Government Fund**

- b. note the following Advocacy Positions as achieved and approve removal from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual:
 - i. 2.6.6 Panel Tenders
 - c. retain and amend the following Advocacy Position:
 - i. 2.1.13 Rates Notices – removing part 1 as it is achieved.
- 2. note the matters considered by the Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team.

7.3.3 Infrastructure Policy Team Report

By Ian Duncan, Executive Manager Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Roads and paths
- Road safety
- Transport
- Freight
- Utilities (including telecommunications and underground power)

This Report provides an update on matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team at its meeting held on 23 December 2021.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The Infrastructure Policy Team reviewed the below WALGA Advocacy Positions and provides recommendations for State Council consideration. Where the Infrastructure Policy Team has recommended the Advocacy Position be retained, it may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

1.1 WALGA Advocacy Positions Reviews

The following Advocacy Positions were considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team:

- Advocacy Position 5.1.3 Defined Heavy Vehicle Network
- Advocacy Position 5.1.4 Concessional Mass Loading
- Advocacy Position 5.1.5 Performance Based Standards (PBS)
- Advocacy Position 5.1.6 Heavy Vehicle Road User Pricing
- Advocacy Position 5.1.7 National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities
- Advocacy Position 5.1.8 Heavy Vehicle Cost Recovery Policy Guideline for Sealed Road
- Advocacy Position 5.1.8 Heavy Vehicle Cost Recovery Policy Guideline for Sealed Road
- Advocacy Position 5.1.9 Assessing Applications to Operate Restricted Access Vehicles on Local Government Roads
- Advocacy Position 5.1.10 Review of the Western Australian Rail Access Regime
- Advocacy Position 5.1.11 Restricted Vehicle Operating Condition CA07 Letter of Approval
- Advocacy Position 5.2.3 Default Open Speed Limit in WA
- Advocacy Position 5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings
- Advocacy Position 5.2.6 Speed Enforcement
- Advocacy Position 5.2.7 Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero)
- Advocacy Position 5.2.9 Review of the Administrative Road Classification Methodology
- Advocacy Position 5.3.1 Public Transport
- Advocacy Position 5.3.2 Western Australian Bicycle Network
- Advocacy Position 5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths
- Advocacy Position 5.3.4 Licensing Cyclists and Registering Bicycles
- Advocacy Position 5.5 Street Lighting
- Advocacy Position 5.5.1 LED Street Lighting
- Advocacy Position 5.9 Bus Stop Infrastructure

RECOMMEND that the above WALGA Advocacy Positions be retained.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

2.1 Election of Infrastructure Policy Team Chair

On 23 December 2021, the Infrastructure Policy Team elected President Cr Stephen Strange (Great Eastern Country Zone), Chair.

2.2 Matters Raised by Zones

In relation to driving on closed roads, the Gascoyne Country Zone resolved:

That WALGA:

1. *Investigate technologies available to physically close roads remotely and provide costings for such;*
2. *Investigate the current legislative frameworks and provide comment on the remedies practicality of enforcing such;*
3. *Investigate and make comment on what other State Jurisdictions legislative interventions are used and the remedies provided thereunder to discourage motorists driving on closed roads.*

In response to the above, the Infrastructure Policy Team resolved at its meeting on 23 December 2021:

That advice be sought from the next meeting of the Goldfields-Esperance, Kimberley, Mid West and Pilbara Zones regarding the magnitude of road damage arising from vehicles being driven on closed roads and potential measures that would effectively reduce this risk. Advice from the Zones be considered at the next Infrastructure Policy Team meeting.

2.3 Other Items

- Delegates asked to note that a Transport and Roads Forum and trade day is provisionally planned for **Wednesday, 30 March 2022** at the Cannington Expo and Showgrounds.
- The Association has responded to concerns raised by Local Governments about the lack of available Diesel Exhaust Fluid (marketed as AdBlue etc) with the Australian Government through ALGA and with the Western Australian Freight and Logistics Council. This is on-going

POLICY TEAM RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

1. **determine to retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:**
 - a. **5.1.3 Defined heavy vehicle network**
 - b. **5.1.4 Concessional Mass Loading**
 - c. **5.1.5 Performance Based Standards (PBS)**
 - d. **5.1.6 Heavy Vehicle Road User Pricing**
 - e. **5.1.7 National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities**
 - f. **5.1.8 Heavy Vehicle Cost Recovery Policy Guideline for Sealed Road**
 - g. **5.1.9 Assessing Applications to Operate Restricted Access Vehicles on Local Government Roads**
 - h. **5.1.10 Review of the Western Australian Rail Access Regime**
 - i. **5.1.11 Restricted Vehicle Operating Condition CA07 Letter of Approval**
 - j. **5.2.3 Default Open Speed Limit in WA**
 - k. **5.2.5 The Role of Local Government in the Future Management of Warden Controlled Children's Crossings**
 - l. **5.2.6 Speed Enforcement**
 - m. **5.2.7 Road Safety Strategy (Imagine Zero)**
 - n. **5.2.9 Review of the Administrative Road Classification Methodology**
 - o. **5.3.1 Public Transport**
 - p. **5.3.2 Western Australian Bicycle Network**
 - q. **5.3.3 Cycling on Footpaths**
 - r. **5.3.4 Licencing cyclists and registering bicycles**
 - s. **5.5 Street Lighting**
 - t. **5.5.1 LED Street Lighting**
 - u. **5.9 Bus Stop Infrastructure**
2. **note the matters considered by the Infrastructure Policy Team.**

7.3.4 People and Place Policy Team Report

By Nicole Matthews, Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

The People and Place Policy Team includes the following subject areas:

- Community
- Emergency Management
- Planning and Building

This Report provides an update on matters considered, since the last State Council meeting, by the People and Place Policy Team at its meetings held on 6 August, 25 October and 16 December 2021.

1. Matters for State Council Decision

The People and Place Policy Team reviewed WALGA Advocacy Positions as per below and provides recommendations for State Council consideration. Where the People and Place Policy Team has recommended the Advocacy Position be retained, it may be reviewed in the WALGA [Advocacy Position Manual](#).

1.1 WALGA Planning and Building Advocacy Positions Reviews

On 6 August 2021, the People and Place Policy Team endorsed an initial review of WALGA's Advocacy Positions as they relate to planning and building.

WALGA has 20 active policy advocacy positions that relate to the Planning and Building policy areas. A number of these have been in place for over ten years and have not been subject to a review to determine their ongoing suitability. To ensure that WALGA's policy guidance remains relevant, the Policy Team was requested to review and support a proposed timeframe and approach for the review of these policy areas.

An initial review of the existing planning and policy advocacy positions was undertaken. This review has made an initial recommendation as to whether the existing position should be retained, deleted or updated.

As per the Policy Team recommendation, those matters requiring review or deletion will be presented to State Council in the future for actioning. For those matters deemed to be retained without modification they are provided to State Council below for endorsement of the Policy Team's recommendation.

Advocacy Position 6.4 Third Party Appeal Rights

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND that Advocacy Position 6.4 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.5 Development Assessment Panels

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.5 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.8 Planning Fees and Charges

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.8 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.12 Town Planning and Alcohol Outlets

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.12 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.18 Industrial Planning

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.18 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.15 Senior Housing Strategy

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.15 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.19 Special Residential Zones

People and Place Policy Team Comment: No change to this Advocacy Position – issue remains current.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.19 is retained.

Advocacy Position 6.3 Local Government Planning Improvement Program

Position Statement	The Association supports the establishment of a Planning Improvement Program specifically for the Local Government sector.
Background	The Program's key mission statement is to 'ensure better outcomes through consistency and efficiency' providing best practice examples and information for local government planning departments to undertake improvements within their organisation rather than the imposition of reform measures.
State Council Resolution	September 2012 – 108.5/2012
Supporting Documents	Local Government Planning Improvement Program - Action Plan
People and Place Policy Team Comment: This Advocacy Position is no longer relevant and should be removed.	

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.3 is removed from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual.

Advocacy Position 6.9 Prostitution Legislation

Position Statement	The Local Government sector supports in principle, the recognition and licensing of prostitution in WA as it allows normal regulatory controls to be put in place, on condition that brothels should be excluded from predominantly residential areas.
Background	The Association has been involved in discussions / proposals to decriminalize prostitution since 1999. State Council has determined the position through consultation with all member Councils (on several occasions), and consideration of feedback and representative position papers, workshops, discussions with other government agencies, support groups and members of the prostitution industry. The Association will only comment on regulatory, operational, amenity and cost implications that arise for local government from any proposed legislation – not moral issues.
State Council Resolution	October 2011 – 109.5/2011
People and Place Policy Team Comment: This Advocacy Position is no longer relevant and should be removed.	

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.9 is removed from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual.

Advocacy Position 6.10 Directions 2031

Position Statement	To enable the success of Directions 2031 and its associated policies, the Association recommends that the Minister for Planning re-establish a State/Local Government consultative committee to assist with the implementation of <i>Directions 2031 and Beyond</i> and its associated policies.
Background	Additional recommendations specifically requested that:

- the Minister for Planning establish implementation funding for the implementation of *Directions 2031 and Beyond* and its associated policies; and
- the WAPC seek a partnership approach between State/Local Government and UDIA in reviewing urban infill and greenfield dwelling targets in the Peel Sub-Regional Strategy area based upon a reassessment of Urban Investigation Areas linked with employment generating activity centres, industrial precincts and transport networks over a longer term planning horizon to prevent land shortages that will drive up housing prices and reduce affordability.

State Council Resolution 18 February 2011 – 11.1/2011

People and Place Policy Team Comment: This Advocacy Position is no longer relevant and should be removed.

RECOMMEND Advocacy Position 6.10 is removed from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual.

2. Matters for State Council Noting

2.1 Election of Policy Team Chair

At its 16 December 2021 meeting, the People and Place Policy Team elected President Cr Tony Dean (South West Country Zone), Chair.

2.2 WALGA Emergency Management Advocacy Position Review

WALGA has a number of State Council endorsed Advocacy Position Statements relating to Emergency Management that have been developed over the years. To ensure that WALGA's advocacy positions remain contemporary, the Policy Team is requested to support a proposed approach for the review of existing Advocacy Position Statements.

An initial review of the existing Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements has been undertaken. This review resulted in an initial recommendation for all existing advocacy statements to be reviewed. A review of State Council Minutes for the previous 10-year period was also undertaken in order to ensure that issues previously considered by State Council are captured in the process.

The proposed steps to this review are:

1. Seek Policy Team agreement to the development of a Comprehensive set of Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements.
2. WALGA Resilient Communities Team to develop a Comprehensive set of Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements for consultation with the sector through the development of a Discussion Paper.
3. The WALGA Resilient Communities Team will work collaboratively with other WALGA policy areas where there is cross-over in subject matter (for example, infrastructure, environment and planning) to ensure that Position Statements are interdisciplinary in focus.
4. Present Comprehensive set of Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements to People and Place Policy Team for endorsement.
5. Present final Comprehensive set of Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements to State Council for endorsement.

During the meeting, Policy Manager Resilient Communities Susie Moir gave an overview of the proposed policy position review. Members were supportive of the proposed steps for review.

2.3 Advocacy Position for Future Review

At future meetings, the People and Place Policy Team will review the following Advocacy Positions:

- Advocacy Position 6.1 Planning Principles
- Advocacy Position 6.2 Planning Reform

- Advocacy Position 6.6 Bush Fire Hazard Mitigation and Planning
- Advocacy Position 6.7 Building Act and Fees
- Advocacy Position 6.11 Coastal Planning
- Advocacy Position 6.13 Public Open Space
- Advocacy Position 6.14 Affordable Housing
- Advocacy Position 6.16 Capital City Planning Framework
- Advocacy Position 6.17 Built Heritage
- Advocacy Position 6.20 Short-Stay Accommodation

POLICY TEAM RECOMMENDATION

That State Council:

- 1. determine to:**
 - a. retain the following Advocacy Positions unchanged:**
 - i. 6.4 Third Party Appeal Rights**
 - ii. 6.5 Development Assessment Panels**
 - iii. 6.8 Planning Fees and Charges**
 - iv. 6.12 Town Planning and Alcohol Outlets**
 - v. 6.15 Senior Housing Strategy**
 - vi. 6.18 Industrial Planning**
 - vii. 6.19 Special Residential Zones**
 - b. note the following Advocacy Positions are no longer relevant and approve removal from the WALGA Advocacy Position Manual:**
 - i. 6.3 Local Government Planning Improvement Program**
 - ii. 6.9 Prostitution Legislation**
 - iii. 6.10 Directions 2031**
- 2. note the matters considered by the People and Place Policy Team.**

STATUS REPORT ON STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

To the March 2022 State Council Meeting

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
1 December 2021 Item 5.1 Paid Family and Domestic Violence Leave Entitlements	That WALGA: Endorse the submission to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) regarding paid family and domestic violence leave (FDVL) which: 1. highlights that FDVL for employees is an important issue for the sector; 2. supports the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards for employees to receive five days' paid FDVL per year as a minimum entitlement; 3. advocates for employees to be able to access their paid personal/carer's leave in circumstances of family and domestic violence; and 4. does not support the introduction of a new entitlement in modern awards, at this point in time, for employees to receive 10 days' paid FDVL per year as sought by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). RESOLUTION 292.7/2021	Submission was forwarded to the Fair Work Commission.	Completed	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
1 December 2021 Item 5.2 Payment to Independent Committee Members	That WALGA request the Minister for Local Government to amend the Local Government Act 1995 to allow the payment of meeting attendance fees to, and/or defined reimbursements for time committed by, 'other persons' appointed as Committee members under s.5.8 of the Local Government Act 1995. RESOLUTION 293.7/2021	Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advocating for this position. A response was received from the Minister advising of in principle support for reimbursing a committee member for their time and application of relevant skills and expertise through committees. The Minister has asked the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries to examine the implementation of WALGA's request in the ongoing process of the development and drafting of legislative reforms.	Ongoing February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: 1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: <u>Cost of Regional Development</u> That WALGA makes urgent representation to the State Government to address the high cost of development in regional areas for both residential and industrial land, including the prohibitive cost of utilities headworks, which has led to market failure in many regional towns.	WALGA will make representations on this issue with the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government and the Minister for Regional Development. WALGA will also raise with Development WA.	February 2022	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	... RESOLUTION 294.7/2021			
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: 1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: ... <u>CSRFF Funding Pool and Contribution Ratios</u> That WALGA lobby the State Government to: 1. Increase the CSRFF funding pool to at least \$25 million per annum and revert the contribution ratio to 50% split to enable more community programs and infrastructure to be delivered. 2. Increase the \$1 million per annum quarantined for female representation to at least \$2 million per annum. RESOLUTION 294.7/2021	The Acting WALGA President wrote to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister Templeman, on this issue on 28 January 2022 and will raise in a meeting with the Minister on 31 January 2022.	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: 1. The following resolutions from the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be endorsed for action: ... <u>Regional Telecommunications Project</u> That WALGA strongly advocates to the State Government to increase funding for the Regional Telecommunications Project to leverage the Federal Mobile Black Spot Program and provide adequate mobile phone coverage to regional areas that currently have limited or no access to the service. RESOLUTION 294.7/2021	A multi-prong approach will be implemented over time to take advantage of opportunities to improve mobile phone coverage in regional (including peri-urban) areas. Since the last State Council meeting, working through the State Emergency Management Committee, a \$240,000 grant from the joint Commonwealth State funded National Disaster Risk Reduction Program has been secured. This grant is to create a consolidated data set of mobile phone towers, including their power supply, to identify how to best improve regional telecommunications availability and reliability. The Association has also highlighted and encouraged eligible Local Governments to take advantage of additional Federal funding under the Peri-urban Mobile Black Spot program (PUMP) and identify mobile Black Spots.	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure
1 December 2021 Item 5.3 2021 Annual General Meeting	That: ... 2. The following resolution passed at the 2021 WALGA Annual General Meeting be referred to the Mining Communities Policy Forum and the People and Place Policy Team for advocacy work to be undertaken: <u>Review of the Environmental Regulations for Mining</u> Regarding a review of the Mining Act 1978: 1. To call on Minister Bill Johnston, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective	This issue will be considered at the next meeting of the Mining Communities Policy Forum.	Ongoing	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>Services to instigate a review of the 43-year-old Mining Act to require mining companies to abide by environmental regulations, and to support research and development into sustainable mining practices that would allow mining without detriment to diversification and community sustainability through other industries and development.</p> <p>2. That abandoned mines in regional Western Australia receive a priority action plan with programmes developed to work with rural and remote communities to assist in the rehabilitation of these mines as a job creation programme, with funding allocated for diversification projects for support beyond mine life across Western Australia.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 294.7/2021</p>			
1 December 2021 Item 5.4 Review of advocacy positions relation to the <i>Building Act 2011</i> and Building Regulations 2012	<p>That State Council endorses the replacement of Section 6.7: Building Act and Fees of WALGA's advocacy positions document relating to the Building Act 2011 and Building Regulations 2012 with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the retention of Local Government as the primary permit authority in Western Australia for decisions made under the Building Act 2011. 2. Supports mandatory inspections for all classes of buildings, however, Local Government should not be solely responsible for all mandatory inspections. 3. Advocate for the State Government to urgently prioritise legislative reform that addresses systemic failures in the current building control model and to provide clarification on the role of Local Government in building control to ensure building legislation supports the following objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Quality buildings that are cost efficient. b. Functional, safe and environmentally friendly buildings. c. Good decision making in all aspects of building. d. Efficiency and effectiveness in building management, administration and regulation. e. Openness and accountability with respect to all building matters. f. Recognition of the rights and responsibilities of all parties in building matters in an equitable manner. 	<p>WALGA's Policy Manual has been updated to reflect the decision of State Council.</p>	Completed	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>4. Existing and proposed building control related fees and charges to be cost recovery for Local Government.</p> <p>5. WALGA will work with members, state agencies and industry groups to develop training opportunities and to promote the Local Government building surveying profession to ensure sustainability of Local Government building control services.</p> <p>6. WALGA supports the Australian Building Codes Boards Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings by supporting Local Governments to meet community strategic objectives of a net zero carbon future by 2050 through work with members, state agencies and industry groups.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 295.7/2021</p>			
<p>1 December 2021 Item 5.5 Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend to the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) that the Draft WA Building Surveyors Code of Conduct be reviewed to ensure it addresses the following matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of the obligations recommended in the draft Code be considered in relation to the current Western Australian building control model to ensure Local Government are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations. That other building reform that will greatly impact the role of Local Government in the current Western Australian building control model, such as mandatory inspections and minimum documentation, be formalised prior to the Code of Conduct being introduced to ensure Local Government in Western Australia are able to maintain their statutory functions in line with community expectations. Ensure that communities in remote and regional areas are considered when developing policy to restrict building surveyors being involved in design consultation work. Endorse the attached consultation response summary on the draft Code. <p>RESOLUTION 296.7/2021</p>	<p>WALGA provided the submission to DMIRS and has met with DMIRS to discuss the sector's concerns.</p> <p>DMIRS has provided an updated version of the Code that includes a number of positive changes in line with the endorsed submission. WALGA's Regional and Metropolitan Local Government Building Surveyor Working Groups will discuss the updated code at their meetings in February 2022. The result of these discussions will inform WALGA's ongoing engagement with DMIRS on the Code.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning
<p>1 December 2021 Item 5.11 Constitution and Governance Review</p>	<p>That the proposed Constitution and Governance Review as outlined in this report be endorsed.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 301.7/2021</p>	<p>Project planning has commenced and the project will incorporate the following five stages over the 2022 and 2023 calendar years:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Commencement – including appointment of a Steering Committee 	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
		<p>2. Review and Assessment – incorporating a review of WALGA's governance model, examination of similar organisations, consideration of options, and development of recommendations</p> <p>3. Recommendations and Determination – resulting in a final report to be considered at the December 2022 meeting of State Council</p> <p>4. Drafting Governance Documents – ensuring the Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct and Standing Orders are contemporary and aligned, and</p> <p>5. Final Approval and Implementation – following the 2023 Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>State Council will be engaged and consulted as the project progresses.</p>		
1 December 2021 Item 5.12 WALGA President Vacation of Office	<p>1. That State Council note and accept the President's resignation and thank her for her service to WALGA and wish her best for the future.</p> <p>2. That State Council determine that the vacancy be filled by the current Deputy President until the next scheduled election (being 2 March 2022).</p>	<p>This item has been actioned. The election process for the positions of President and Deputy President has commenced and an election will be held on 2 March 2022</p>	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
1 December 2021 Item 5.13 Appointments to State Council Policy Teams and Committees	<p>That the appointments to Policy Teams and the Finance and Services Committee outlined below be endorsed (subject to the election of the President and Deputy President):</p> <p>Finance and Services Committee – (four State Councillors)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WALGA President (Chair) • President Cr Karen Chappel • Mayor Logan Howlett • Cr Paul Kelly • Cr Carl Celedin • Mr Colin Murphy (independent representative) <p>Environment and Waste Policy Team –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Doug Thompson • Cr Les Price • President Cr Michelle Rich • Mayor Ruth Butterfield • Cr John Daw <p>Governance and Organisational Services Policy Team –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carol Adams • Mayor Mark Irwin • Cr Ken Seymour • Cr Russ Fishwick JP 	<p>Committee and Policy Team appointments endorsed subject to the election of the President and Deputy President at the 2 March 2022 State Council meeting.</p>	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Cr Cheryl Cowell Infrastructure Policy Team – President Cr Stephen Strange President Cr Laurene Bonza President Cr Chris Pavlovich Cr Chris Mitchell Cr Helen Sadler People and Place Policy Team – President Cr Phil Blight Mayor Peter Long President Cr Tony Dean Cr Catherine Ehrhardt Cr Frank Cvitan JP RESOLUTION 303.7/2021			
1 December 2021 Item 5.13 Appointments to State Council Policy Teams and Committees	That the appointments to the remaining State Council Committees be referred back to the Secretariat in liaison with the Acting President for consideration and that recommendation for appointments be presented to State Council at the next ordinary meeting on 2 March 2022. RESOLUTION 304.7/2021	A State Council agenda item will be prepared for the March State Council meeting in liaison with the Acting President.	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
1 December 2021 Item 8 Additional Zone Resolutions	That WALGA requests that the Minister for Local Government extends the consultation period by 1 month to 4 March 2022. RESOLUTION 310.7/2021	The Minister for Local Government extended the submission deadline to 25 February 2022.	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
3 September 2021 Item 5.1 External Oversight of Local Level Complaints	That WALGA advocate for an external oversight model for local level behavioural complaints made under Council Member, Committee Member and Candidate Codes of Conduct, that is closely aligned to the Victorian Councillor Complaints Framework. RESOLUTION 263.5/2021	The Minister for Local Government released a local Government legislative reform program that has included an external oversight framework.	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
3 September 2021 Item 5.2 Tender Exemption Provisions – General Practitioner Services	That WALGA: 1. Adopt a new Advocacy Position Statement under ‘Local Government Legislation - Tender Exemption General Practitioner Services’: <i>WALGA advocates for the inclusion of a tender exemption for General Practitioner (GP) services under Part 4, Division 2 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996, to support Local Governments to secure and retain necessary primary health care services for their communities; and</i> 2. Undertake additional research in support of the Advocacy Position with the following aims:	1. Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Local Government advocating for this position. 2. Further research is carried out as per this resolution.	Ongoing – February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify State and Federal Government policy settings and other factors contributing to gaps in primary health care services in regional communities; and b. Quantify the number of regional Local Governments that have current contracts, or are proposing to enter into contracts, for General Practitioner services and the associated costs to Local Government incurred. <p>RESOLUTION 264.5/2021</p>			
3 September 2021 Item 6.1 Stop Puppy Farming Legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the update on the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2021 be noted. 2. That: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. any additional costs incurred by a Local Government in administering the Dog Act be paid by the State Government; and b. the Fees and Charges set in Regulations are reviewed bi-annually and at minimum, be adjusted by the Local Government Cost Index. <p>RESOLUTION 275.5/2021</p>	Correspondence has been written to the Minister for Local Government advising of resolution 2.	Ongoing – February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
5 May 2021 Item 5.4 Review of the State Industrial Relations System	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek confirmation from the State Government on whether it intends to re-introduce legislation for Local Governments to operate solely in the State Industrial Relations System. 2. If the State Government reintroduces legislation to require all Local Governments to operate within the State Industrial Relations System, continue to advocate for the State Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Amend the <i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i> (WA) to include additional provisions to modernise the State IR system; and b. Provide adequate funding and resourcing to ensure Local Governments are equipped with the appropriate tools and training to enable a smooth transition. <p>RESOLUTION 207.2/2021</p>	<p>Correspondence has been sent to the Minister for Industrial Relations advising of this resolution.</p> <p>The Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (IR Bill) was given Royal Assent on 22 December 2021 as Act No. 30 of 2021. Part 1 of the <i>Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2021</i> (WA) (IRLA Act) commenced on 22 December, which deals with preliminary matters. All other parts of the IRLA Act will be proclaimed by publishing a notice of proclamation in the Western Australian Government Gazette.</p> <p>The declaration that all Local Governments are not national system employers will have the effect of transitioning all Local Governments to the State industrial relations system if it is endorsed by the Federal Minister for Industrial Relations, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash.</p> <p>We have not received confirmation on whether the declaration will be endorsed by the Federal Minister, however WALGA has secured an upcoming meeting with the General Advisor to the Federal Minister.</p>	February 2022	Tony Brown Executive Manager Governance and Organisational Services

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
3 March 2021 Item 5.3 Eligibility of Slip On Fire Fighting Units for Local Government Grants Scheme Funding	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the inclusion of capital costs of Trailer Fire Fighting Units and Slip On Fire Fighting Units including for Farmer Response Brigades (for use on private motor vehicles) on the Eligible List of the Local Governments Grants Scheme (LGGS). Requests the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include this matter on the Agenda of their next Meeting (expected March 2021). Requests WALGA to work with the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to develop appropriate operational guidelines and procedures for the safe use of Slip On Fire Fighting Units funded in accordance with the LGGS. Supports the update of the WALGA membership of the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group to include one Local Government Elected Member and one Local Government Officer, with these appointments determined through the WALGA Selection Committee process. <p>RESOLUTION 180.1/2021</p>	<p>A letter was sent to DFES Commissioner Klemm on 16 March 2021 advising of State Council's decision on 3 March. The Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group met on 20 March 2021 however did not discuss eligible items in the Manual. An EOI process for the Officer position was successful but a second round process will be run for the Elected member position.</p> <p>DFES has advised that the Local Government Grants Scheme Working Group has been discontinued. WALGA CEO Nick Sloan is meeting with the DFES Commissioner Darren Klemm on 2 August to discuss how Local Government input to the LGGS Manual will be collected in future.</p> <p>DFES advised on 4 June 2021 that the matter of eligibility of slip on units was not yet finalized. A further follow up email was sent on 26 July 2021.</p> <p>A further follow up email was sent to DFES on 20 January 2022.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning
2 December 2020 Item 5.3 Family and Domestic Violence and the Role of LGs	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> WA Local Governments recognise the prevalence, seriousness and preventable nature of family and domestic violence and the roles that Local Governments can play in addressing gender equity and promoting respectful relationships in their local community. WALGA advocates to the State Government: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to work with Local Government in defining the role and responsibilities and expectations of Local Governments in family and domestic violence. for adequate funding for family and domestic violence programs and services, particularly in regional areas. for appropriate resources and funding be allocated to Local Governments to implement any particular roles and actions addressing family and domestic violence as defined in the State Strategy. to provide support to Local Government in the broader rollout of the Prevention Toolkit for Local Government. 	<p>In February 2021 WALGA wrote a letter to then Director General Communities, Michelle Andrews, to advise of WALGA State Council's newly adopted policy position on family and domestic violence. A follow up meeting was held with the Department in February 2021 to discuss WALGA State Council's endorsed policy position and key advocacy statements. The key message provided was that the Department of Communities needs to engage more thoroughly with Local Governments, and in particular more engagement and communication is required regarding the State Strategy which was adopted in July 2020.</p> <p>WALGA is a member of the Department of Communities Path to Safety: Western Australia's Strategy to Reduce Family and Domestic Violence 2020 – 2030 Reference Group, which reconvened 8 December 2021.</p> <p>A report on the progress of the first Action Plan 2020-2022 highlighted of State Government funding of \$23 million provided as part of the WA Recovery Plan , to help address family and domestic violence in the community. These measures are further supported by the National Partnership Agreement COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manger Strategy, Policy and Planning

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	<p>e. to continue advocacy to the Commonwealth Government for additional funding and support.</p> <p>3. WALGA organises presentations for Local Governments that address family and domestic violence, as part of relevant events or webinars.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 144.6/2020</p>	<p>Responses (National Partnership Agreement). The WA State Government has issued all the \$14.2 million funding received through the National Partnership Agreement. Approximately \$7.9 million in grants have been awarded to WA family and domestic violence service organisations. A quarter of the grants were awarded to Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs), further building capacity in this sector to deliver culturally safe supports, including services that are specifically targeted at regional and remote parts of the State.</p> <p>WALGA continues to work closely with ALGA and Our Watch, the national peak body in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia. In consultation with ALGA and representatives from all Local Government Associations Our Watch is developing a suite of webinars and other resources targeting Local Government to support the ongoing roll out and implementation of the Prevention Toolkit. The new webinars will be delivered to the sector in March – June 2022.</p> <p>WALGA in collaboration with the Local Government Community Safety Network Steering Committee delivered an event for the sector on 18 May 2021 focusing on family and domestic violence.</p>		
<p>5 December 2018 Item 5.1 Proposed Removal by Main Roads WA of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition</p>	<p>That WALGA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opposes withdrawal of the “Letter of Approval” Restricted Access Vehicle Operating Condition until an acceptable alternative to Local Government is developed; 2. Supports the position that Local Governments not use provision of the Letter of Authority to charge transport operators to access the Restricted Access Vehicle network; 3. Supports the development of standard administrative procedures including fees and letter formats; and 4. Supports the practice of Local Governments negotiating maintenance agreements with freight owners/ generators in cases where the operations are predicted to cause extraordinary road damage as determined by the Local Government. 5. Advocates to Main Roads to establish a stakeholder working group to develop an appropriate mechanism through which the increased infrastructure costs from 	<p>On advice from the State Solicitors Office, Main Roads WA is intending to remove the CA07 condition that requires a transport operator to obtain a letter of approval from the relevant Local Government. Main Roads is proposing to replace the condition with a notification process (CA88). After consultation with Regional Road Groups and a Stakeholder Working Group, the overwhelming majority of participants are of the view that the proposed arrangement is not an acceptable alternative. WALGA has written to Main Roads WA stating that WALGA does not support the alternative and that the position adopted by Sate Council in December 2018 has not changed.</p> <p>WALGA has subsequently met with Main Roads who confirm that the status quo remains in place until further notice.</p>	Ongoing	Ian Duncan Executive Manager Infrastructure

MEETING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT	Completion Date	Officer Responsible
	the use of heavy vehicles and those loaded in excess of limits (concessional loading) can be recovered from those benefiting, and redirected into the cost of road maintenance. RESOLUTION 132.7/2018			
5 December 2018 Item 4.1 State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That State Council endorse investigating a State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery. 2. That the item be referred to MWAC for is development and negotiation with the State Government. 3. A report regarding a proposed "State / Local Government Partnership Agreement on Waste Management and Resource Recovery" be brought back to the next meeting of State Council. RESOLUTION 131.7/2018	<p>A new Partners in Government Agreement between WALGA, LG Professionals and the State Government, endorsed by State Council, was signed on 20 September 2021. Focus areas of the Partners in Government Agreement will evolve over time. Current focus areas are: Economic Sustainability, Infrastructure, Community Support, Climate Action, the Local Government Act, Closing the Gap Agreement and National Cabinet.</p> <p>The WALGA Acting President and the MWAC Chair will seek a meeting with the new Environment Minister, Hon Reece Whitby and raise this issue.</p>	Ongoing	Nicole Matthews Acting Executive Manager Strategy, Policy and Planning

Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) Customer Research

DPIRD

28th January 2022

Prepared by Painted Dog Research



Executive Summary

Aims & Methodology

The overall strategic aim of this research was to understand the value provided by CRCs to their local community, in order to optimise the service delivered. To achieve this, an online survey was conducted with customers of CRCs from September 7 to October 31, 2021.

All CRCs were sent a poster to display and flyers to distribute with a QR code and link to access the survey. CRCs were also encouraged to post about the survey on their social media to reach customers that were not visiting the CRC during the fieldwork period. To further maximise participation, the survey was incentivised and all respondents were given the opportunity to enter the draw to win 1 of 5 \$100 eGift Cards.

To ensure all CRCs were well represented in the results, the number of customers responding from each CRC was monitored throughout the fieldwork period. Staff from CRCs with fewer responses were asked to encourage greater participation among their customers.

At the end of fieldwork, poor quality responses and duplicate responses (i.e. based on identical responses, matching contact details etc.) were removed to ensure the final total sample only included high quality responses. A total sample of n=3009 customers was achieved.

Research Findings

Engagement with CRCs

Around 1 in 3 (36%) Customers, visit a CRC on a weekly basis and at the time of completing the survey, over 1 in 2 (55%) Customers had visited a CRC within the last week. Around 3 in 4 (73%) engage with the CRC to use general services such as accessing the internet. Usage of activities and entertainment services is also high with almost 6 in 10 (58%) indicating they used the CRC for this purpose.

Satisfaction & Experience

Satisfaction is strong among all Customers – over 9 in 10 (91%) Customers are extremely satisfied and fewer than 1 in 20 (2%) are dissatisfied with their experience at CRCs, which illustrates that Customers are having a positive, valuable experience at the CRCs they visit. Likelihood to recommend is also strong among all Customers. Around 9 in 10 (87%) Customers would promote the CRC they use and only a small proportion (5%) would be unlikely to recommend using a CRC, resulting in a strong NPS score of +82 – an exceptionally high result.

Most Customers are satisfied with the current opening hours but there are some suggestions for improvement. Roughly 9 in 10 (89%) agree the current opening hours of their CRC are convenient for them. Among those that disagree, around 2 in 5 (41%) want their CRC to open later than it currently does. A further 2 in 5 (43%) had suggestions other than the CRC opening earlier or later than it currently does. These suggestions included:

- Keeping opening hours consistent across weekdays
- Opening every weekday
- Opening on weekends

Values & Preferences

Ultimately, CRCs are highly valuable to their community. Almost all Customers agree that CRCs provide useful services to them (96%) and their community (98%) and around 3 in 4 (77%) feel they would not know where else to access the same services if there wasn't a CRC to go to. Customers that do not live near a CRC, older Customers and unemployed Customers are more likely to perceive CRCs as highly valuable, but perceptions of value are still strong among all other Customer groups. When asked what they value most, over 3 in 5 (63%) of customers mention the facilities and services provided at CRCs.

The value CRCs provide is further illustrated by the strong satisfaction and likelihood to recommend that Customers report – demonstrating that Customers gain value from their experiences with CRCs.

Background & Approach



Background

The Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) is a network of over 100 rural, remote and regional Community Resource Centres (CRCs). CRCs are not-for-profit organisations that are independently owned and operated by their local communities.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), contracts CRCs to provide access to government and community services and information, and undertake community, business and economic development activities.

The research needed to include two target audiences:

1. Stakeholders – Those partnering or working with CRCs on a regular basis
2. Customers - General public (locals and visitors) and local businesses that have visited or used CRCs within the last 12 months

This document outlines the results of the research undertaken with **Customers**.



Strategic Aim & Objectives

The overall strategic aim of this research was:

“ To understand the value provided by CRCs to their local community, in order to optimise the service delivered.

The following research objectives were addressed to deliver on the strategic aim for the Customer survey::

- Identify how customers engage with CRCs and how frequently
- Measure overall satisfaction with CRCs and performance on specific aspects of the service
- Measure likelihood to recommend CRCs to others
- Measure perceptions of CRCs and their perceived importance to customers, including the value provided to both them and the broader community
- Explore additional ways CRCs can assist customers and continue to provide value
- Identify preferred communication channels



Methodology

To facilitate this research, an online survey was conducted with customers of CRCs from September 7 to October 31, 2021.

All CRCs were sent a poster to display and flyers to distribute with a QR code and link to access the survey. CRCs were also encouraged to post about the survey on their social media to reach customers that were not visiting the CRC during the fieldwork period. To further maximise participation, the survey was incentivised and all respondents were given the opportunity to enter the draw to win 1 of 5 x \$100 eGift Cards.

To ensure all CRCs were well represented in the results, the number of customers responding from each CRC was monitored throughout the fieldwork period. Staff from CRCs with fewer responses were asked to encourage greater participation among their customers.

At the end of fieldwork, poor quality responses and duplicates responses (i.e. based on identical responses, matching contact details etc.) were removed to ensure the final total sample only included high quality responses. A total sample of n=3009 customers was achieved.

Analytical Notes



Throughout the report, stars denote significant differences between subgroups. A filled in star (★) above or next to a result indicates that the result is significantly higher than other results with a hollow star (☆). These results have been tested at the 95% confidence interval.



All figures are in percentages unless otherwise indicated.



Some figures may add up to 99 or 101 due to rounding.



For multiple response questions, the figures may add up to more than 100.



Coding of open ended responses was limited to n=1000 overall.

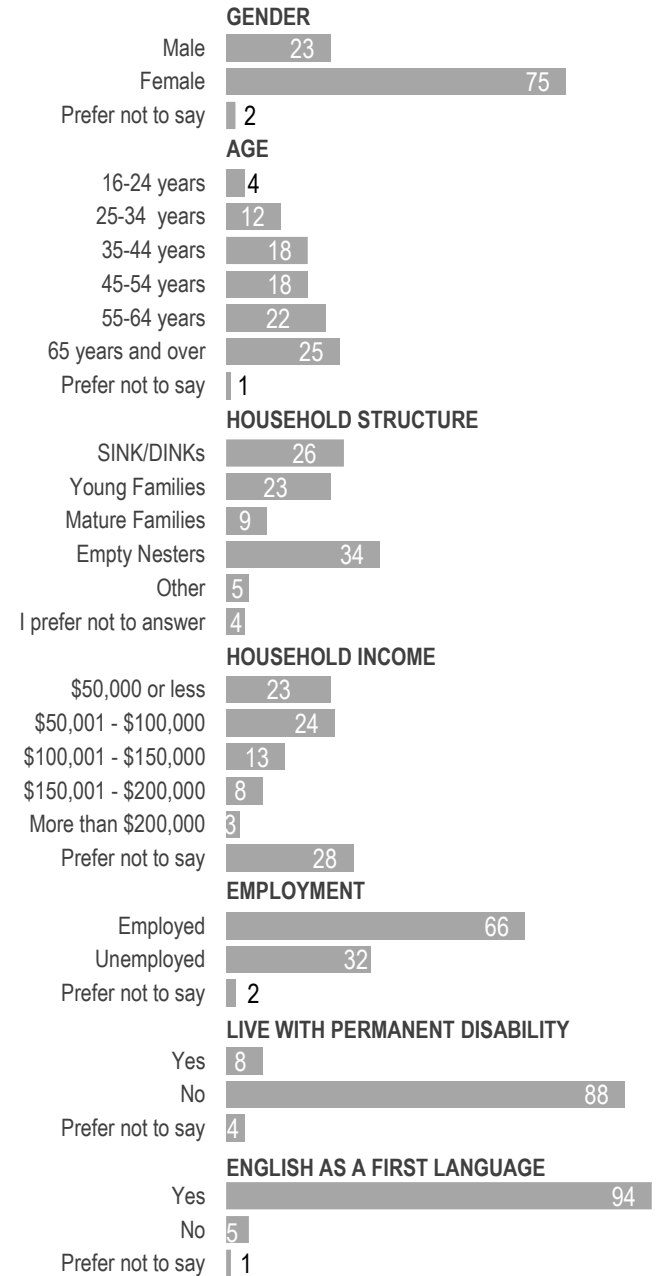


Sample profile

Females make up three quarters of the sample and while there is a good spread of age, it is slightly skewed towards the older groups.

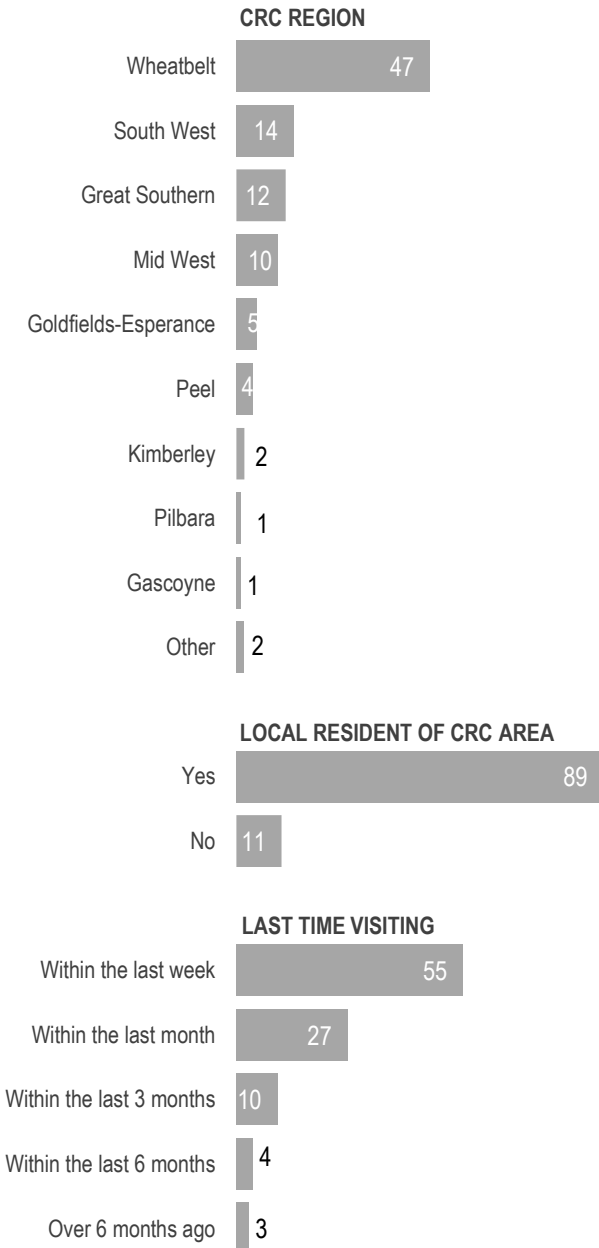


n=3009



Sample profile

We achieved a spread of customers using CRCs across the regions, however almost 1 in 2 responses came from customers of CRCs located in the Wheatbelt. This is unsurprising as 40% of CRCs are located in the Wheatbelt.



Engagement with CRCs



We showed Customers a list of services offered by CRCs and asked which ones they use.

Activities and entertainment (i.e. attended activities run by the CRC, accessed library facilities, attended a hobby course or coffee catch up)

General Services (e.g. photocopying, printing or laminating, internet access or video conferencing)

Assistance with technology (e.g. help with your smartphone, tablet, computer or computer software, help to access online services).

Business and professional services (e.g. advertising through CRC channels, secretarial or book keeping services, business sundowner, event/project management services, Business Training accredited or non-accredited)

Career / personal development services (e.g. Resume and career advice, exam supervision, Accredited Training courses, Tutoring)

For sale & hire services (e.g. hire for meeting rooms, hire equipment, key cutting, passport photographs, photo booth)

Government & agency services (e.g. Government information, TransWA ticketing, Transport licensing, Centrelink & Medicare)

Health and Family Support services (e.g. Womens' Health and Family, Foodbank, funeral services, financial counselling, Physiotherapy, Chiropractic or Podiatry Services)

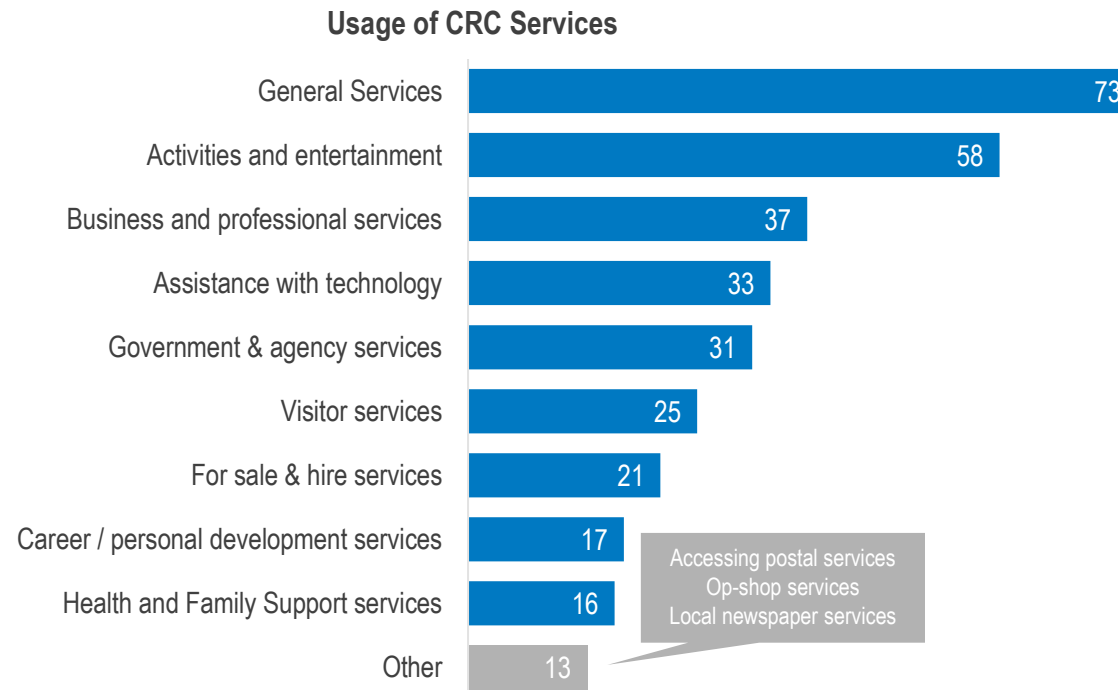
Visitor services (e.g. tourism information, souvenirs)

CRCs are primarily used for the general services they offer such as accessing the internet.



Around 3 in 4 Customers use the General Services provided by CRCs.

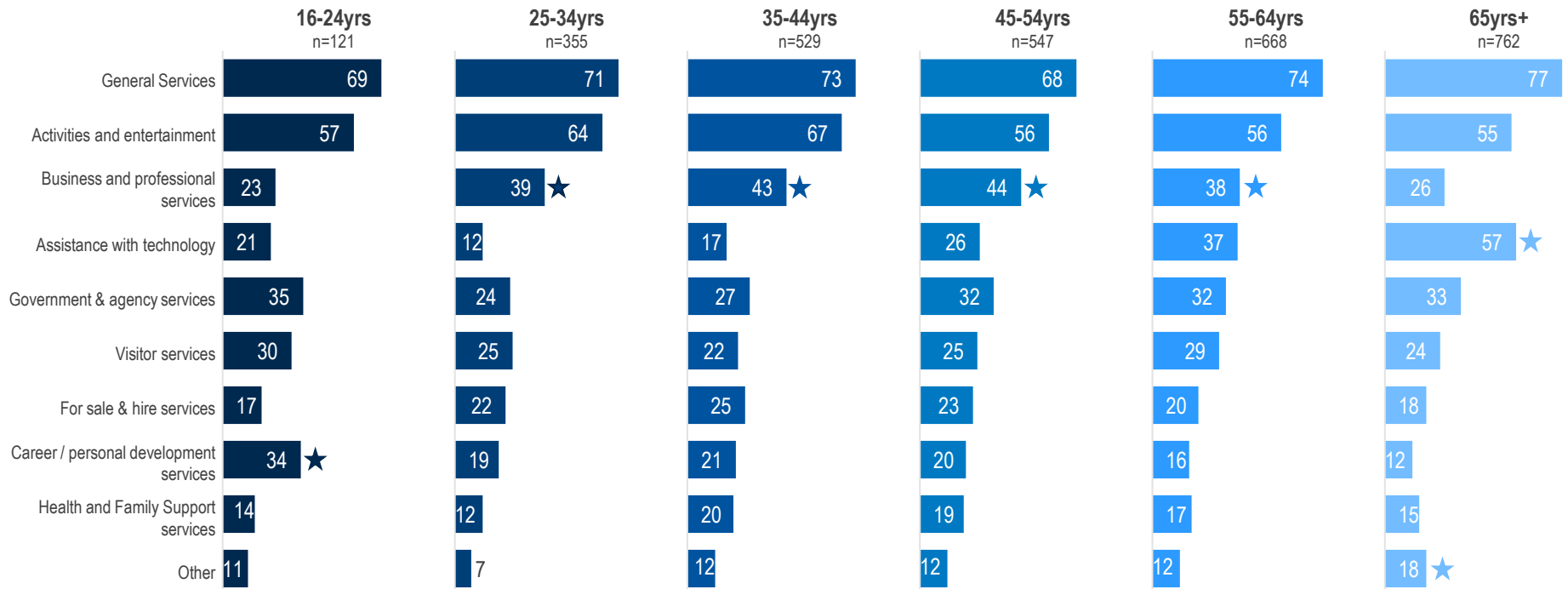
Usage of activities and entertainment services is also high with almost 6 in 10 indicating they used the CRC for this purpose.



CRC Customers of different ages use CRCs differently.

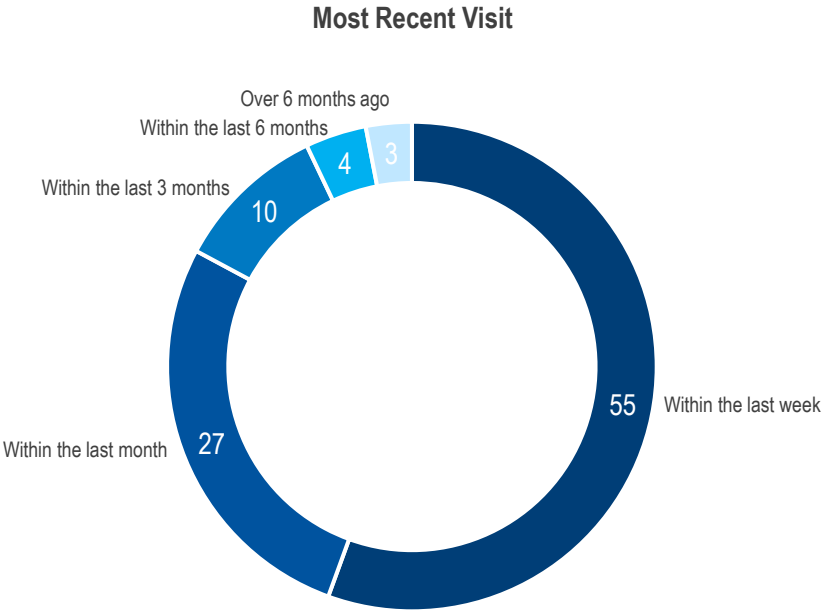
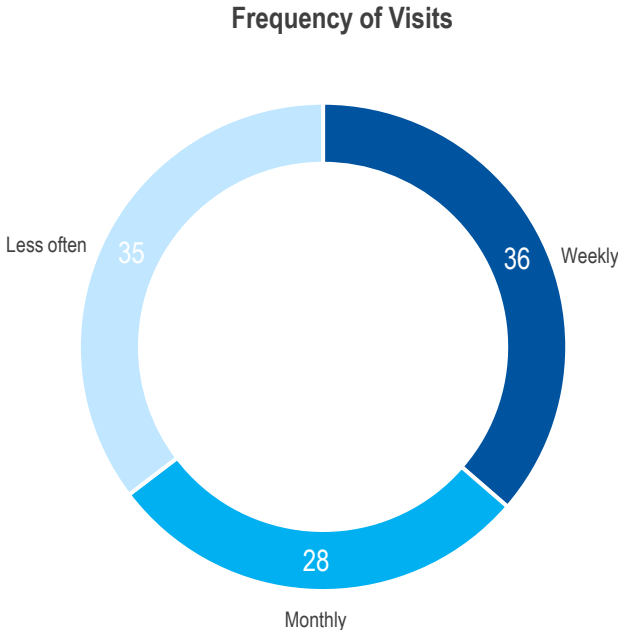
Those aged 16-24 are more likely to use career and personal development services than all other age groups, whereas those aged 65+ are more likely to use CRCs for assistance with technology than all younger age groups.

Usage of CRC Services



Around 1 in 3 Customers visit a CRC on a weekly basis...

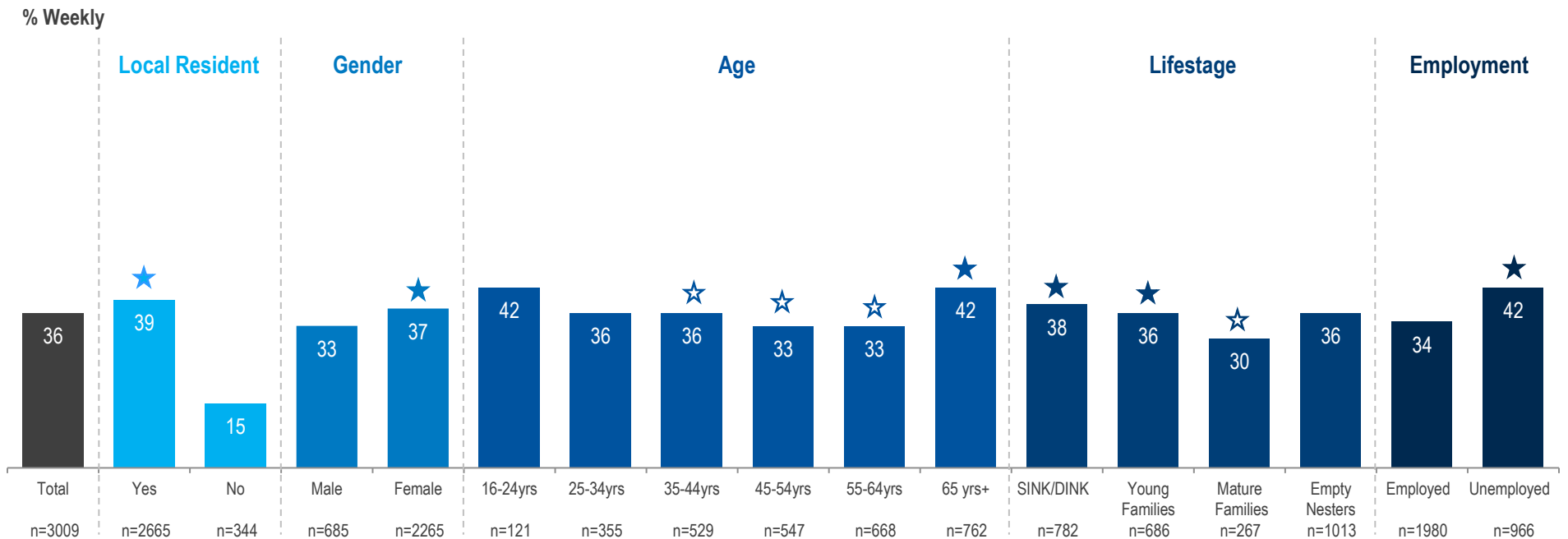
...and at the time of completing the survey, over 1 in 2 Customers had visited a CRC within the last week.



Q2. How often have you visited a CRC over the last 12 months? Base: All respondents (n=3009).
Q3. When did you last visit a CRC? If you are currently at a CRC select 'within the last week'. Base: All respondents (n=3009).

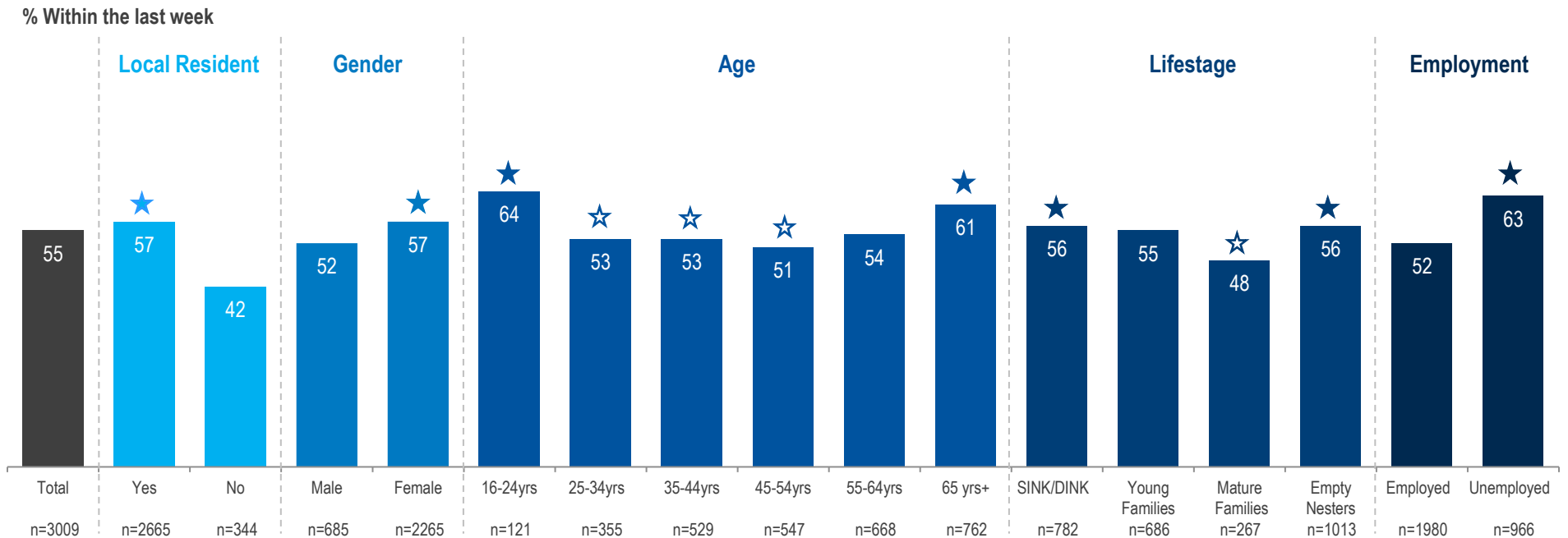
Weekly visitation is more common among those living near the CRC they visit.

Females and those that are unemployed are also more likely to visit their CRC weekly.

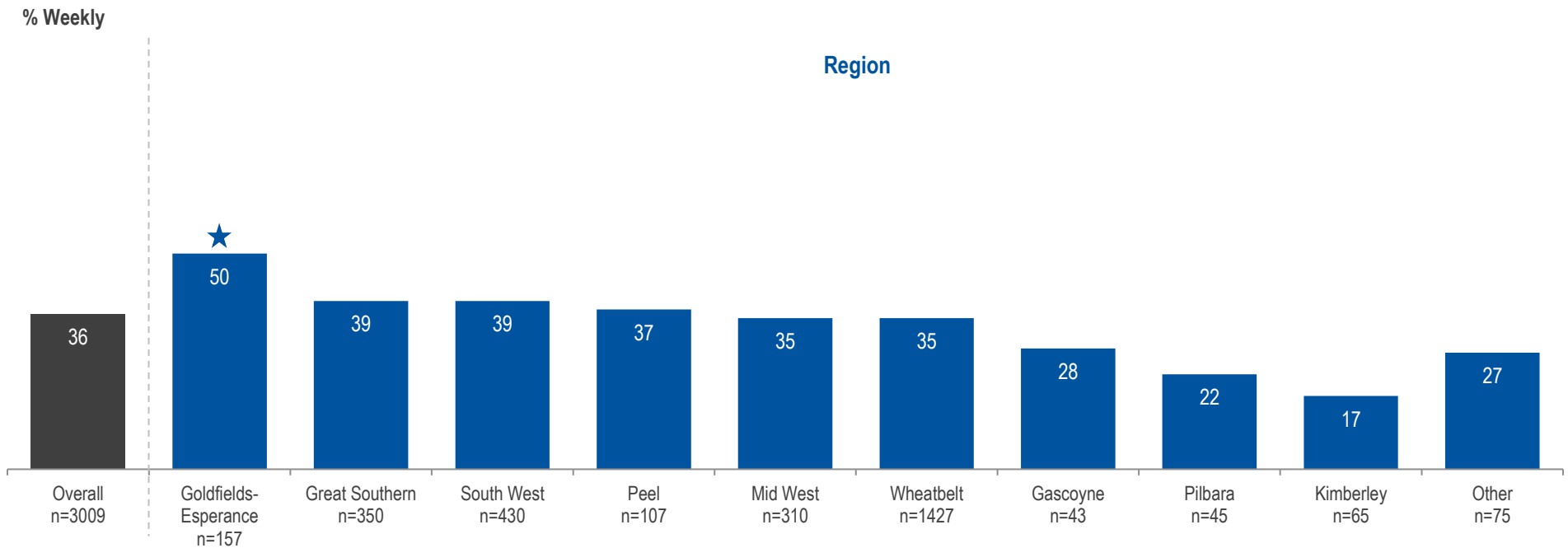


These same groups were more likely to have visited a CRC within 7 days before completing the survey.

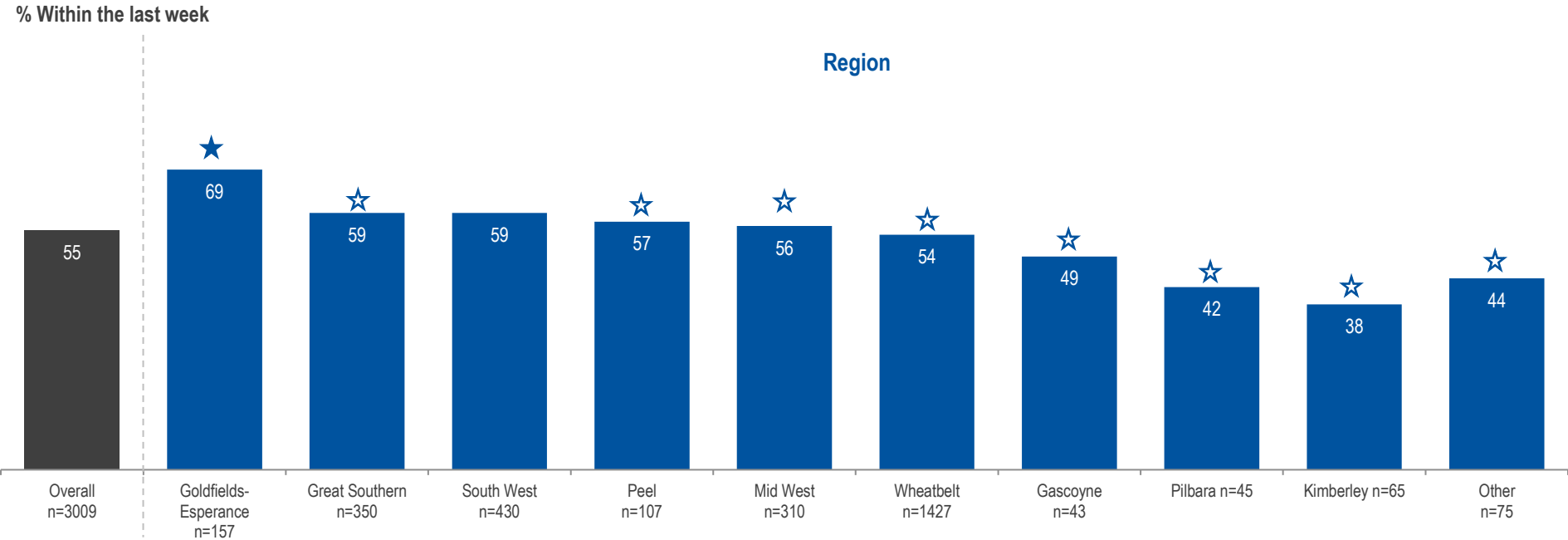
Local residents, females and those that are unemployed were more likely to report having visited a CRC within the last week.



For most regions, over 1 in 3 CRC Customers visit weekly.



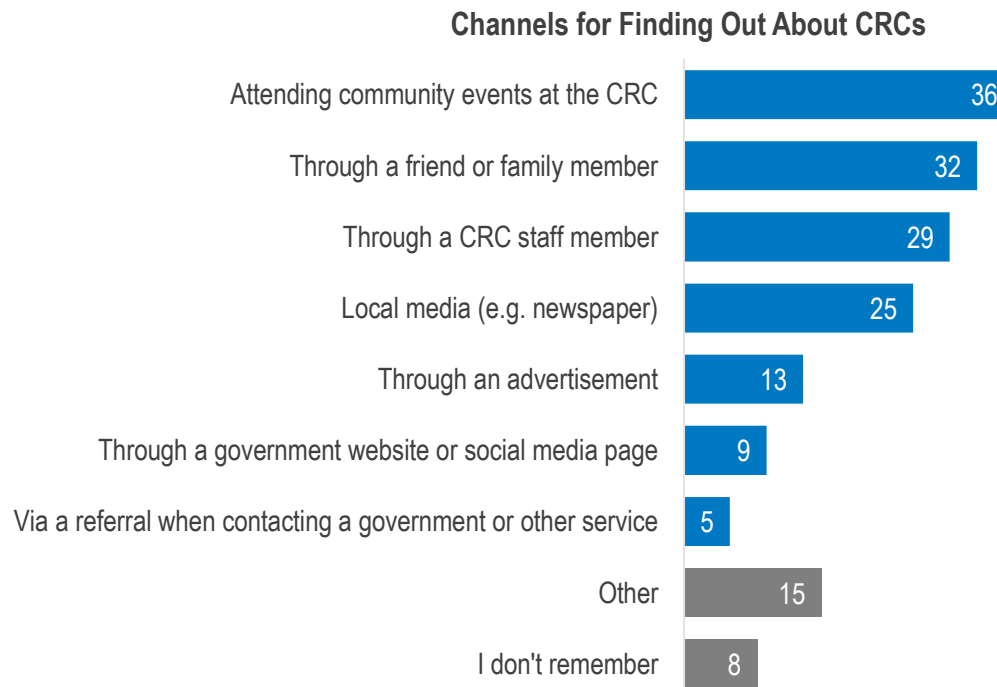
The proportion of visitors that had visited within a week prior to completing the survey, varies between the regions.



Q3. When did you last visit a CRC? If you are currently at a CRC select 'within the last week'. Base: All respondents (n=3009).

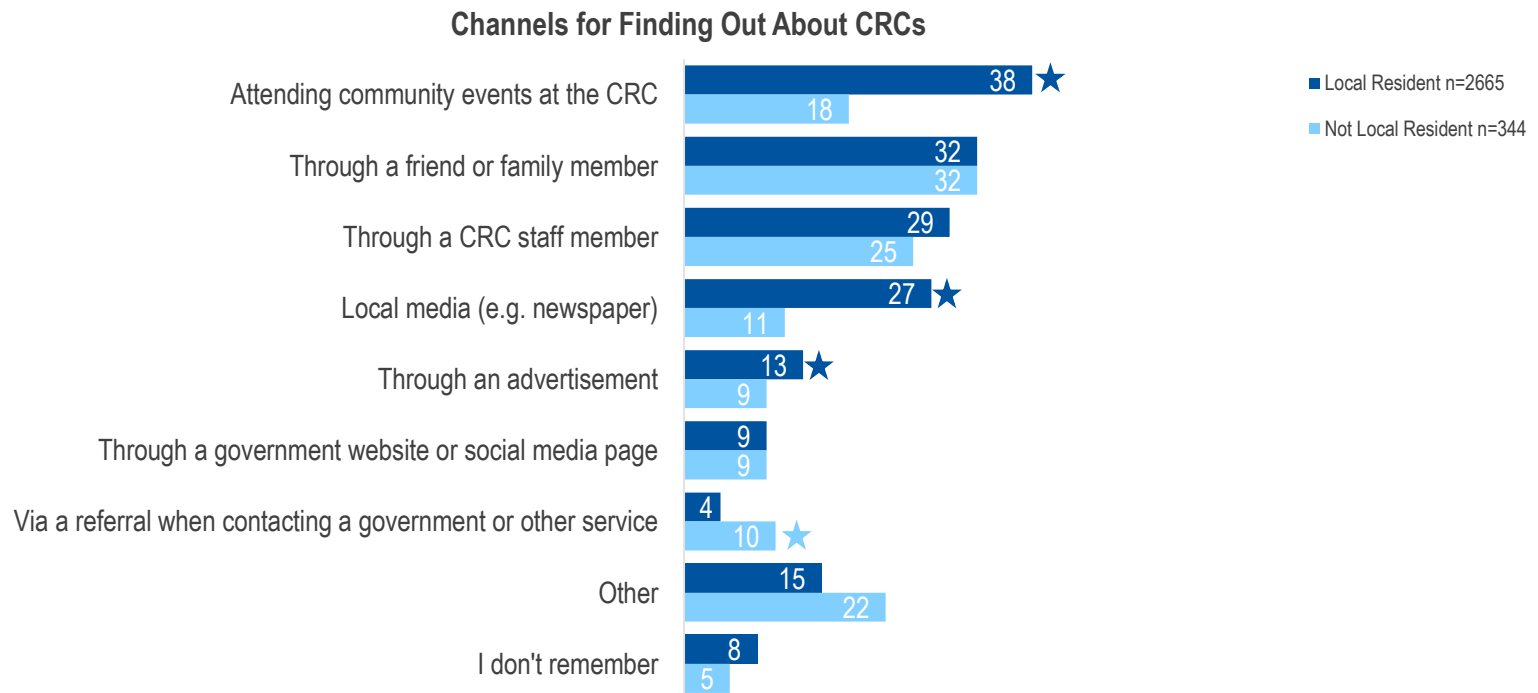
More than 1 in 3 Customers first heard about CRCs through attending an event at one...

...while around 3 in 10 first heard about the CRC through people they know or from a CRC staff member.



Local Customers are more likely to have heard about CRCs through events and local media.

Those not living near the CRC they most recently used are more likely to have been referred to the CRC when contacting a government department or another service.



Satisfaction and Experience

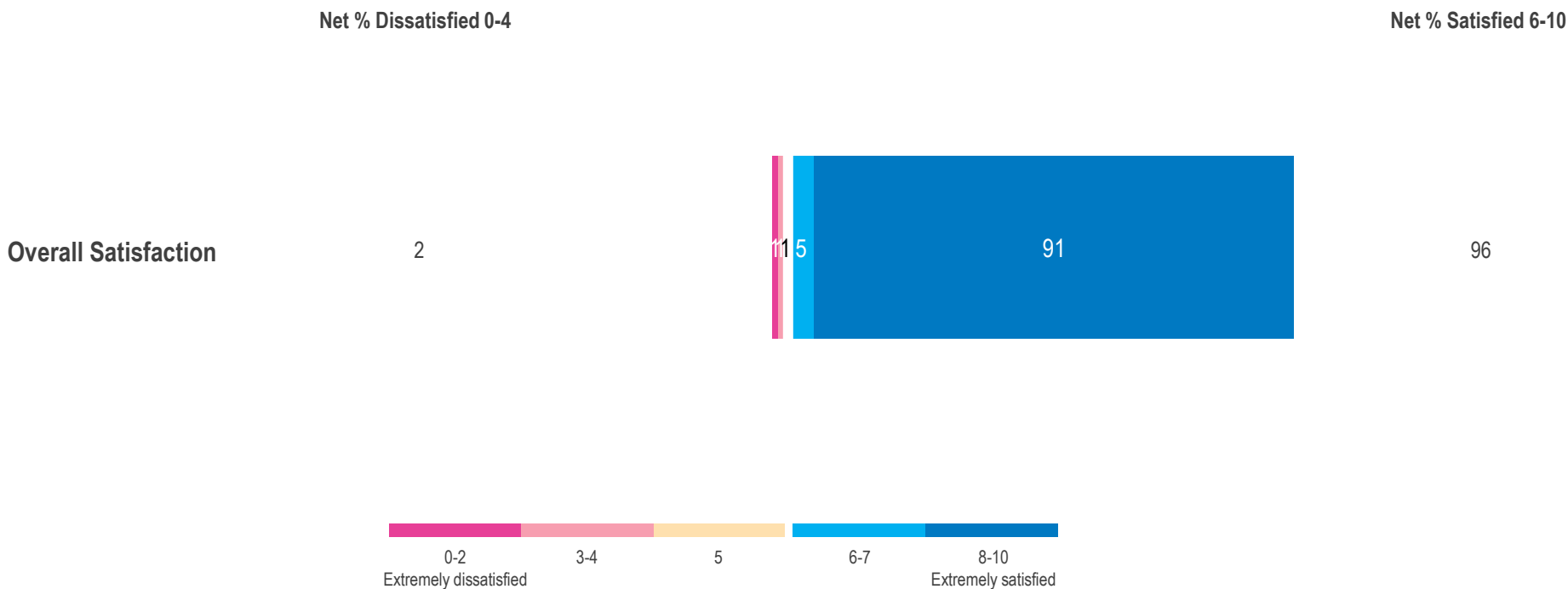


Satisfaction with CRCs is very high among Customers.

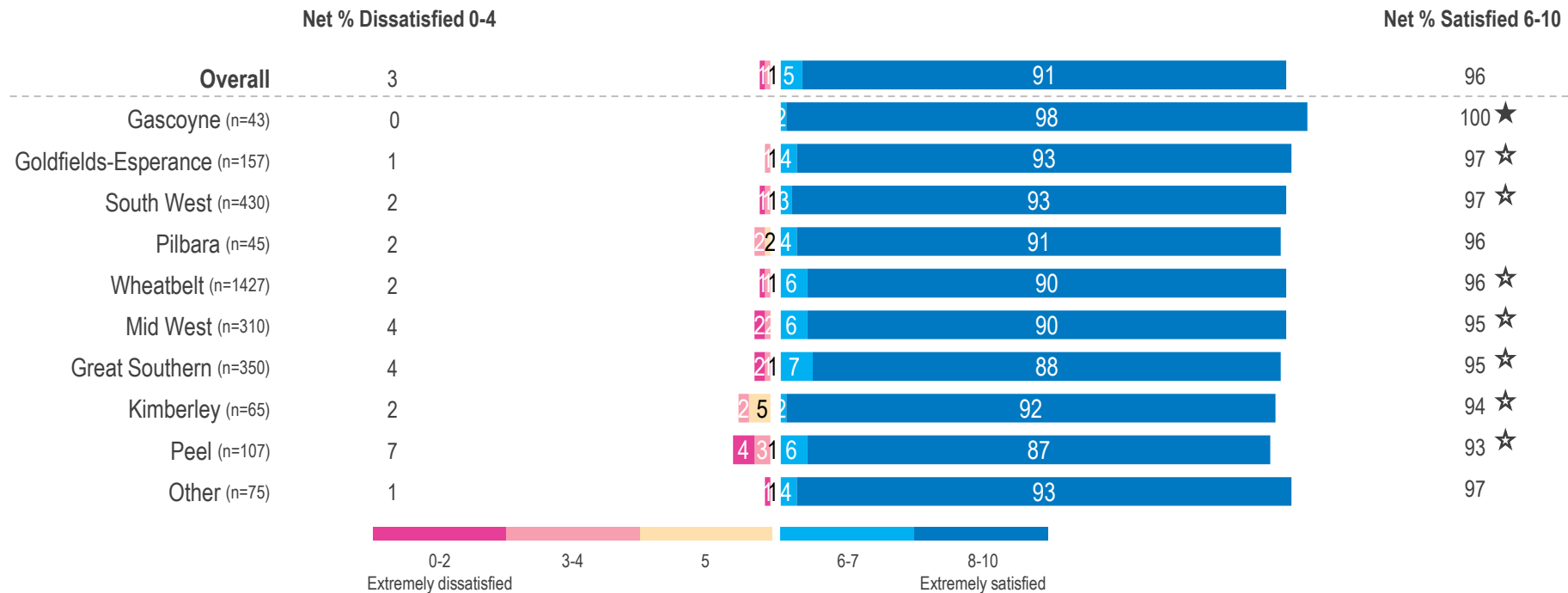


Over 9 in 10 Customers are *extremely* satisfied.

Very few Customers express any dissatisfaction. This illustrates that Customers are having a positive and valuable experience at the CRCs they visit.

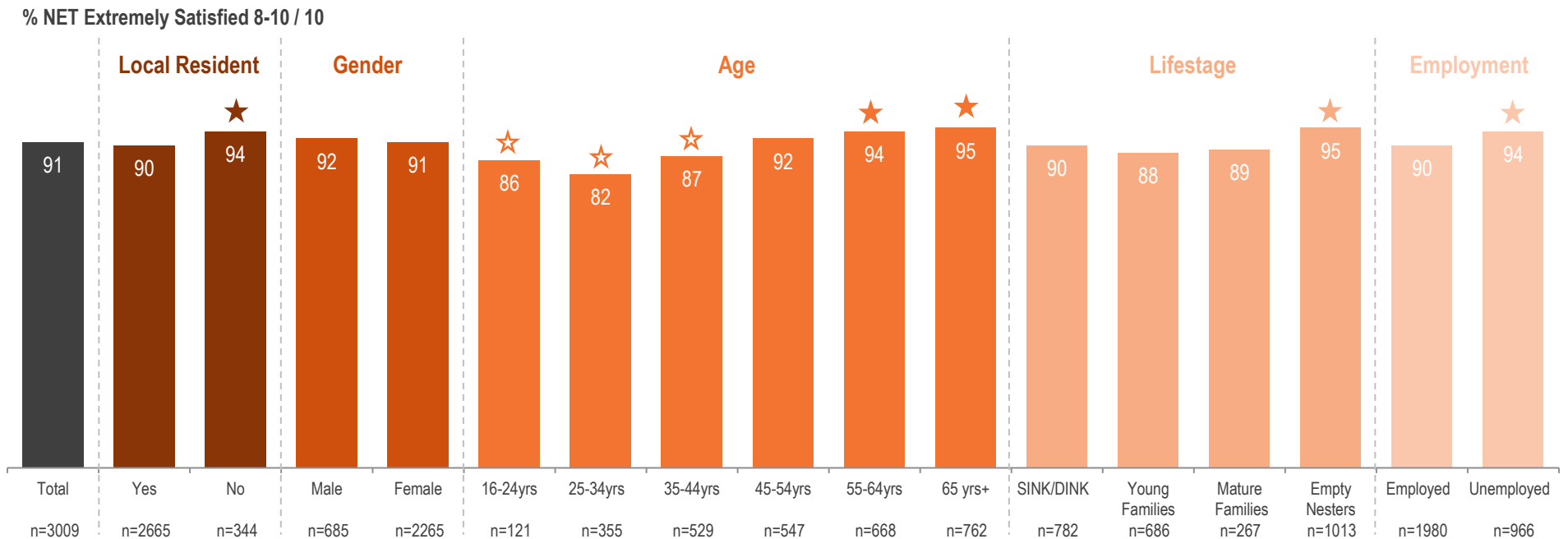


Satisfaction with CRCs is also strong across all regions.



Older Customers are more likely to be extremely satisfied.

Those aged 55 and over are more likely to be extremely satisfied than those aged 44 and under. These age differences likely contribute to Empty Nesters' greater likelihood of being extremely satisfied.



Having staff that are easy to deal with is crucial for maintaining satisfaction with CRCs.



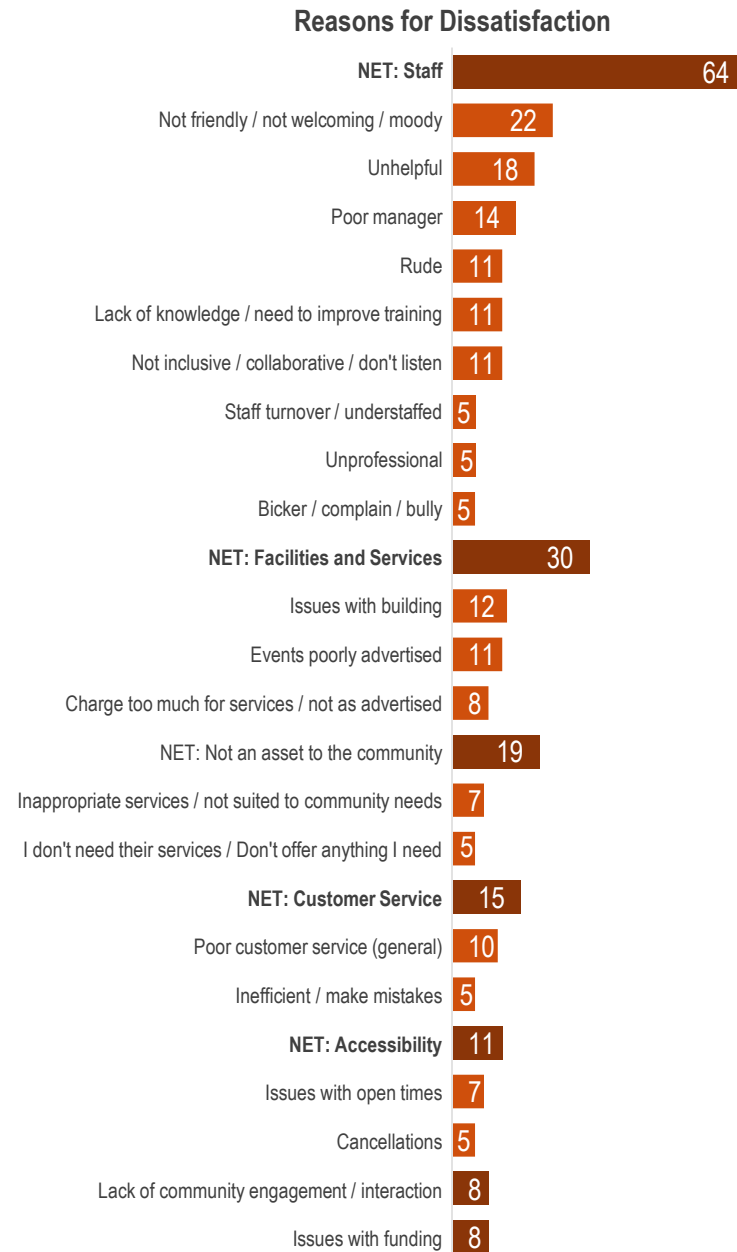
Around 4 in 5 satisfied Customers list a positive attribute of the staff as a driver of their satisfaction.

The helpfulness and friendliness of staff specifically are mentioned by over 2 in 5.



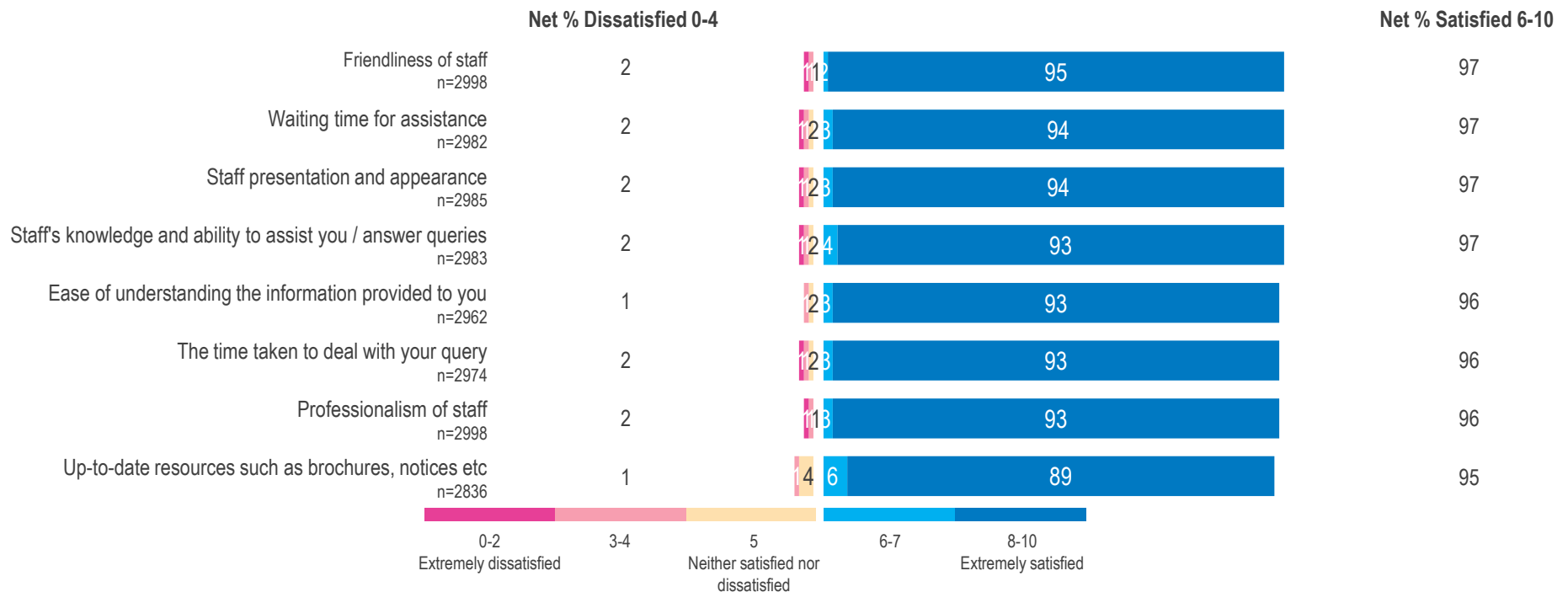
However, poor interactions with staff is the main reason for dissatisfaction.

While only 2% (n=73) of Customers are dissatisfied with their experience, over 3 in 5 of those dissatisfied list a negative attribute of the CRC staff as a reason for their dissatisfaction – most commonly described as not friendly, unhelpful or having a poor manager.



When prompted, friendliness of staff is the top area of performance for CRCs – consistent with reasons for satisfaction.

Positively, Customers indicate not only being satisfied, but extremely satisfied across all aspects of service with more than 9 in 10 rating an 8-10 out of 10. This is consistent across all Customer groups.



Q7. Based on your experience at [CRC SELECTED AT S1A] CRC, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following? Base: All respondents (n=3009). *Don't know's excluded from results

Customers are highly likely to recommend visiting a CRC.

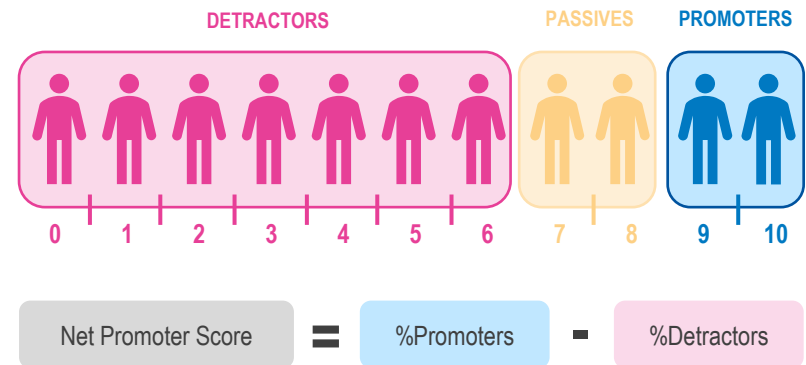


We asked customers how likely they would be to recommend visiting a CRC – calculating a Net Promoter Score (NPS)

- **Promoters (score 9-10)** are loyal enthusiasts who will keep buying and refer others, fueling growth.
- **Passives (score 7-8)** are satisfied but unenthusiastic customers who are vulnerable to competitive offerings.
- **Detractors (score 0-6)** are unhappy customers who can damage your brand and impede growth through negative word-of-mouth.

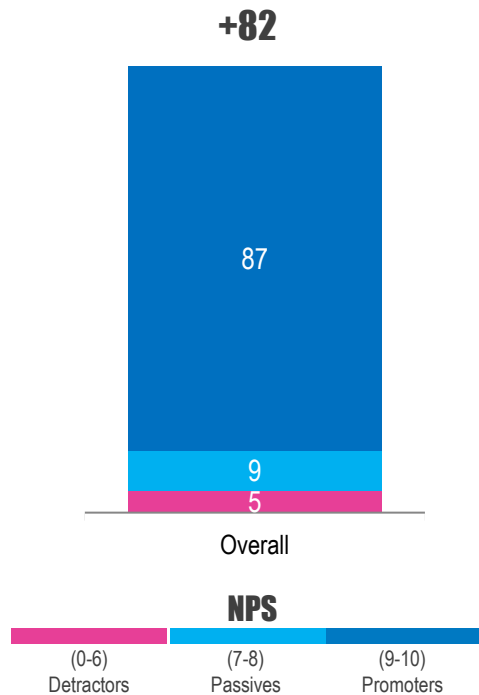
Subtracting the percentage of Detractors from the percentage of Promoters yields the **Net Promoter Score**, which can range from a low of -100 (if every customer is a Detractor) to a high of 100 (if every customer is a Promoter). The classifications for NPS scores are:

- Needs improvement: -100 to 0
- Good: +1 to 30
- Great: +31 to +70
- Excellent: +71 to +100

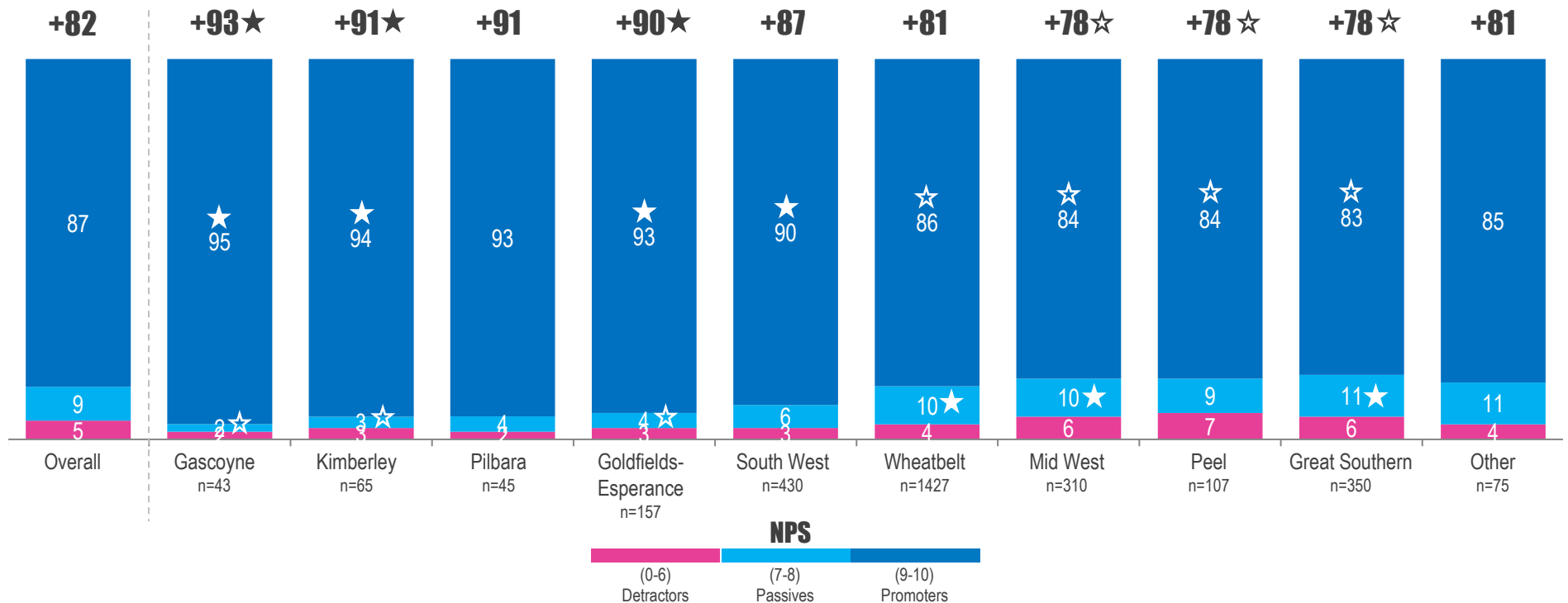


Around 9 in 10 Customers would promote the CRC they use.

Combined with the small proportion of detractors, CRC achieved an NPS score of +82 – an extremely high result!



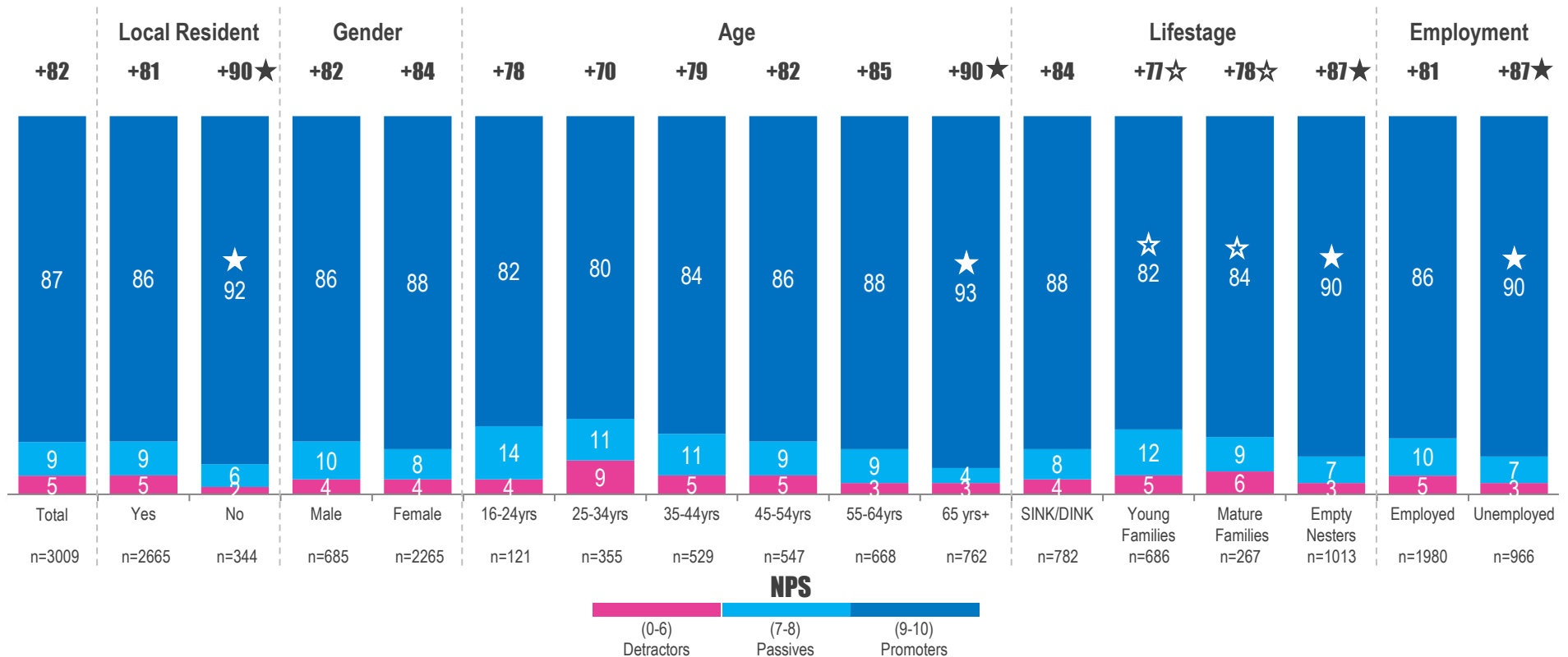
CRCs from all regions have a high proportion of promoters.



Q6. How likely is it that you would recommend the [CRC SELECTED AT S1A] CRC to a friend, family member or colleague? Base: All respondents (n=3009).

Customers not living near a CRC are more likely to be promoters.

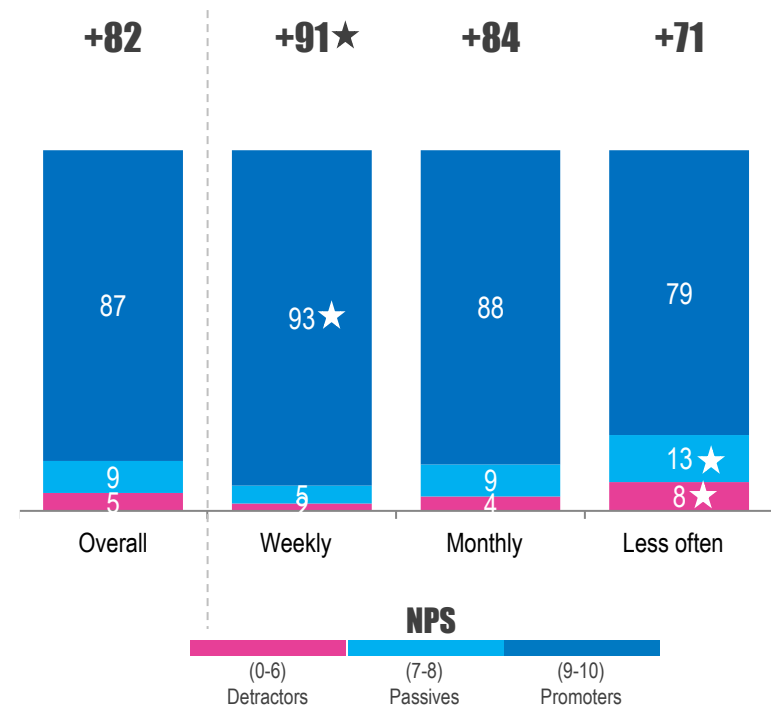
Customers aged 65 and over, and unemployed Customers are also more likely to recommend CRCs.



Q6. How likely is it that you would recommend the [CRC SELECTED AT S1A] CRC to a friend, family member or colleague? Base: All respondents (n=3009).

Not surprisingly, those who use the services frequently are more likely to promote CRCs.

Those visiting CRCs less than monthly are more likely to be Detractors – however a score of +71 is still a very high and strong result.

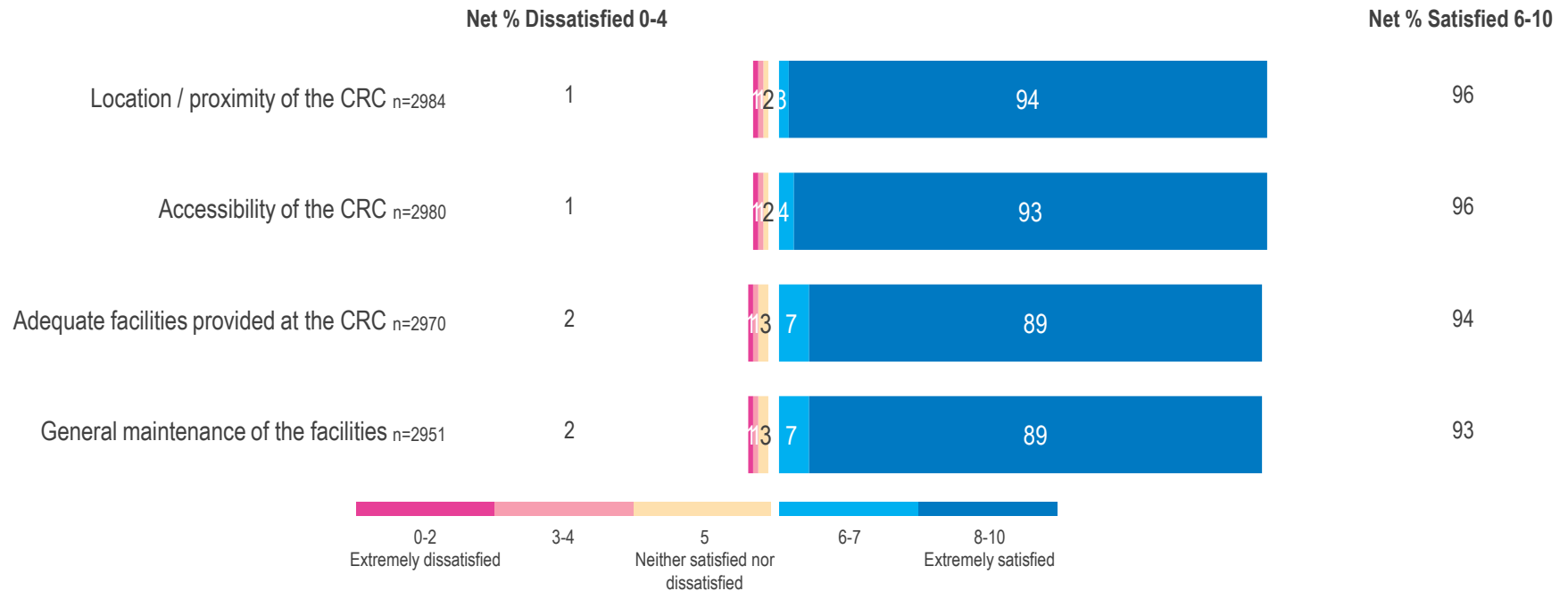


Customers are satisfied with the staff and service experience but how do they feel about the physical premises?



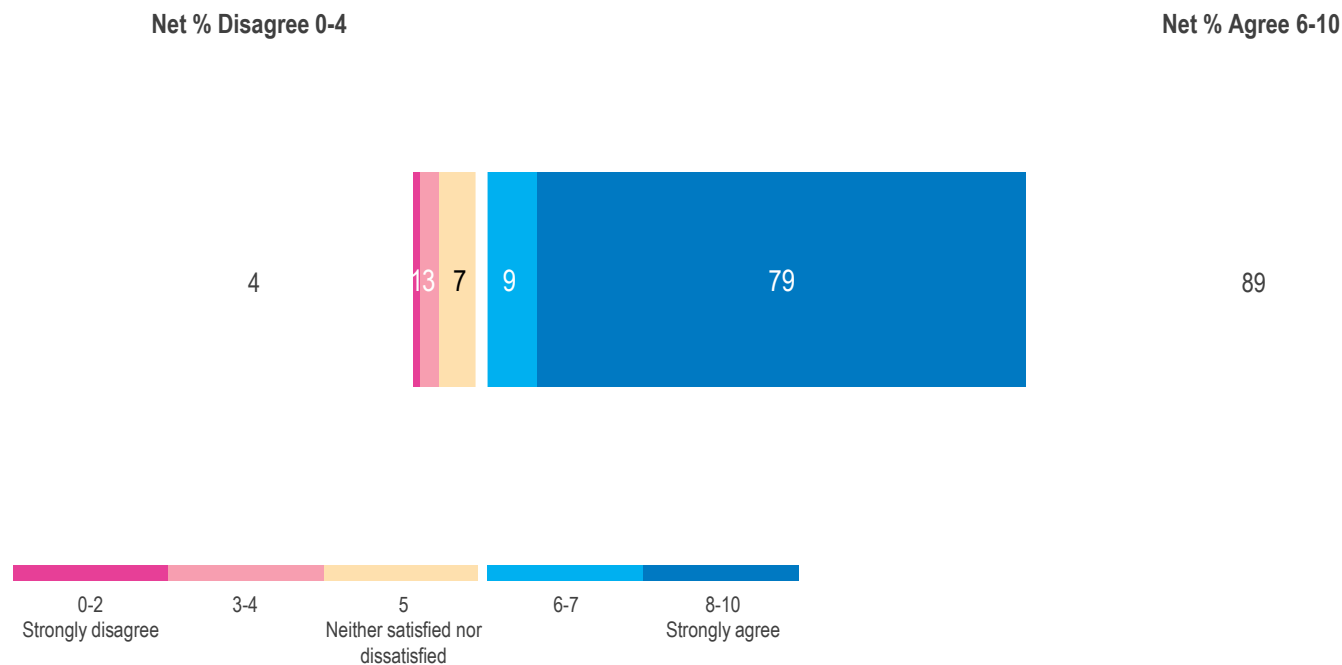
Satisfaction with all aspects of the physical space of the CRC is also very high.

The location, accessibility, facilities and maintenance of the facilities all achieved over 9 in 10 satisfaction.



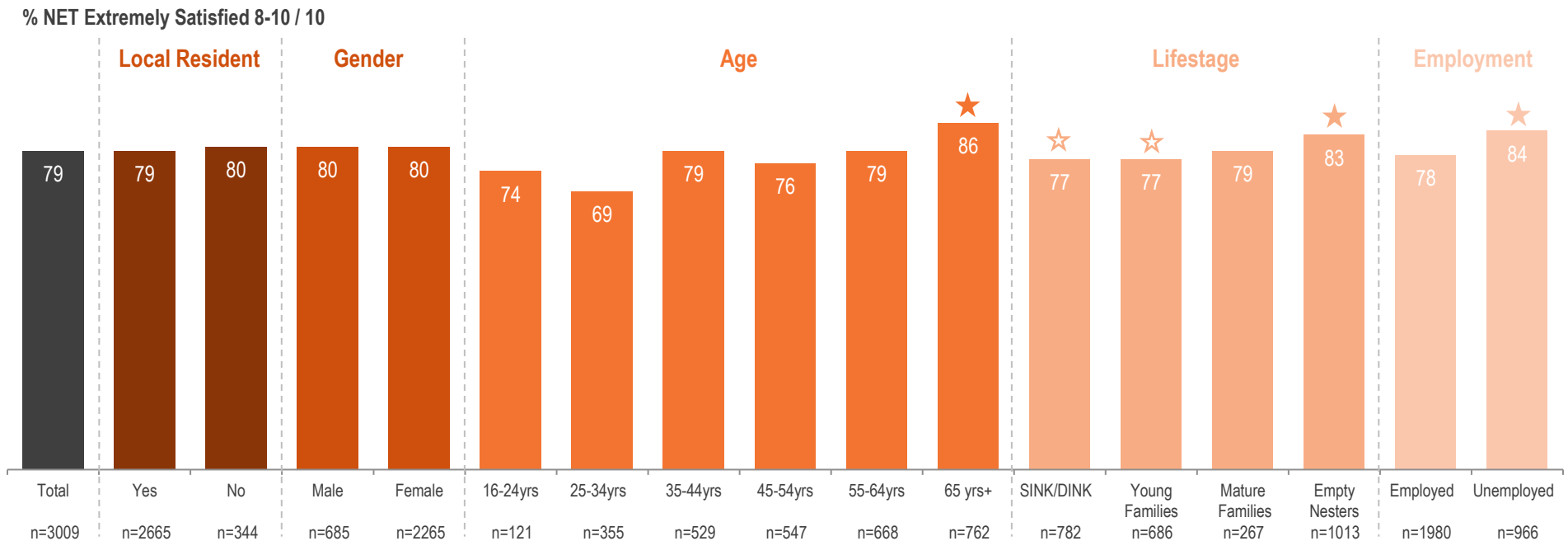
The majority are happy with the current opening hours.

Around 9 in 10 agree the current opening hours of their CRC are convenient for them (i.e. open at times that suit them so that they are able to easily access the services)



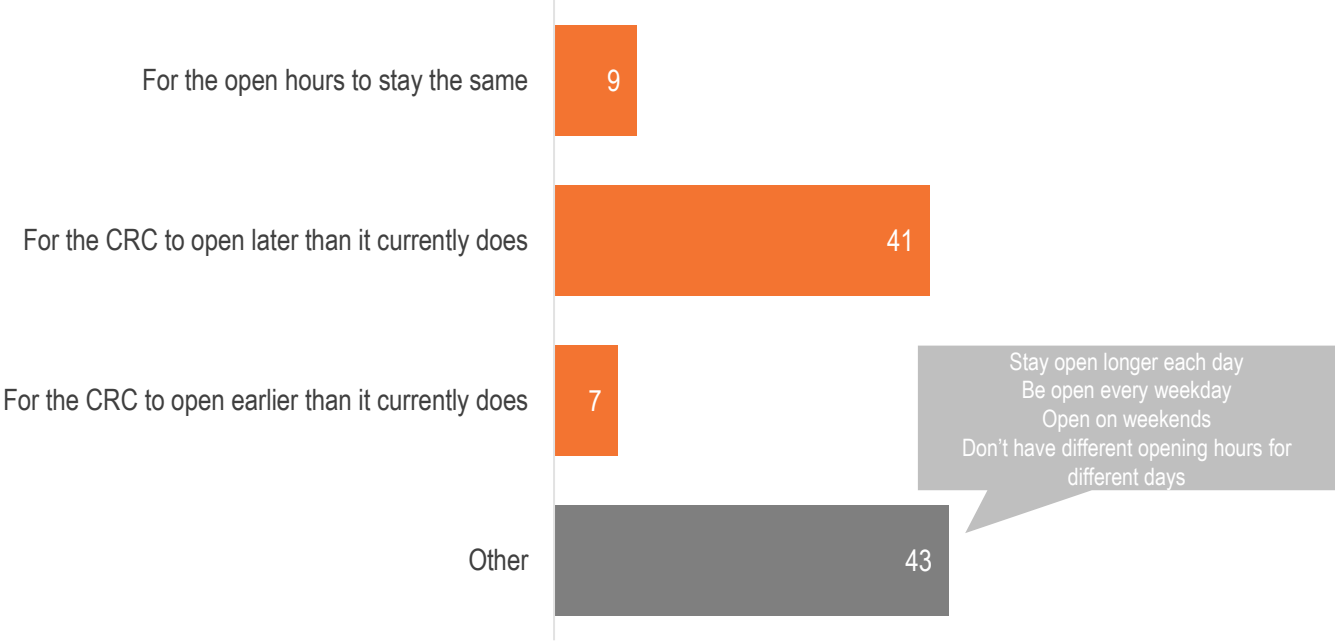
Older Customers are more likely to be extremely satisfied with the current opening hours.

Those that are unemployed are also more likely to be extremely satisfied – likely due to not having to fit CRC visits around their own working hours, and also consistent with this demographic generally being more satisfied across the board.



The majority of those that disagree the current hours are convenient want them to change.

Only 4% overall disagree that the current hours are convenient. Of this 4%, around 2 in 5 want their CRC to stay open later. A similar proportion had another suggestion for improving open hours such as keeping them consistent across different days or opening on weekends.



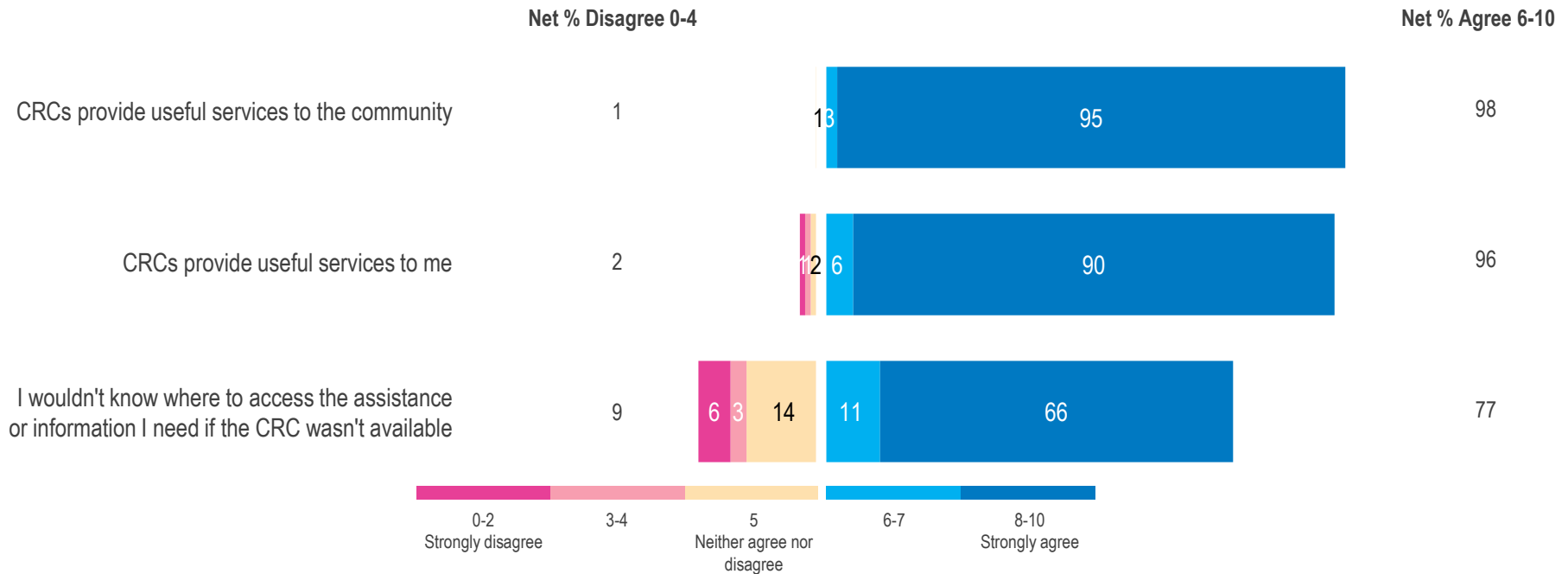
Values and Preferences



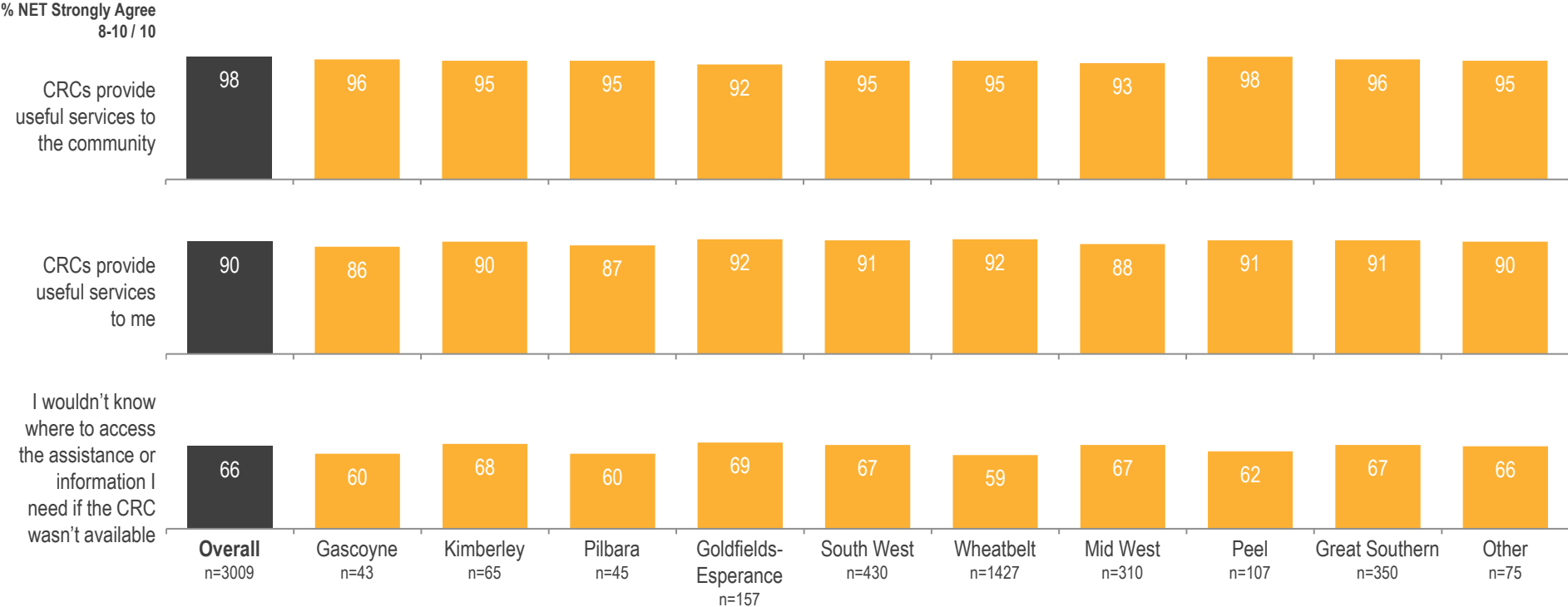
Almost all Customers agree
that CRCs provide useful
services to them and their
community...



...around 2 in 3 strongly agree they would not know where to access the assistance or information a CRC offers without it!



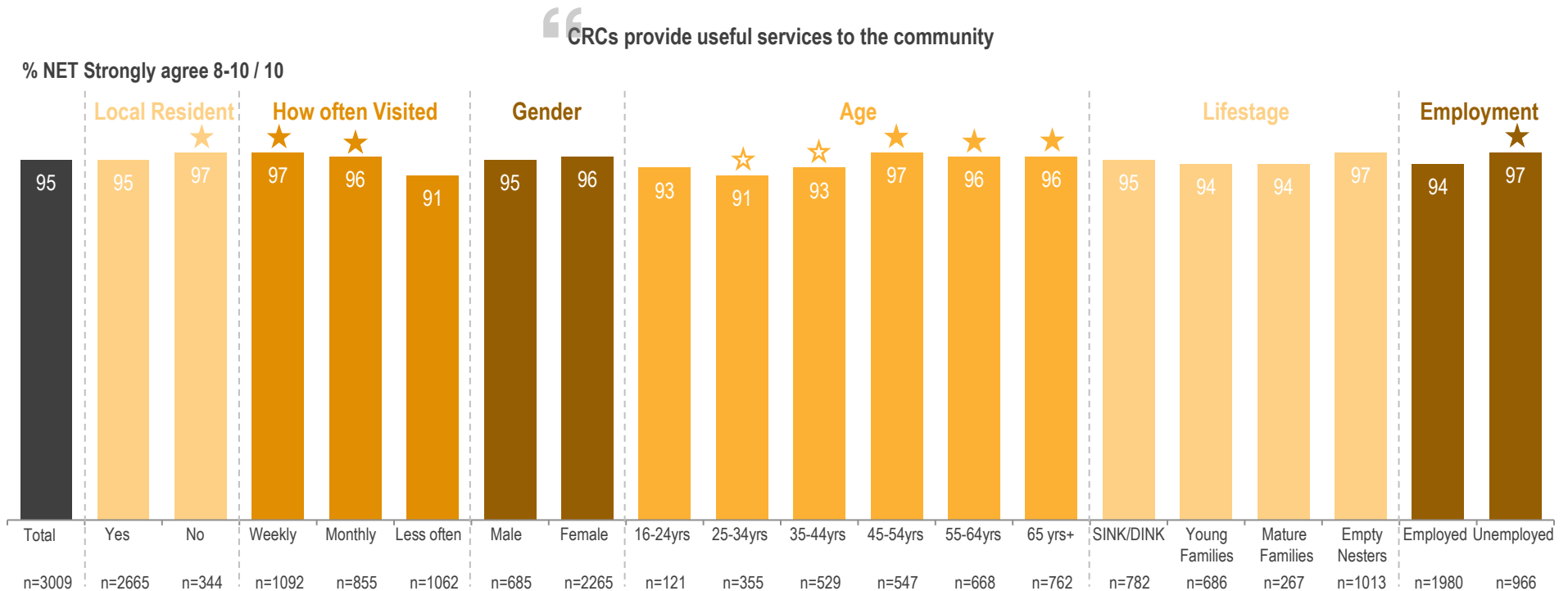
CRCs are perceived as equally valuable across the regions.



Q10. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the below statements? Base: All respondents (n=3009).

Frequent visitors are more likely to strongly agree CRCs provide useful services to the community.

Customers that do not live near a CRC, older Customers and unemployed Customers are also more likely to strongly agree.

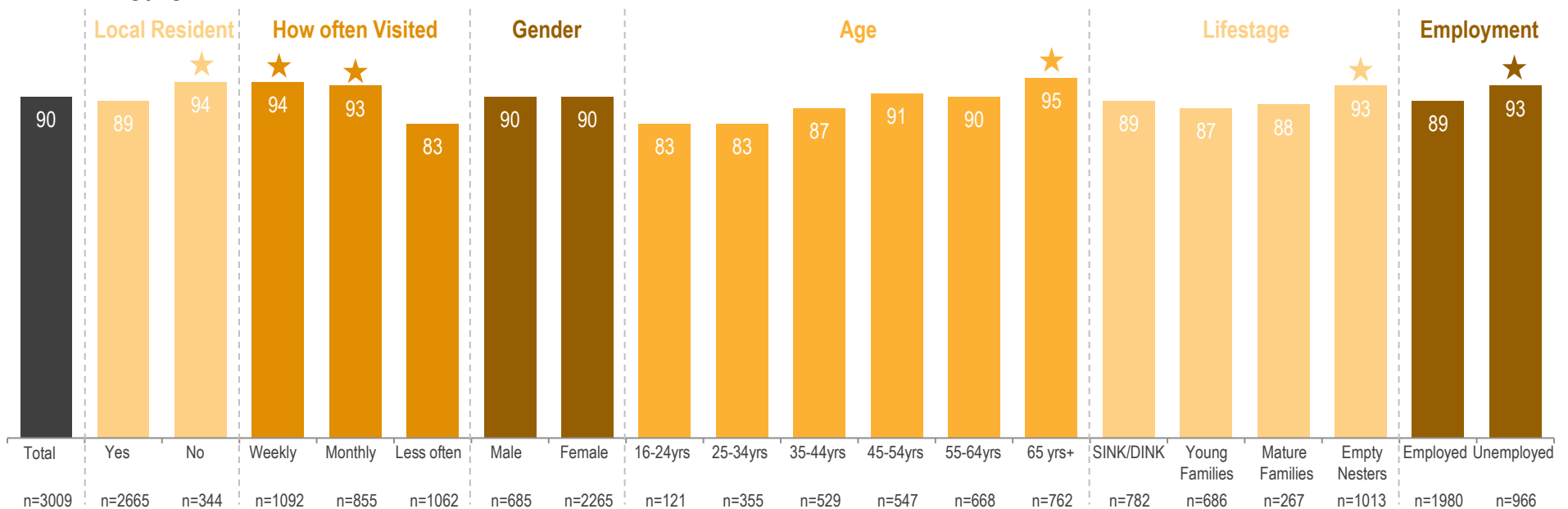


The same groups are more likely to strongly agree that CRCs provide useful services to them.

More frequent visitors, Customers that do not live near a CRC, older Customers and unemployed Customers are also more likely to strongly agree with this statement. Empty Nesters are also more likely but this is likely due to the older age of this group.

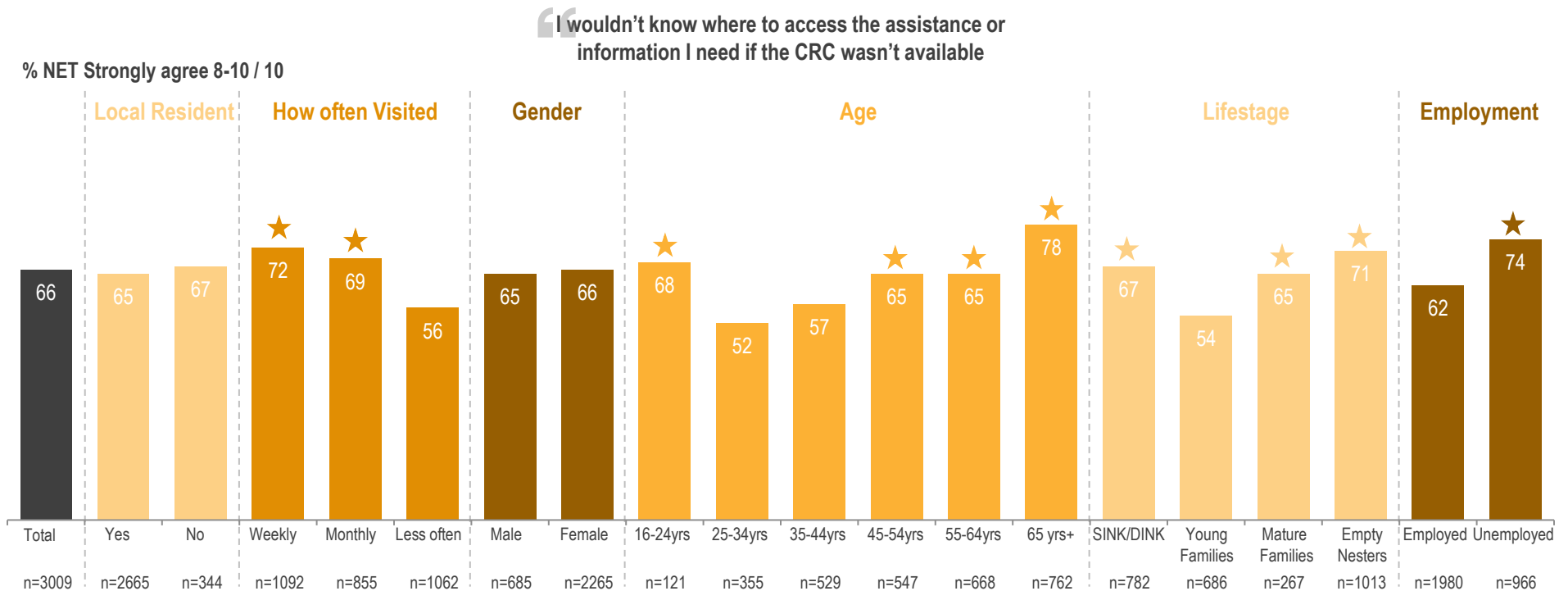
“CRCs provide useful services to me

% NET Strongly agree 8-10 / 10



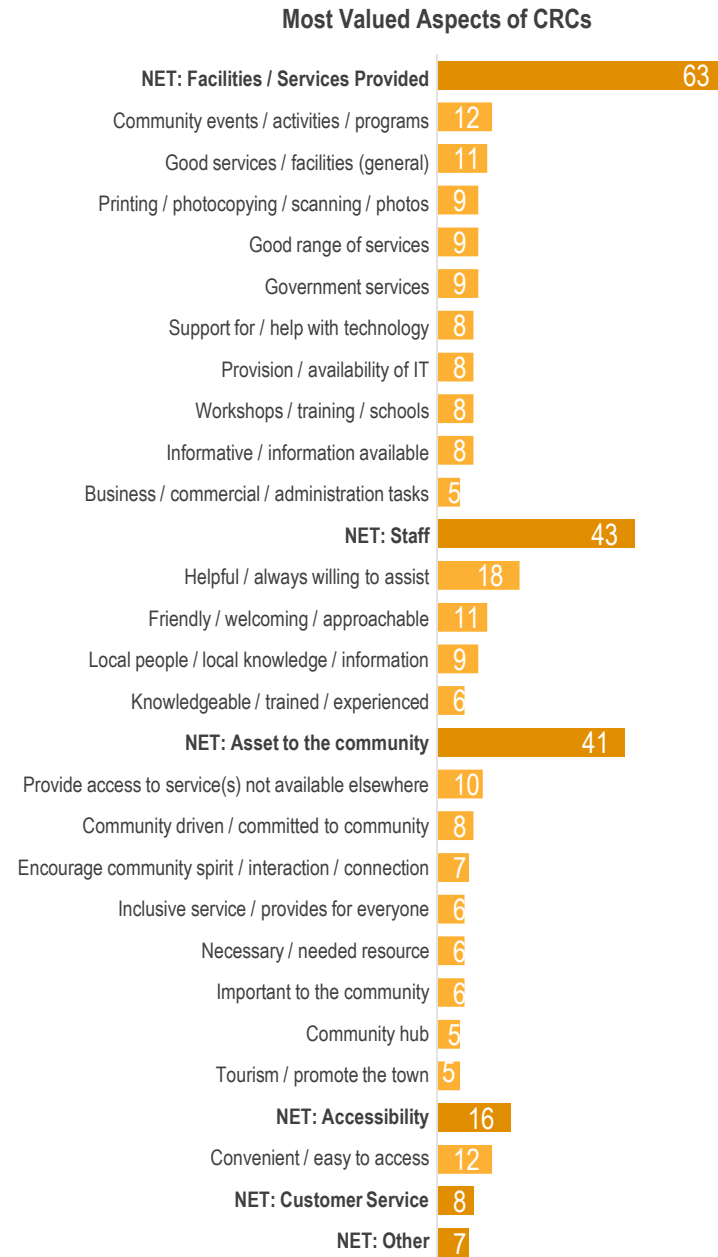
Those aged 25-44 are the least likely to strongly agree that they couldn't access what the CRC offers without it.

However more frequent visitors, and unemployed Customers are again more likely to strongly agree with this statement.



The facilities and services provided at CRCs are what Customers value most.

The staff are also highly valued with more than 4 in 10 making mention of the CRC staff. 4 in 10 also mention the importance of CRCs to the community.



In their own words...

"They have equipment and facilities I couldn't hire anywhere else on the Island."

Cocos (K) Islands CRC User

"It's the hub of our town and we rely heavily on it."

Augusta CRC User

"How they can assist with just about everything and don't palm us off to the next business or organisation."

Shark Bay CRC User

"In my town, they're an essential service for people who don't have other facilities, and especially to get help and advice."

Broome CRC User

"Providing exceptional events, workshops, classes and course to the community and businesses. A 'go-to' office that can help all community members with printing, editing and information."

Wagin CRC User

"A great range of products and services, the staff and committee put a great deal of effort into finding gaps in the needs of the community and filling them."

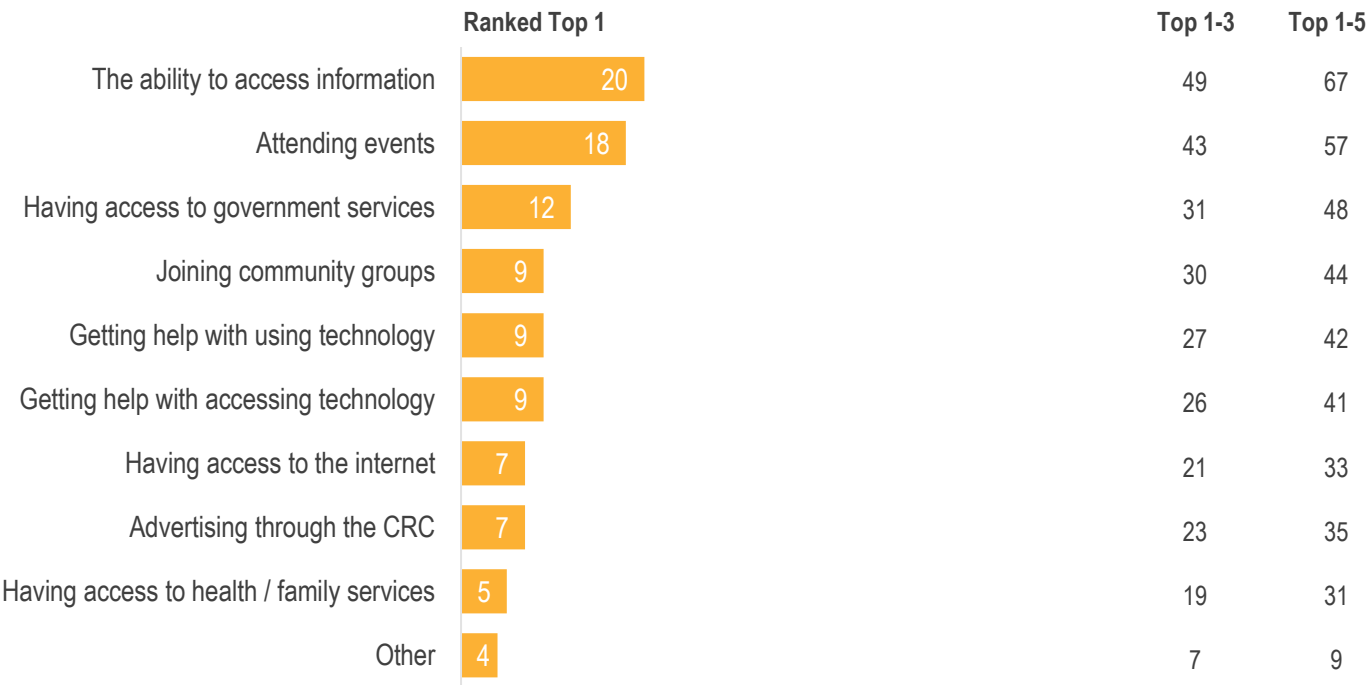
Beacon CRC User

"The vast range of services they offer. Such as printing, editing, internet services, library services."

Jerramungup CRC User

Among the specific services offered, the ability to access information is the **most important** to Customers.

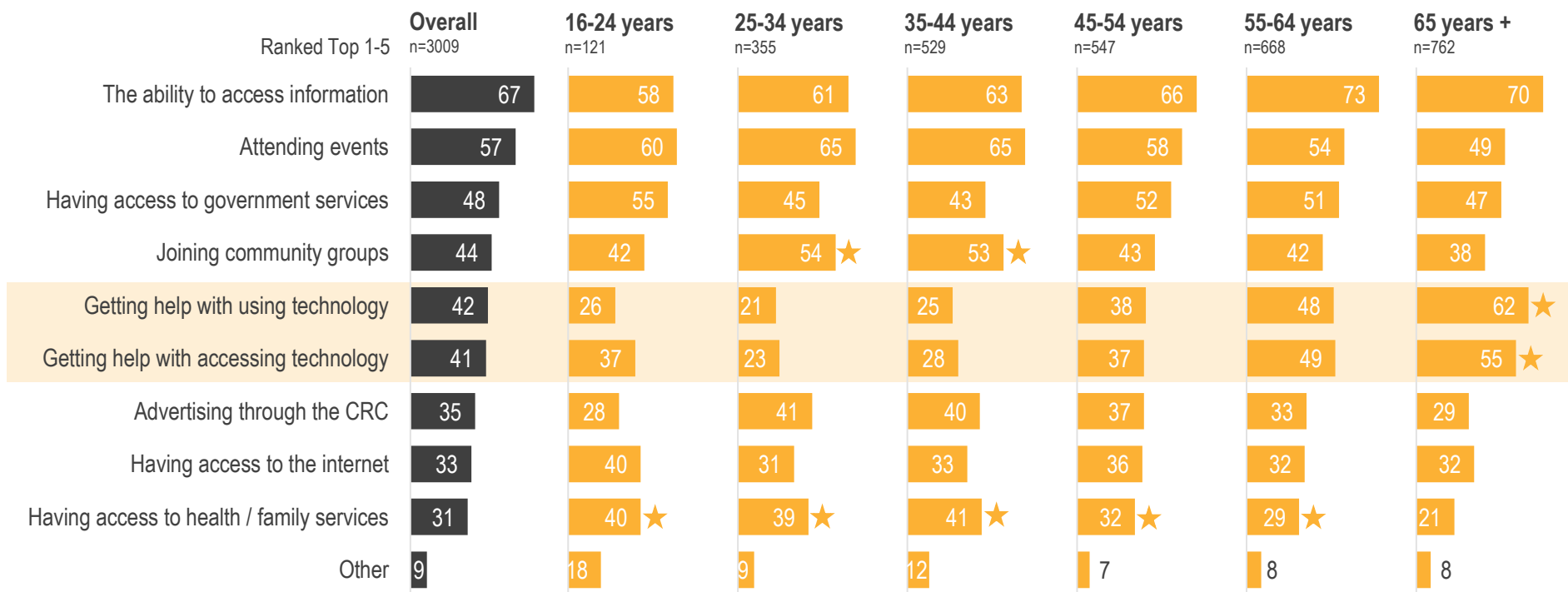
This is closely followed by attending events.



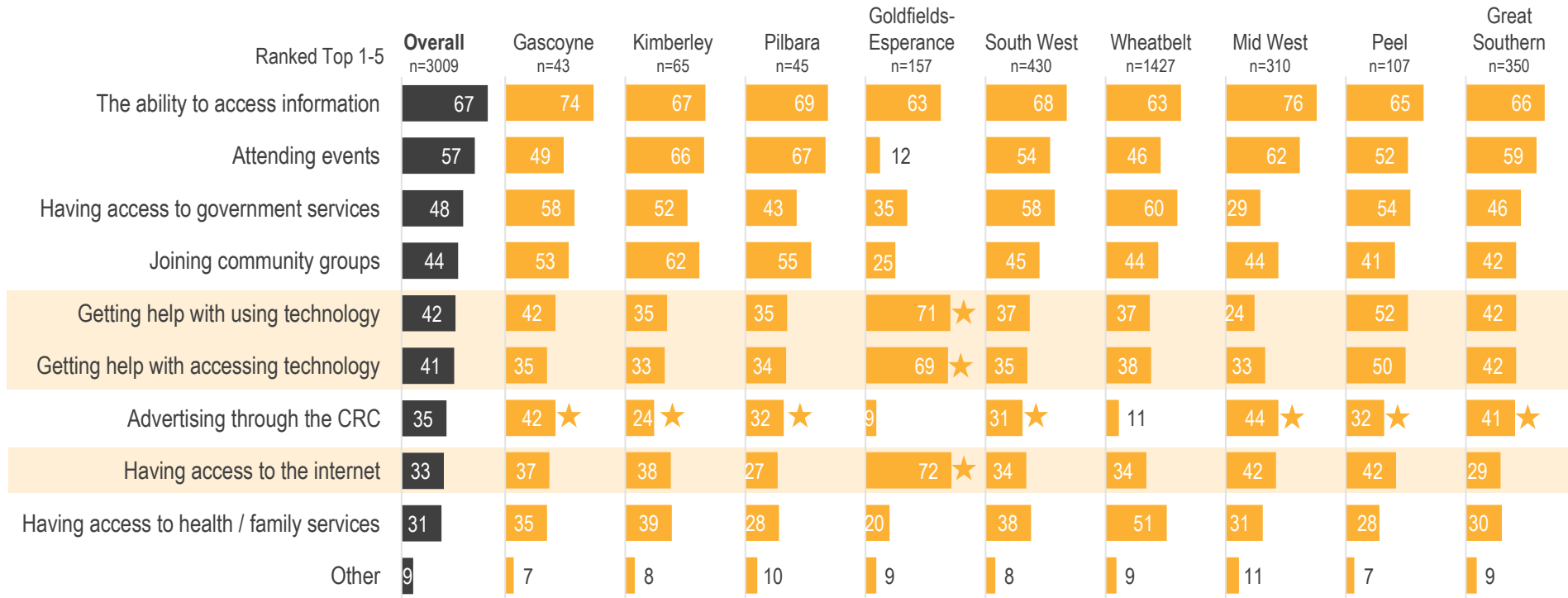
Q12. Which of the below aspects of CRCs are most important to you? Rank as many as you like where 1 is the most important. Base: All respondents (n=3009).

The oldest Customers are more likely than those younger to value the help with technology.

Around 3 in 5 of those aged 65 and over consider these services in the top 5 most important.



The importance of services offered by CRCs varies between the regions.



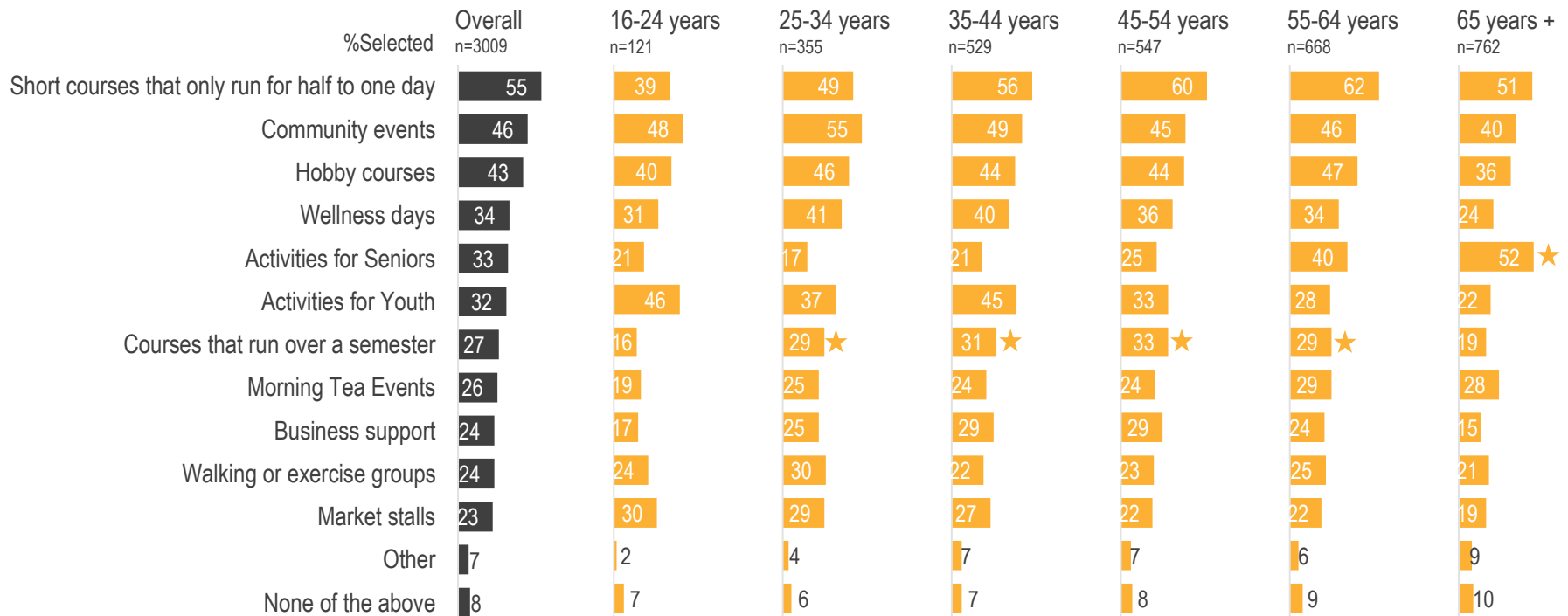
More than 1 in 2 Customers would like to see more short courses run at CRCs.

Community events and hobby courses are the next more popular event that Customers would like to see.

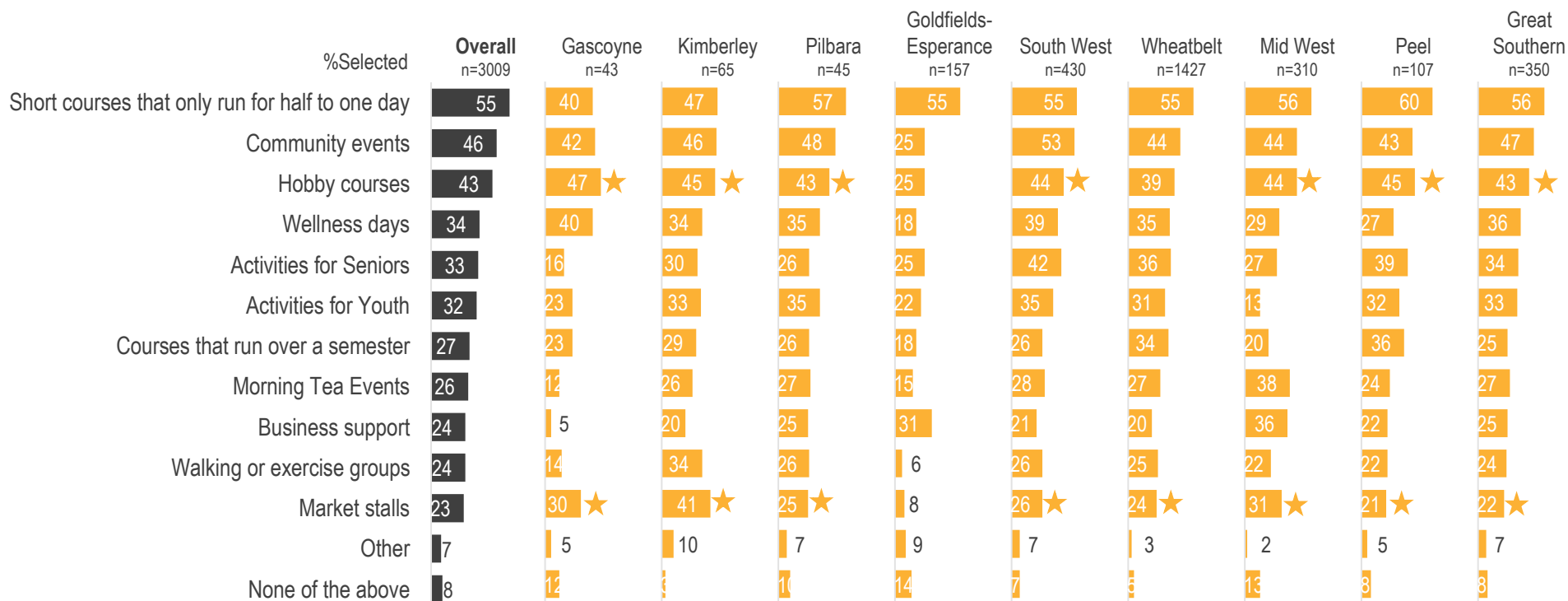


Courses that run over a semester are most preferred by Customers aged between 25 and 64.

Unsurprisingly, those aged 65 and over are more likely to want to see more activities for seniors than younger age groups.

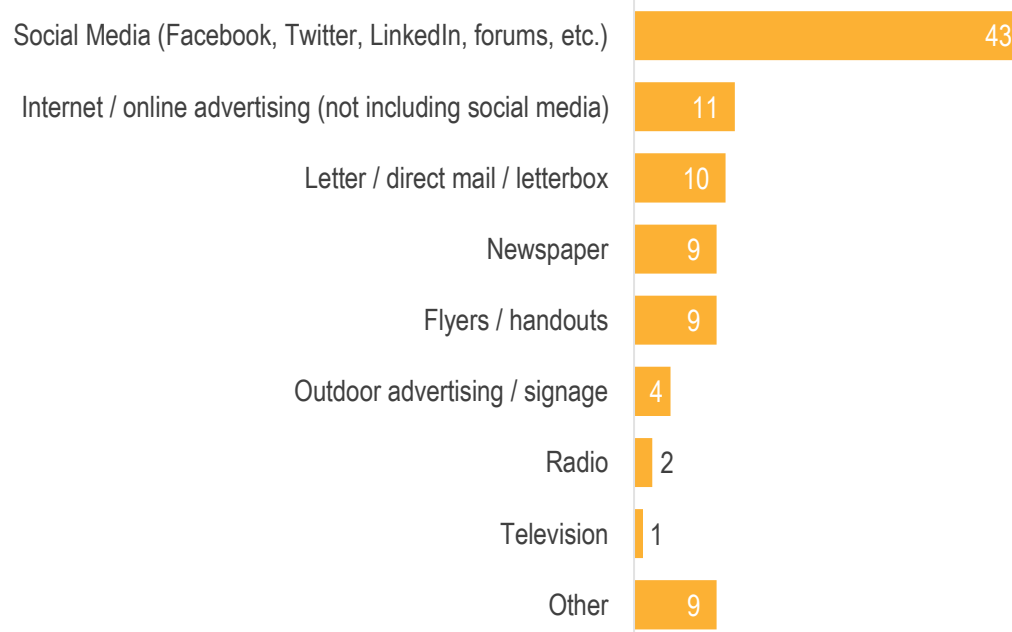


The services and events that Customers want to see more of, varies between the regions.



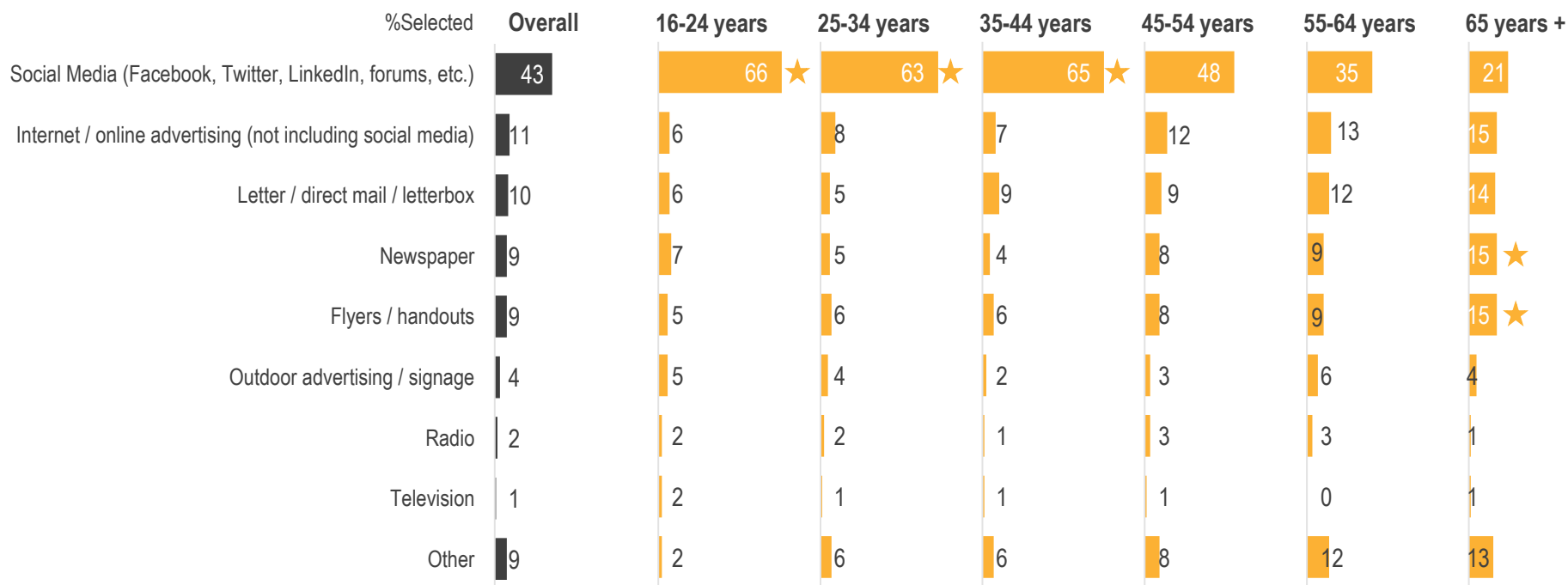
Social media is by far the most preferred way of hearing about what CRCs offer.

Around 2 in 5 would prefer to hear more about what their local CRC offers through this channel.



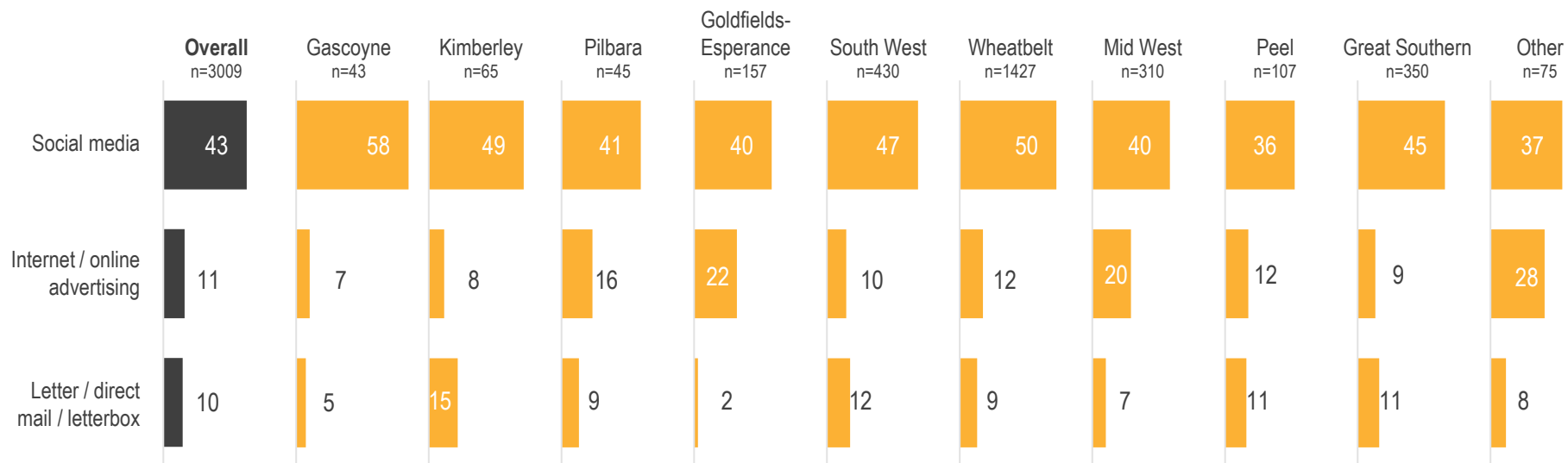
Those aged under 45 are more likely than the older age groups to prefer social media channels as a way of hearing about CRC offerings.

Those aged 65 and over are more likely than the younger groups to prefer the newspaper or flyers.



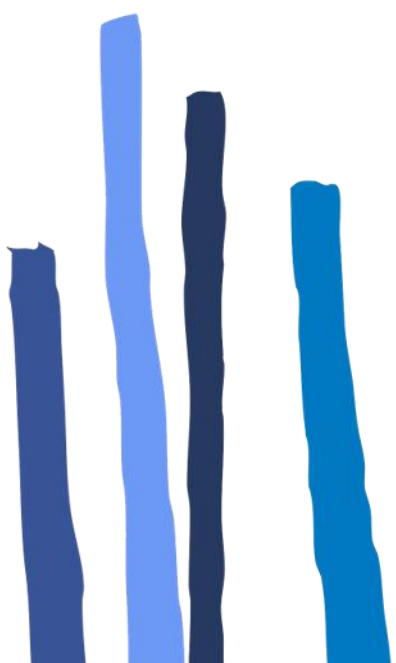
Preferences for hearing about what CRCs offer, do not differ greatly between regions.

Social media is the predominant preference across all regions.



Key Takeouts





Satisfaction and likelihood to recommend is strong among all Customers.

Around 9 in 10 Customers would promote the CRC they use and only a small proportion would be unlikely to recommend using a CRC, resulting in a strong NPS score of +82 – an exceptionally high result.

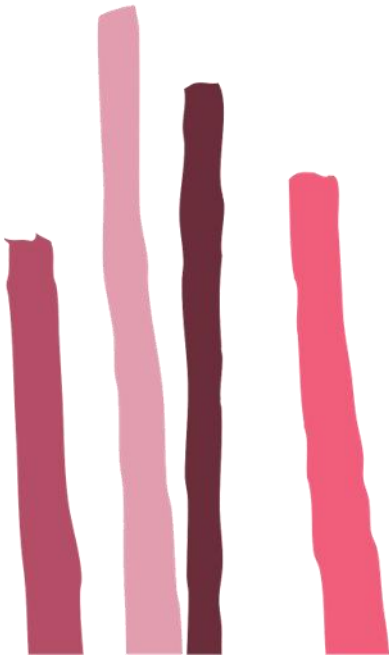
Over 9 in 10 Customers are *extremely* satisfied and fewer than 1 in 20 are dissatisfied with their experience at CRCs, which illustrates that Customers are having a positive, valuable experience at the CRCs they visit.

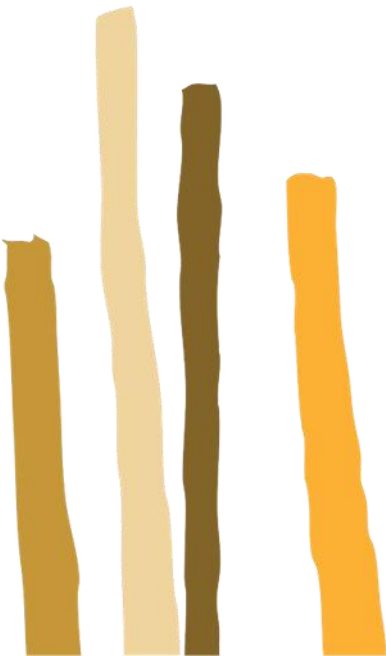
Satisfaction and likelihood to recommend is strong across all regions.

Quality staff are crucial for driving satisfaction, but this is already a strong area of performance for CRCs.

The importance of having quality staff is illustrated by good staff interactions being the main reason for satisfaction, while negative interactions with staff are the top driver of dissatisfaction.

Positively, the friendliness and helpfulness of staff is already the best performing area for CRCs, with 97% satisfaction in this area. It will be important to maintain this strong performance to in turn maintain the high levels of satisfaction Customers currently have with their CRC experiences.



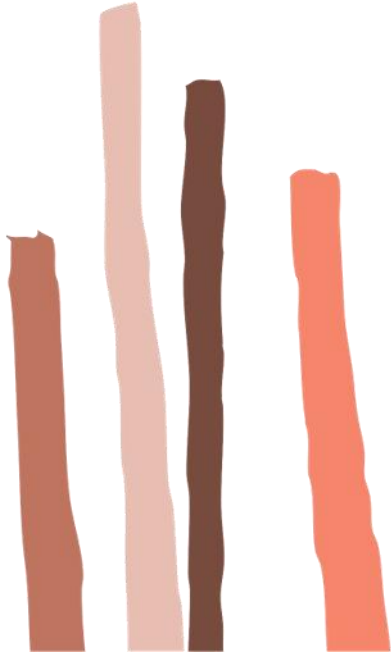


Most Customers are happy with the current opening hours but there are some suggestions for improvement.

Around 9 in 10 agree the current opening hours of their CRC are convenient for them. Among those that disagree, around 2 in 5 want their CRC to open later than it currently does. A further 2 in 5 had suggestions other than the CRC opening earlier or later than it currently does. These suggestions included:

- Keeping opening hours consistent across weekdays
- Opening every weekday
- Opening on weekends

The vast majority of Customers find them convenient. However, if CRCs do want to make it easier for Customers to use their services, they could take on some of the above suggestions.



Ultimately, CRCs are highly valuable to their community.

Almost all Customers agree that CRCs provide useful services to them and their community and around 3 in 4 feel they would not know where else to access the same services if there wasn't a CRC to go to.

Customers that do not live near a CRC, older Customers and unemployed Customers are more likely to perceive CRCs as highly valuable, but perceptions of value are still strong among all other Customer groups.

The value CRCs provide is further illustrated by the strong satisfaction and likelihood to recommend that Customers report – demonstrating that Customers gain value from their experiences with CRCs.

Hunt Smarter.



Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) Stakeholder Research

DPIRD

28th January 2022

Prepared by Painted Dog Research



Executive Summary

Aims & Methodology

The overall strategic aim of this research was to understand the value provided by CRCs to Stakeholders in order to optimise the services delivered. To achieve this, an online survey was conducted with Stakeholders from September 22 to October 31, 2021.

Each CRC and Local Government Authority (LGA) with a CRC within their boundary was invited by DPIRD to provide a list of all Stakeholders that interact or partner with the CRC. DPIRD then compiled these lists into one list of Stakeholders for Painted Dog to contact for the research. DPIRD suggested to the CRCs and LGAs that they inform Stakeholders that Painted Dog Research would be in touch with them.

Survey invitations were then sent by Painted Dog via email to all Stakeholders. Stakeholders each received a unique survey link that could only be used once. A few weeks after the survey launch, an email reminder was sent to those that had not yet completed the survey.

A few days after the email reminder was sent out, a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) approach was launched to call Stakeholders that had not yet completed the survey, and to provide an option to complete the survey over the phone. Stakeholders were still able to complete the survey online during this time. Stakeholder contacts from Shires and for CRCs with low response rates were prioritised.

At the end of fieldwork, poor quality responses were removed to ensure the final total sample only included high quality responses. A total of n=513 responses was achieved.

Research Findings

Relationship with CRCs

CRCs interact with Stakeholders from a range of organisations – Local Community Groups top the list (27%) followed by Local Government Authorities (18%) and Private Businesses (14%). More than 8 in 10 Stakeholders interact with the CRC on behalf of an organisation and about 2 in 5 (39%) Stakeholders interact with CRCs at least once a week. Collaborating with or running events with a CRC are the top reasons for Stakeholders working with CRCs (59% and 53% respectively).

Satisfaction and Overall Experience with CRCs

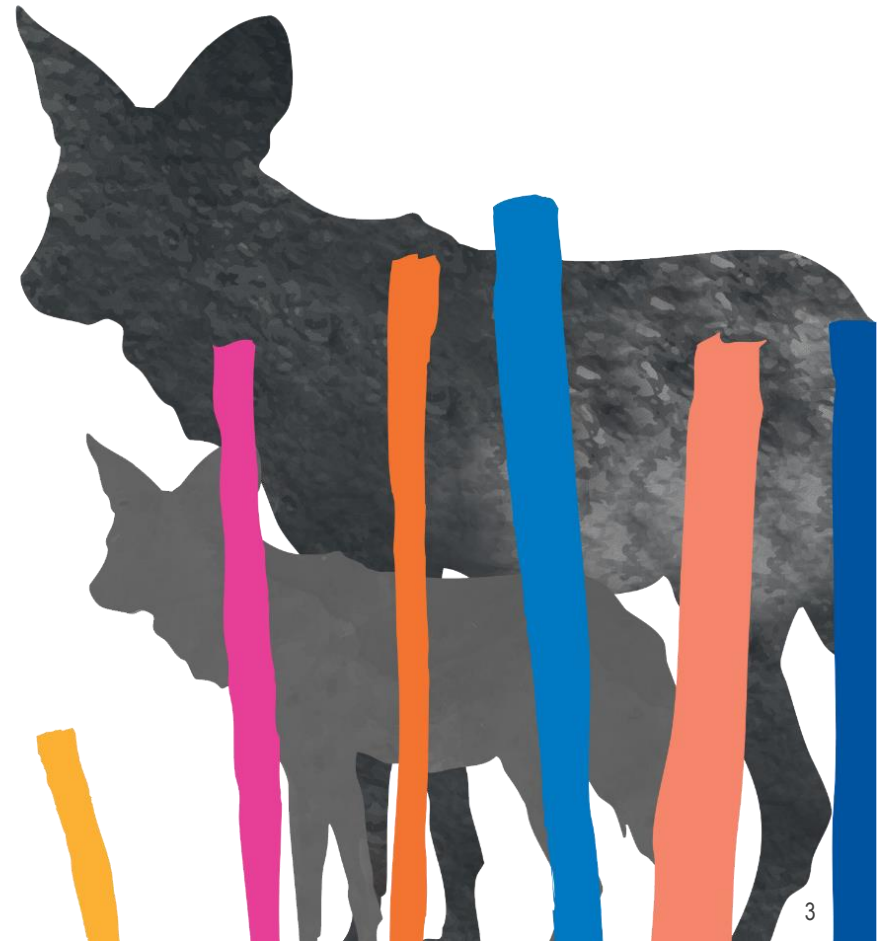
Satisfaction is strong among all Stakeholders – almost 9 in 10 (89%) are extremely satisfied and only 2% are dissatisfied. Stakeholders are also highly satisfied with how CRCs perform across different areas of performance. For all areas of performance, over 9 in 10 Stakeholders (between 93% to 98%) rate CRCs' performance as good or excellent. The helpfulness of staff and responding in a timely manner are the strongest areas of performance (both rated 'good' or 'excellent' by 98% of Stakeholders).

High quality service, and good communication and engagement with Stakeholders are strong drivers of satisfaction. Positive experiences in these areas are the most frequently cited reasons for satisfaction among satisfied Stakeholders. In contrast, those that are not satisfied mainly attribute their dissatisfaction to poor engagement and service (however, only n=9 Stakeholders were dissatisfied).

General Attitudes Towards CRCs

Stakeholders perceive CRCs as highly valuable to their organisation and the community. Over 8 in 10 (86%) Stakeholders strongly agree that CRCs provide them or their organisation with useful services and around 9 in 10 (94%) strongly agree that CRCs provide useful services to the community. Beyond just the services they provide, Stakeholders see the most value in CRCs filling gaps that others cannot in regional communities, and being a central community hub where any community member can come to access lots of different services.

Background & Approach



Background

The Western Australian Community Resource Network (WACRN) is a network of over 100 rural, remote and regional Community Resource Centres (CRCs). CRCs are not-for-profit organisations that are independently owned and operated by their local communities.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), contracts CRCs to provide access to government and community services and information, and undertake community, business and economic development activities.

The research needed to include two target audiences:

1. Stakeholders – Those partnering or working with CRCs on a regular basis
2. Customers - General public (locals and visitors) and local businesses that have visited or used CRCs within the last 12 months

This document outlines the results of the research undertaken with **Stakeholders**.



Strategic Aim & Objectives

The overall strategic aim of the research is:

“ To understand the value provided by CRCs to Stakeholders in order to optimise the services delivered.

The following research objectives were addressed to deliver on the strategic aim:

- Determine the nature of Stakeholders' relationships with CRCs, including why Stakeholders partner with CRCs and how frequently they interact
- Measure overall satisfaction with CRCs and performance on specific aspects of the service
- Measure perceptions of CRCs and their perceived importance to Stakeholders, including the value provided to the community
- Explore additional ways CRCs can assist Stakeholders and continue to provide value



Methodology

To facilitate this research, an online survey was conducted with Stakeholders from September 22 to October 31, 2021.

Stakeholder Lists

- Each CRC and Local Government Authority (LGA) with a CRC within their boundary was invited by DPIRD to provide a list of all Stakeholders that interact or partner with the CRC
- DPIRD suggested to the CRCs and LGAs that they inform Stakeholders that Painted Dog Research would be in touch with them
- DPIRD then compiled these lists into one list of Stakeholders for Painted Dog to contact for the research

Email Send Out

- Survey invitations were sent by Painted Dog via email to all Stakeholders. Stakeholders each received a unique survey link that could only be used once
- A few weeks after the survey launch, an email reminder was sent to those that had not yet completed the survey

CATI Follow-ups

- A few days after the email reminder was sent out, a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interview) approach was launched to call Stakeholders that had not yet completed the survey, and provide an option to complete the survey over the phone
- Stakeholders were still able to complete the survey online during this time
- Stakeholder contacts from Shires, and for CRCs with a low response rate were prioritised

At the end of fieldwork, poor quality responses were removed to ensure the final total sample only included high quality responses. A total of n=513 responses was achieved.

Analytical Notes



Throughout the report, stars denote significant differences between subgroups. A filled in star (★) denotes a significantly higher result and an empty star denotes a significantly lower result (☆). These results have been tested at the 95% confidence interval.



All figures are in percentages unless otherwise indicated.



Some figures may add up to 99 or 101 due to rounding.



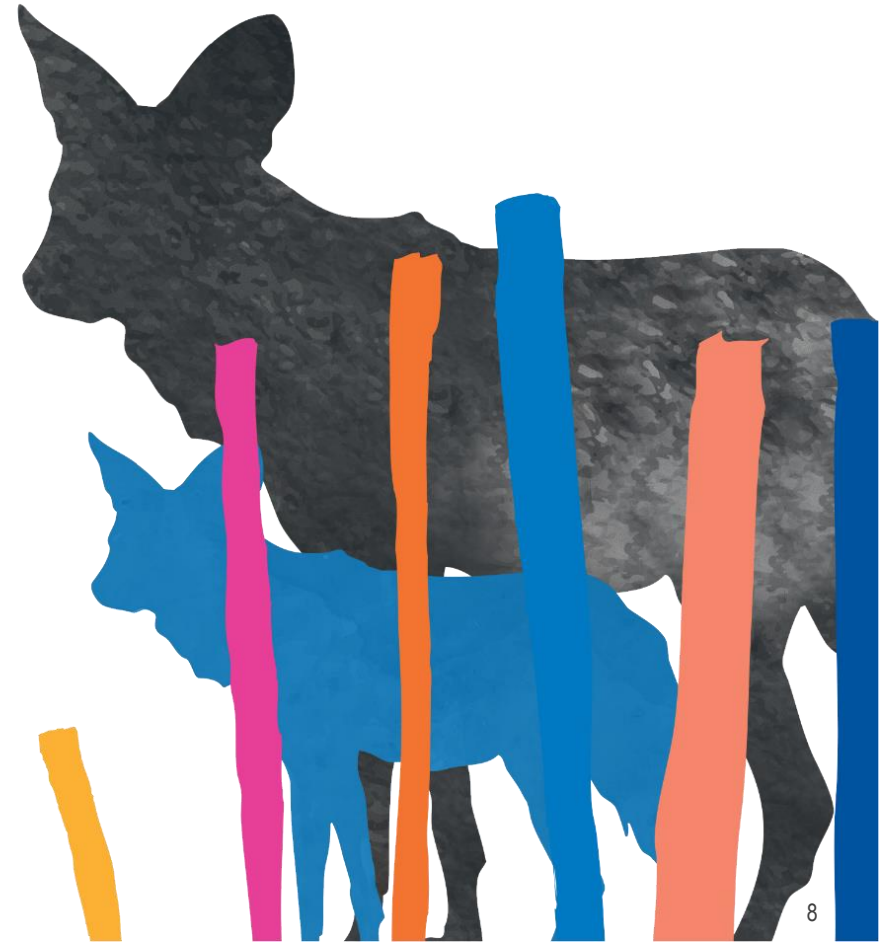
Any qualitative responses are graded on a scale from ●●●●● indicating a sentiment was held by practically all respondents to ● indicating a sentiment was held by a small minority.

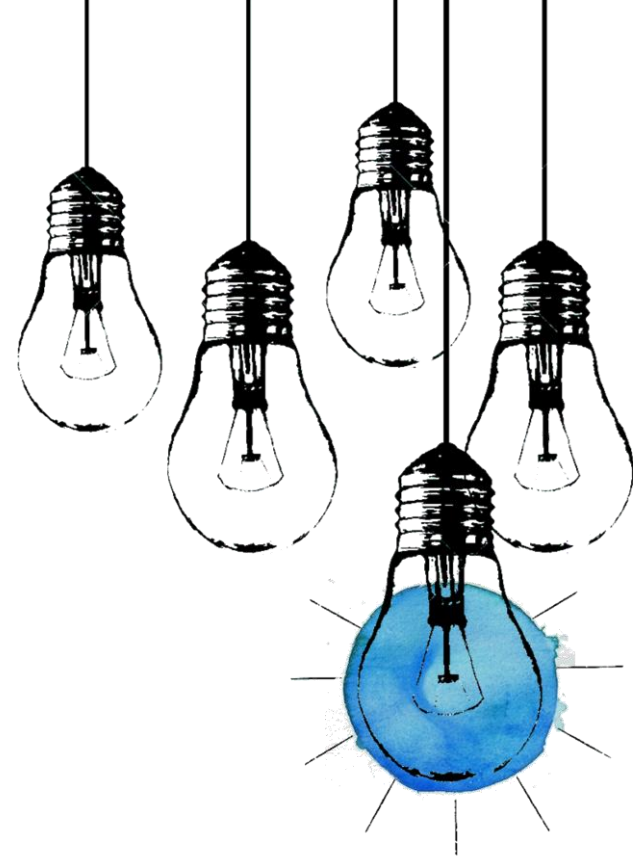


Based on the number of contacts provided and the sample achieved, the margin of error is +/- 3.67% which is well below the OAG's requirements of +/- 5%.



Relationship with CRCs

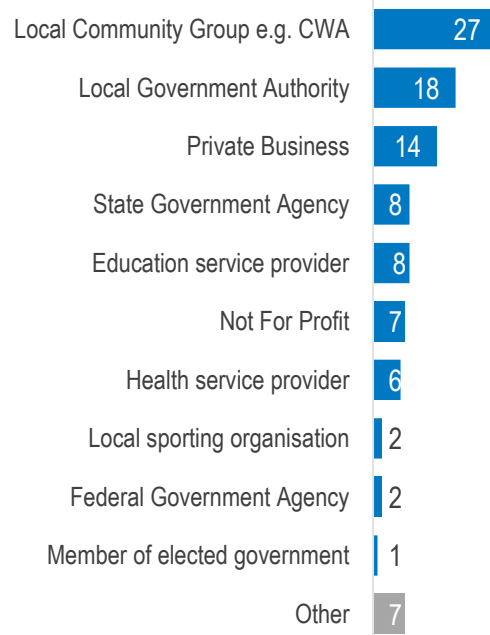




Most Stakeholders are from a local community group or LGA, with the majority interacting with CRCs on behalf of an organisation.

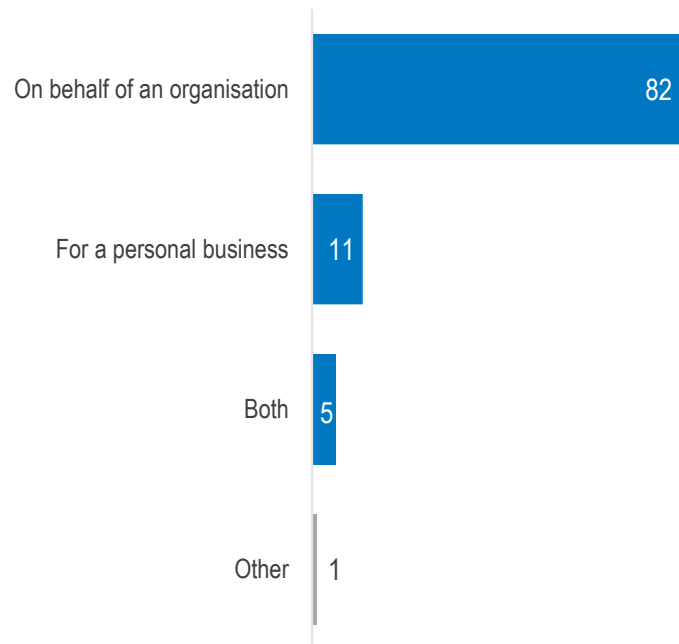
CRCs interact with Stakeholders from a range of organisations.

Local Community Groups top the list, followed by Local Government Authorities.



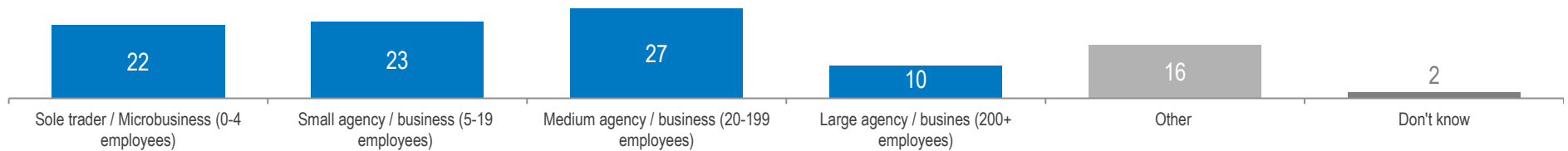
More than 8 in 10 interact with the CRC on behalf of an organisation.

Only 1 in 10 Stakeholders interact with CRCs for their own personal business, while 5% indicated working with a CRC for both personal business and on behalf of an organisation.



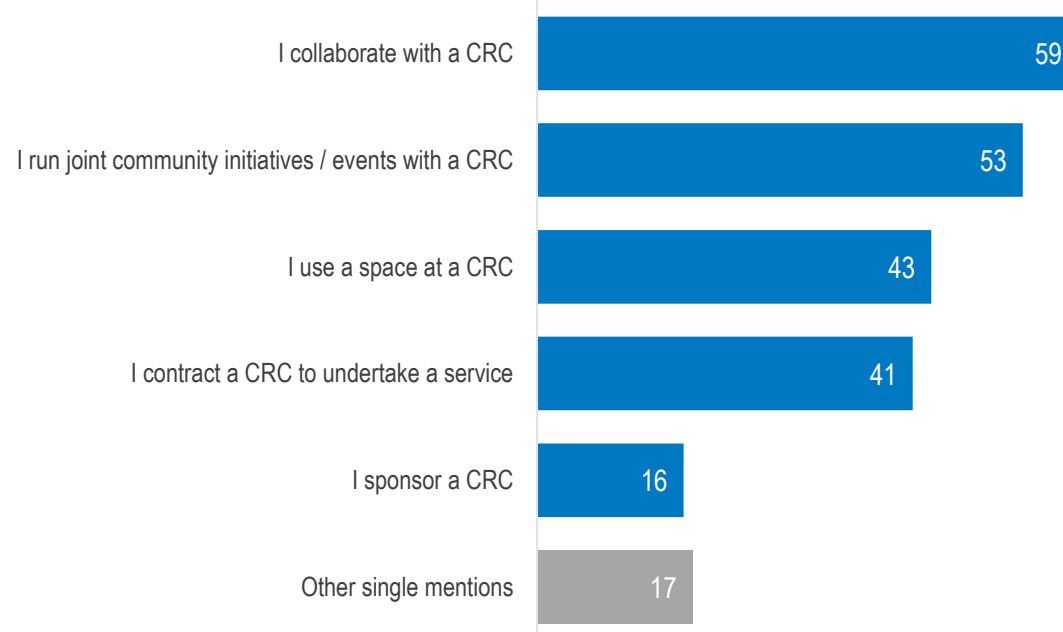
The size of the organisation that the Stakeholders are from, is also varied.

The majority of Stakeholders are either sole traders or from medium-to-small businesses and agencies.



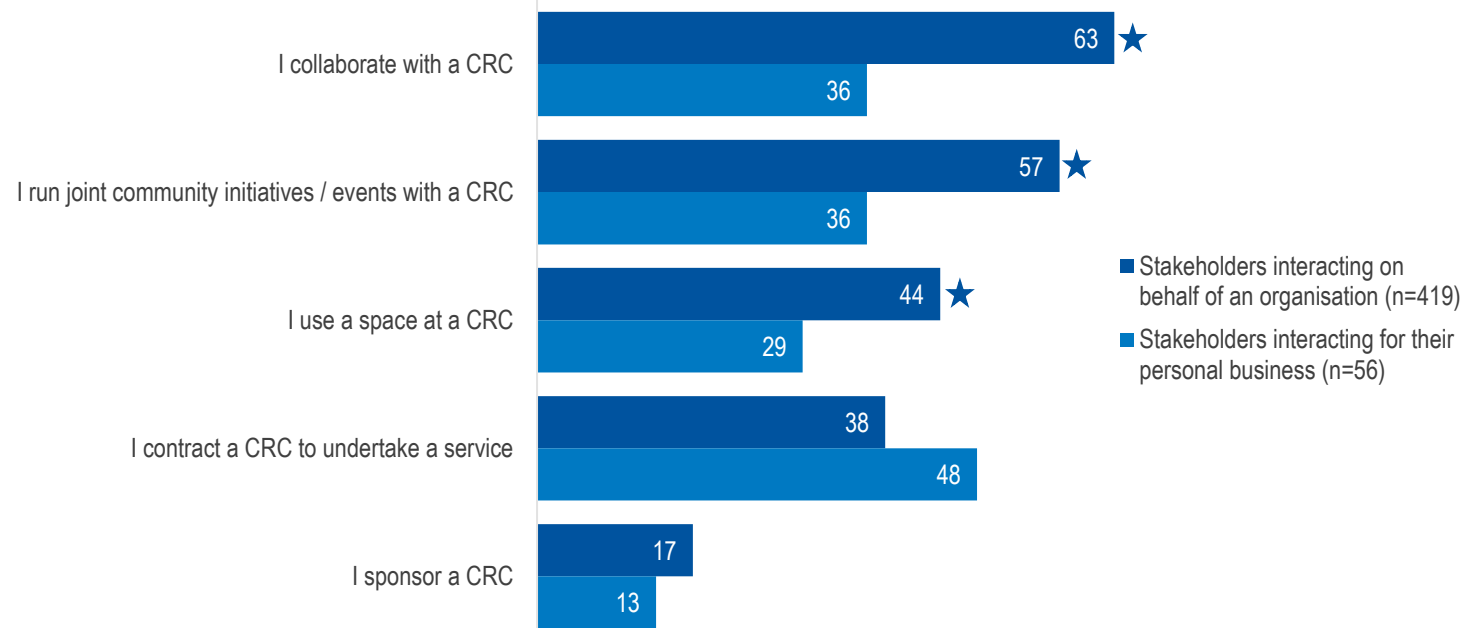
Collaborating with or running events with a CRC are the top reasons for Stakeholders working with CRCs.

Almost 3 in 5 Stakeholders collaborate with a CRC and 1 in 2 run joint community initiatives or events.



Q1. How do you partner / work with the [CRC]? Please select all that apply. If you partner / work with multiple CRCs in different ways, please select any of the below that apply to even one of the CRCs, even if they do not apply to all the CRCs you partner / work with. Base: All respondents (n=513).

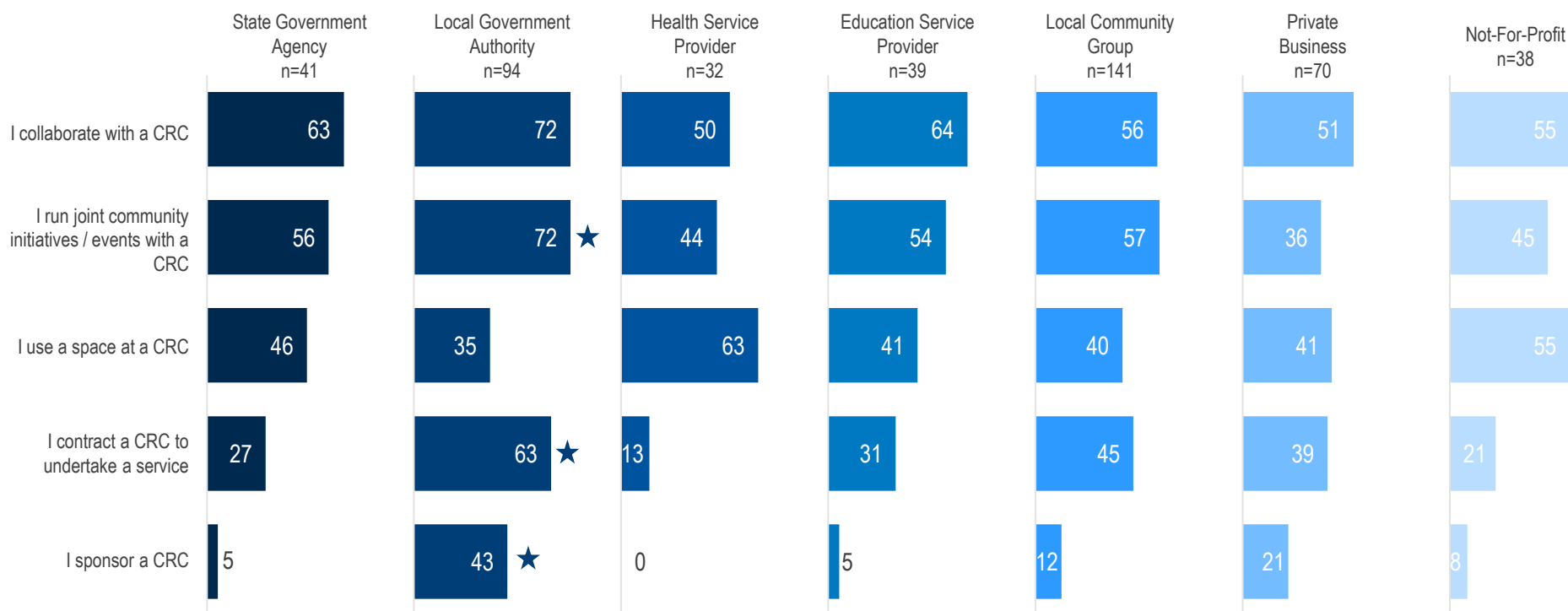
Stakeholders interacting with CRCs for an organisation are more likely to collaborate with, run joint initiatives with and use spaces at CRCs.



Q1. How do you partner / work with the [CRC]? Please select all that apply. If you partner / work with multiple CRCs in different ways, please select any of the below that apply to even one of the CRCs, even if they do not apply to all the CRCs you partner / work with. Base: All respondents (n=513).

Stakeholders from Local Government Authorities are more likely to sponsor a CRC.

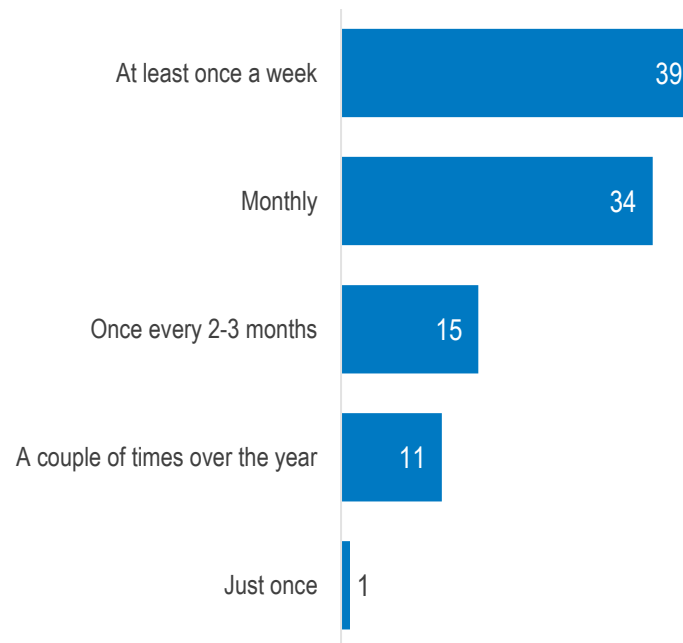
Around 2 in 5 Stakeholders from these organisations sponsor a CRC compared to only roughly 1 in 5 or fewer Stakeholders from other types of organisations.



Q1. How do you partner / work with the [CRCs / INSERT CRC SELECTED AT S2]? Please select all that apply. If you partner / work with multiple CRCs in different ways, please select any of the below that apply to even one of the CRCs, even if they do not apply to all the CRCs you partner / work with. Base: All respondents (n=513). Results for Federal Government agency, local sporting organisation and member of local government not shown due to small base sizes.

About 2 in 5 Stakeholders interact with CRCs at least once a week...

... while a further 1 in 3 interact at least once a month. This is consistent regardless of reason for interaction.

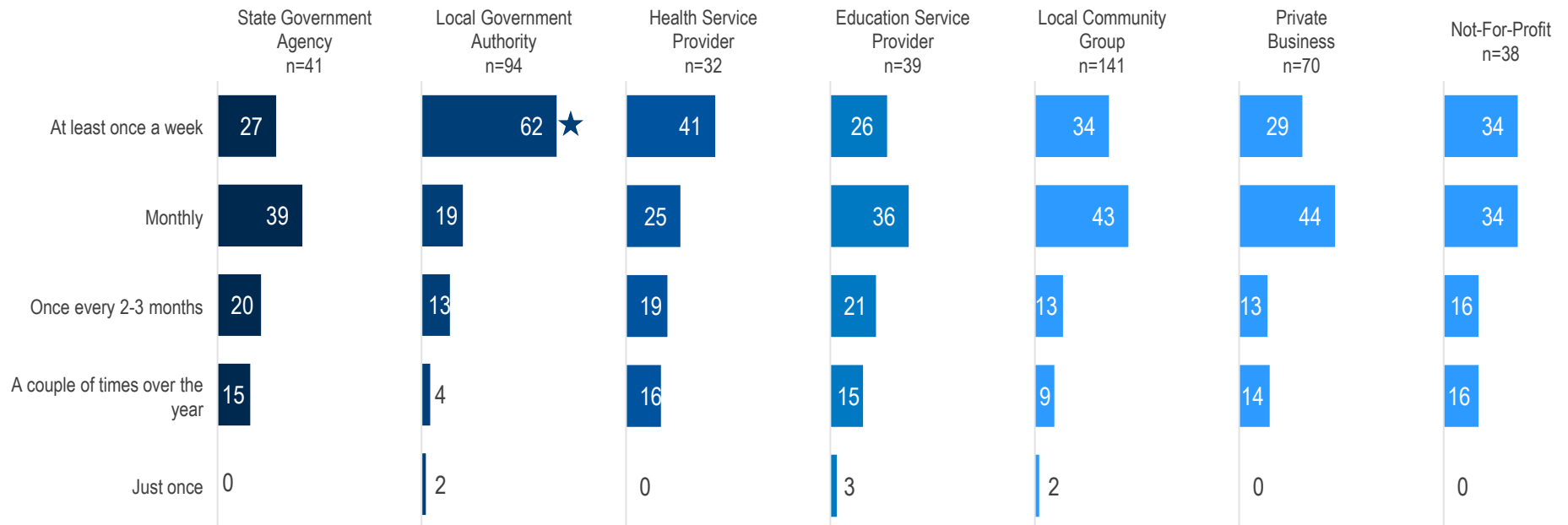


Q4. How often have you interacted with the [CRCs / INSERT CRC SELECTED AT S2] CRC over the last 12 months? If you have interacted with multiple CRCs to differing degrees, please select the option that best represents how often you interact with the majority of the CRCs you partner / work with. Base: All respondents (n=513).

Local Government Authority Stakeholders interact with CRCs more frequently than others.

Over 3 in 5 Stakeholders from these organisations interact with CRCs at least once a week.

The frequency of interactions among all other Stakeholders is largely consistent.



Q1. How do you partner / work with the [CRCs / INSERT CRC SELECTED AT S2]? Please select all that apply. If you partner / work with multiple CRCs in different ways, please select any of the below that apply to even one of the CRCs, even if they do not apply to all the CRCs you partner / work with. Base: All respondents (n=513). Results for Federal Government Agency, Local Sporting Organisation and Member of Local Government Stakeholders not shown due to small base sizes.

Satisfaction and Overall Experience with CRCs



Satisfaction is high – with more than 9 in 10 satisfied across all Stakeholder groups...



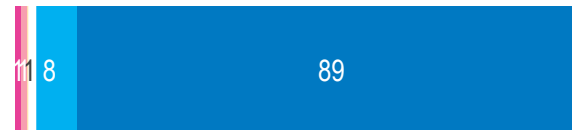
... and almost 9 in 10 Stakeholders are *extremely* satisfied!

Only 2% expressed any dissatisfaction.

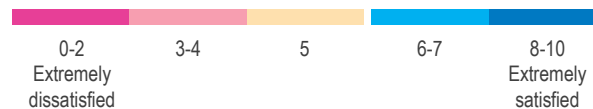
NET: 0-4

NET: 6-10

2

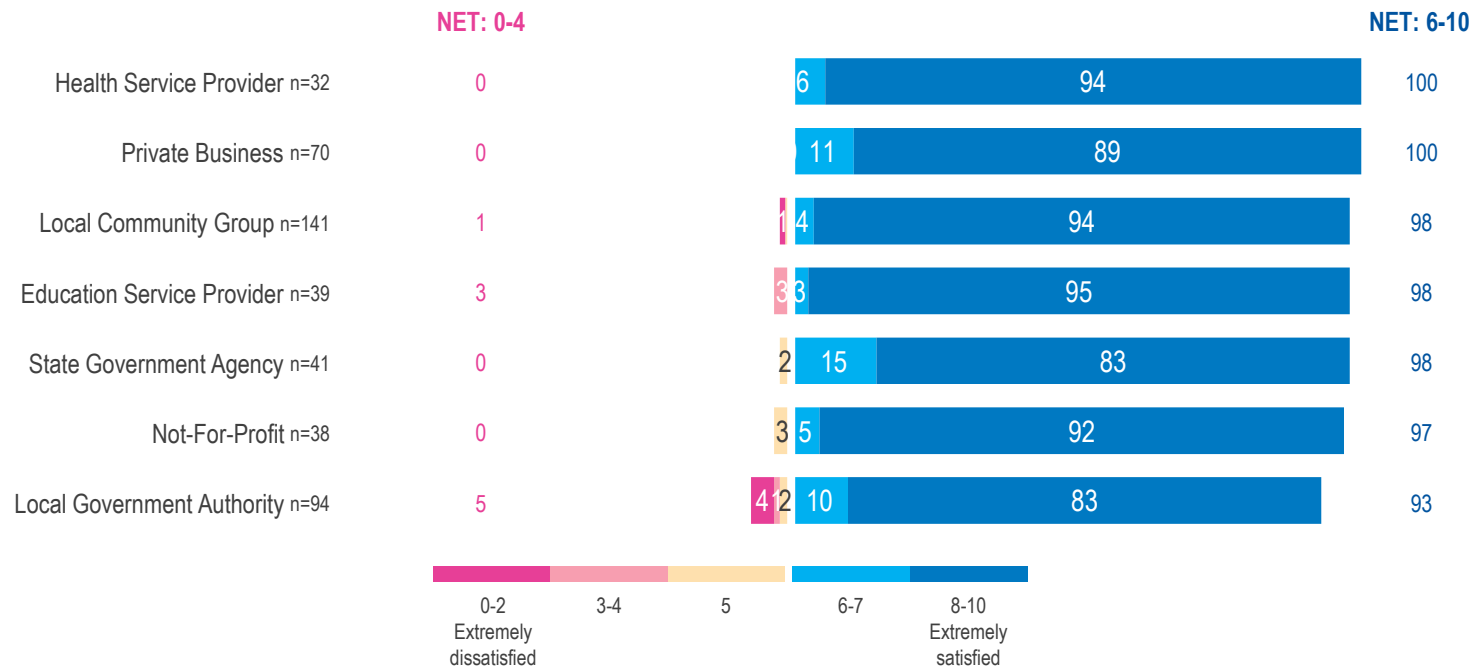


97



Satisfaction is strong among all stakeholder groups.

For all groups, over 8 in 10 are extremely satisfied.



Q5. Thinking about your experience in the last 12 months, how would you rate your overall satisfaction with [CRCs / INSERT CRC SELECTED AT S2]? Base: All respondents (n=513). Results for Federal Government Agency, Local Sporting Organisation and Member of Local Government Stakeholders not shown due to small base sizes.

Good service, communication and positive experiences with staff are the main reasons Stakeholders are satisfied.

The beneficial services and value that CRCs provide to the community were also mentioned.

Positive experiences with staff

"CRC staff are very helpful, thorough, knowledgeable, innovative, considerate & patient."

Local Community Group Stakeholder

"The person I was dealing with was very proactive and followed up on the requirements that they had to do as part of the grant."

State Government Agency Stakeholder

"Friendly helpful staff. Well organised, willing to do that little bit extra."

Private Business Stakeholder

Good service and communication

"Exceptional service, competitive rates, local knowledge that can not be matched."

Local Community Group Stakeholder

"Their customer service is very helpful."

Personal Business Stakeholder

"Very good communication and enthusiastic to help their community."

Not-for-Profit Organisation Stakeholder

"Prompt replies to queries, excellent communication."

Local Sporting Club Stakeholder

Community value

"Services offered at the CRC cover areas that the Shire cannot and do not."

Local Government Authority Stakeholder

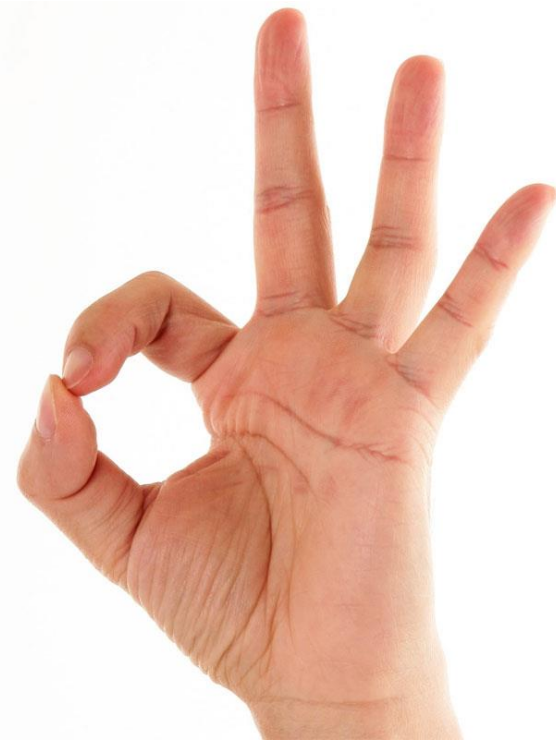
"We couldn't run our program without their invaluable support and community connections."

Not-for-Profit Organisation Stakeholder

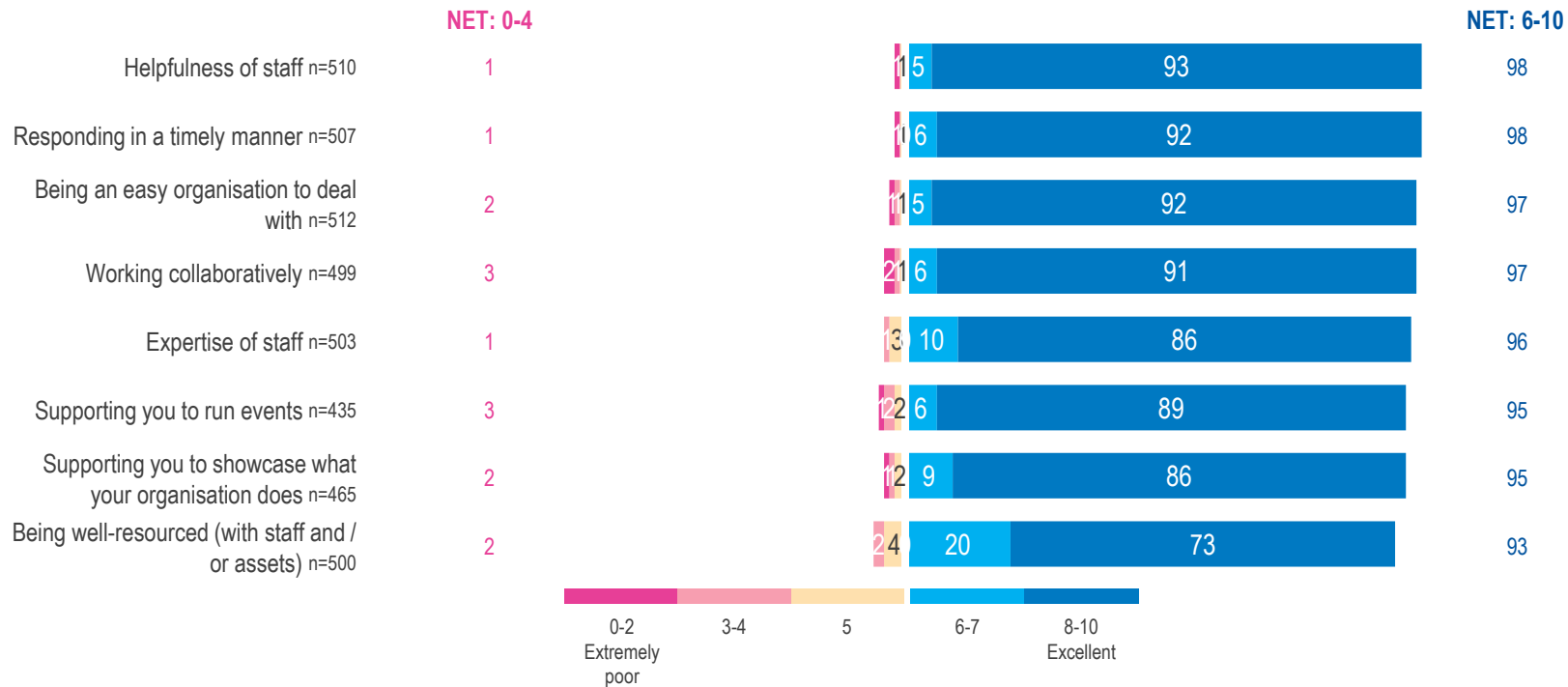
"CRCs are an integral part of their small communities and the wider West Australian regional community".

Private Business Stakeholder

CRCs are performing well
across all areas of
performance.

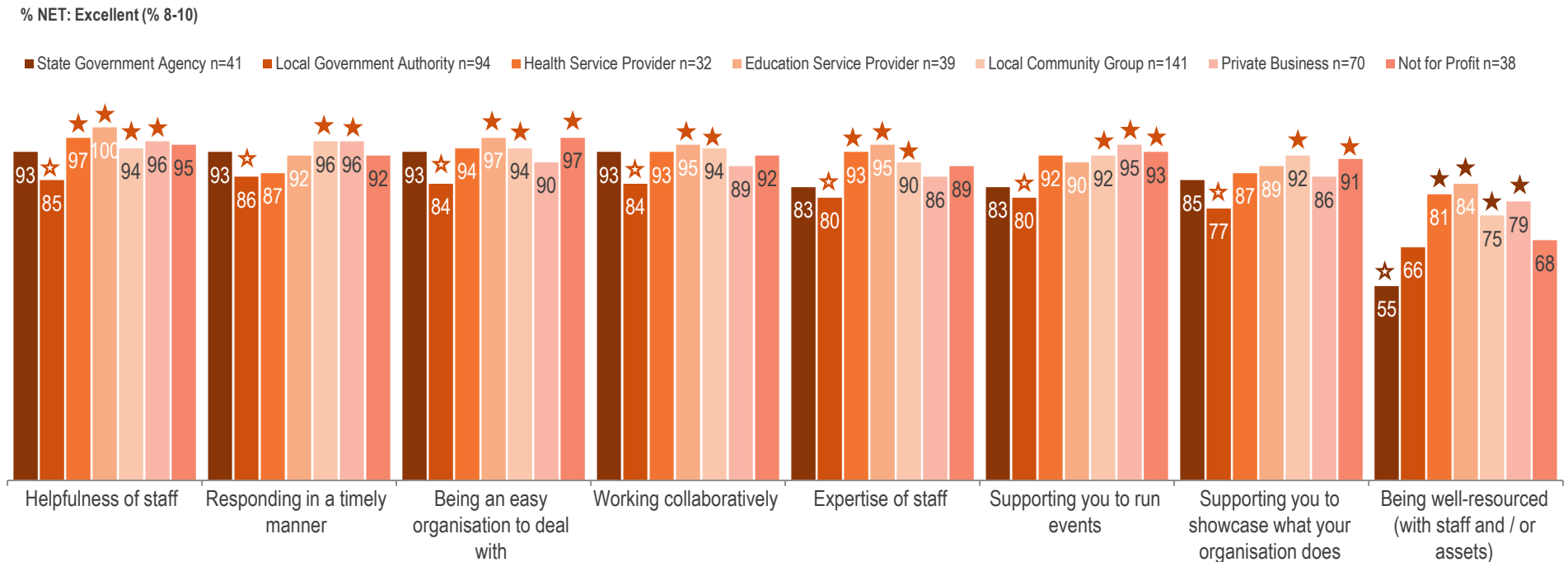


Over 9 in 10 Stakeholders rate CRCs' performance as good or excellent across all areas of performance.



Satisfaction with how CRCs perform, is high among all Stakeholder groups.

While some Stakeholder groups did not rate the performance of CRCs quite as highly as other groups, none of the Stakeholder groups rated CRCs poorly.



Q7. How would you rate the performance of [CRCs] on the below? Base: All respondents (n=513).
Results for Federal Government Agency, Local Sporting Organisation and Member of Local Government Stakeholders not shown due to small base sizes.

Stakeholders have varied suggestions for how CRCs could improve.

Many Stakeholders feel that CRCs already do all they can and do not need to change. However, among those that do have a suggestion for what CRCs could do differently there are many different ideas.

"Offer more business short courses like training workshops."
Local Community Group Stakeholder

"Nothing really. Just very happy that they are there."
Not-for-Profit Organisation Stakeholder

"I would like to see more training opportunities for youth."
Other Organisation Stakeholder

"It would be great to extend opening hours to night times and weekends so live events can happen across all communities together around Australia, to help those communities see they are connected."

Education Service Provider Stakeholder

"I would like to see them have a more flexible resourcing framework to enable them to be more adaptive to community needs and opportunities."
Member of Elected Government Stakeholder

"Stop seeing local government as their competition and understand we can do better if we work together."
Local Government Authority Stakeholder

"Very satisfied with current level of service."
Health Service Provider Stakeholder

General Attitudes Towards CRCs

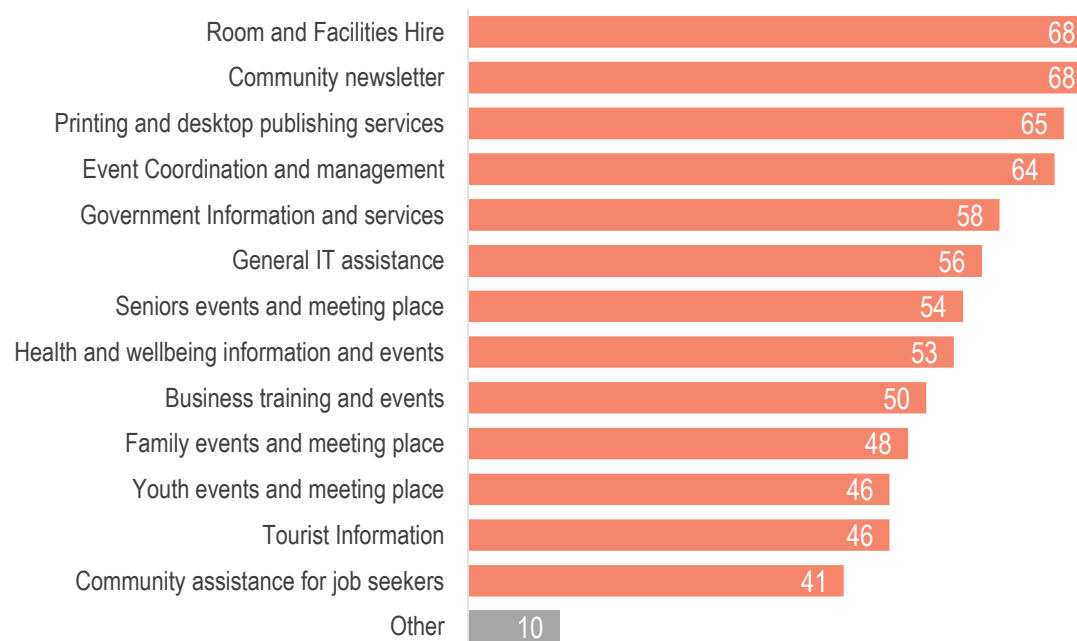


Facilities hire, and the community newsletter are the most valued CRC services.



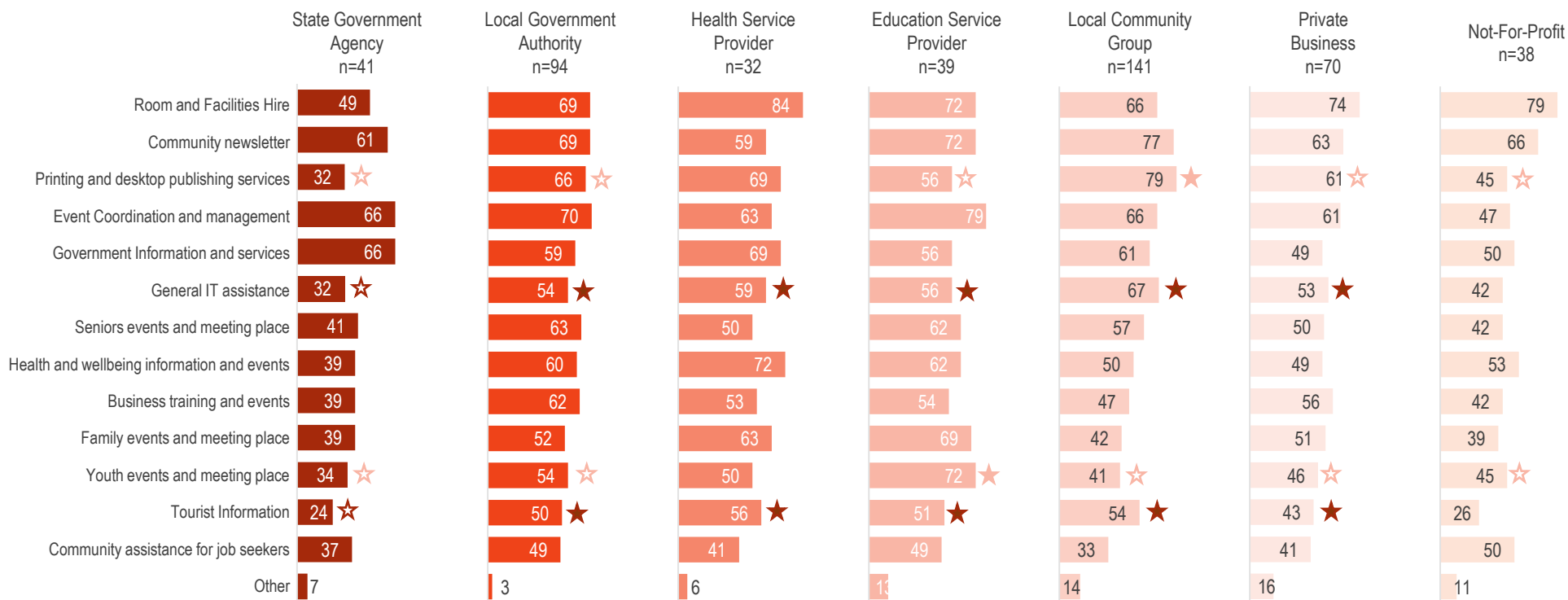
Roughly 2 in 3 value the facilities hire and the community newsletter offered by CRCs.

A similar proportion value printing and desktop publishing services and event coordination and management.



The two most valued services are equally valued by Stakeholders regardless of their organisation.

However other services offered by CRCs are valued differently by Stakeholders from different organisations.



Beyond the services that CRCs provide, the community support and connection CRCs offer is what Stakeholders value most.

Stakeholders also value the information, resources, and local knowledge that CRCs provide to the community.

"It's a community home. It helps build community and mate ship."
Other Organisation Stakeholder

"Local knowledge and investment in their communities."
State Government Stakeholder

"The support that they provide the community in terms of their expertise and resources."
Health Service Provider Stakeholder

"Assisting community groups and the community. Enabling us to get funding and assistance for community events, projects and to keep our community thriving."
Local Community Group Stakeholder

"I think having a central place the community can turn to is so vital. There are so many services out there but there is a need for a central one-stop shop for client's to go when they don't know what supports will be best for their situation."
Not-for Profit Organisation Stakeholder

"They bring the community together through programs, events, services and activities."
Local Government Authority Stakeholder

"Local organisation for local people."
Local Community Group Stakeholder

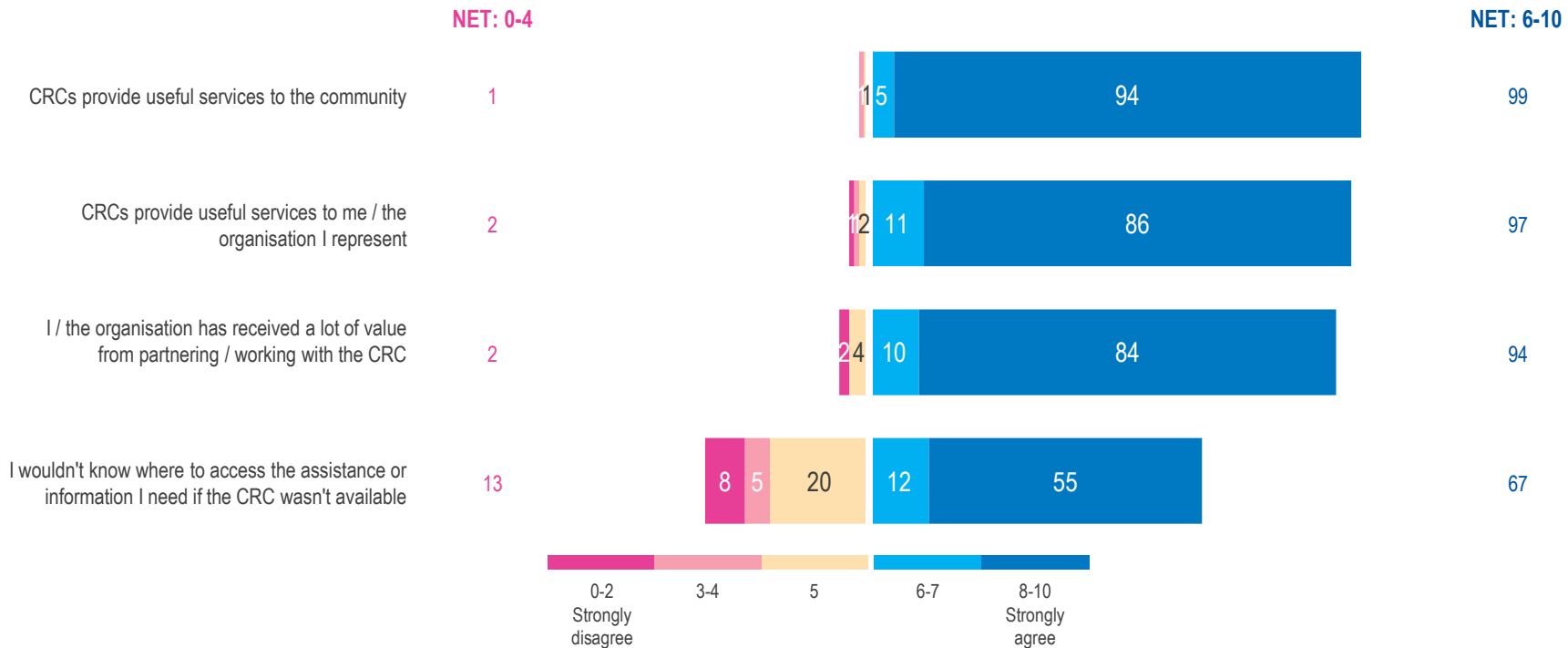
Almost all Stakeholders agree
that CRCs provide useful
services to the community.



Over 9 in 10 *strongly* agree that CRCs provide the community with useful services.

A similar proportion also strongly agree the services are useful to their organisation.

While more than 9 in 10 agree their organisation has received a lot of value from working with the CRC, just over 1 in 10 disagree that they wouldn't know where to access assistance or information without a CRC.



Providing what others cannot, and being a one-stop shop are the main reasons why Stakeholders perceive CRCs as providing useful services.



Fill a gap no one else can / Without them we couldn't reach the community

"Without the CRC we would not have a service repository nor the information readily available."

Local Community Group Stakeholder

"CRC networks enable many businesses such as ours to have an effective presence in those communities that would not be possible without the CRC network."

Education Service Provider Stakeholder

"Small regional communities do not have access to facilities, knowledge, information, IT and training opportunities without the CRCs."

Not-for-Profit Organisation Stakeholder



They're a one-stop shop / central hub for lots of services

"It is a one stop shop provision of information, access and support."

Local Community Group Stakeholder

"Nearly everything you need in one place."

State Government Agency Stakeholder

"They are a central source of information in rural areas and communities."

Local Community Group Stakeholder

"They are a central go to point, a community hub for information, support, advice and coordination of community needs."

Education Service Provider Stakeholder



CRCs assist everyone / All are welcome

"They provide an area where people and anyone in the community can feel welcome there and not feel like there's discrimination."

State Government Agency Stakeholder

"Anyone can walk through the door and get the help they need with whatever they ask."

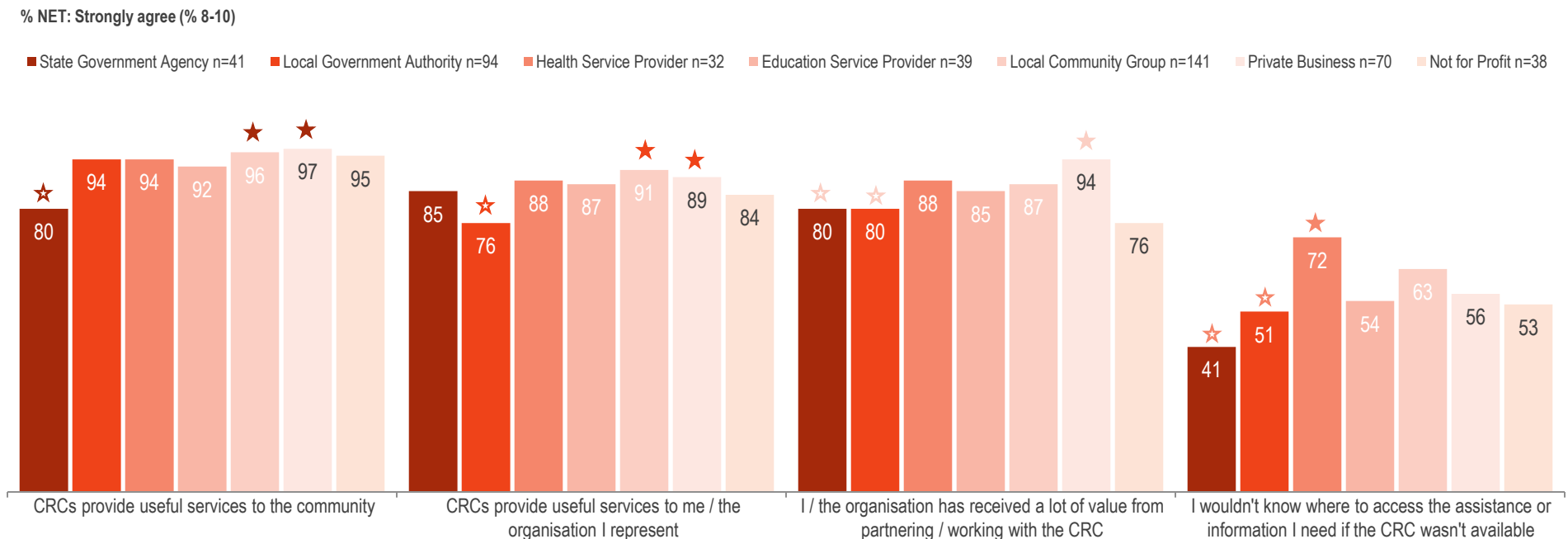
Local Government Authority Stakeholder

"Warm, friendly environment and all community Stakeholders welcome."

State Government Agency Stakeholder

Private Business and Local Community Group Stakeholders are more likely to strongly agree with statements concerning the value of CRCs.

However, even those less likely to strongly agree still highly value CRCs.



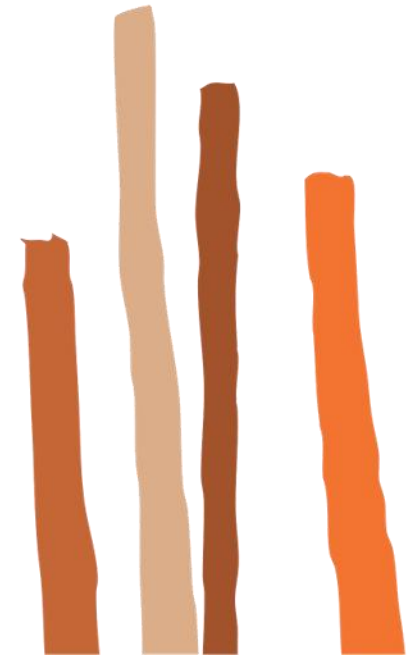
Key Takeouts



Good service, communication and positive experiences with staff are important for maintaining high satisfaction among Stakeholders.

Among Stakeholders that are satisfied with CRCs, the most frequently mentioned reasons for their satisfaction are good service, communication and positive experiences with staff. In contrast, those that are not satisfied mainly attribute their dissatisfaction to poor engagement and service.

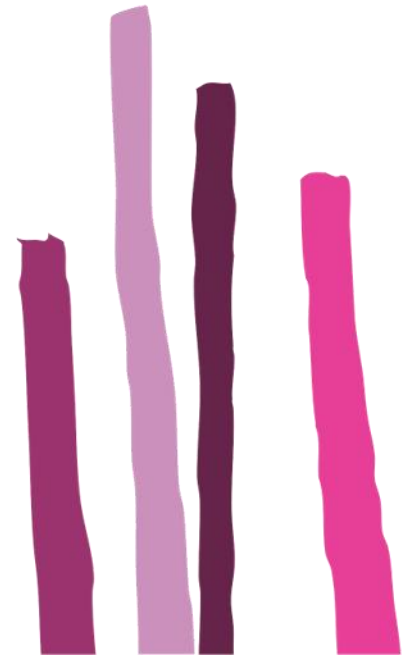
This illustrates the importance of CRCs offering good service to Stakeholders and both communicating and engaging with them to maintain high satisfaction. Positively, the helpfulness of staff and being easy to deal with are where CRCs currently perform best among Stakeholders. Maintaining this strong performance will be crucial for keeping Stakeholders highly satisfied.



Stakeholders perceive CRCs as highly valuable to their organisation and the community.

Over 8 in 10 Stakeholders strongly agree that CRCs provide them or their organisation with useful services and that they wouldn't know where to access these services without CRCs. Around 9 in 10 strongly agree that CRCs provide useful services to the community.

Beyond just the services they provide, Stakeholders see the most value in CRCs filling gaps that others cannot in regional communities, and being a central community hub where any community member can come to access lots of different services.



Hunt Smarter.





SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #11

Thursday, 10 February 2022 12:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the A/Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Tania Wallace

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday, 10 February**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **2,044** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,619** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,361,441** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

High caseload setting

Western Australia (WA) transitioned to high caseload setting arrangements from Tuesday, 8 February 2022, to appropriately manage COVID-19 in the community. The high caseload setting arrangements include:

- new close contact definition
- new testing and isolation guidelines
- schools and childcare centre close contact [protocols](#)
- mandatory positive rapid antigen test [registration](#)
- removal of casual contacts.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and the [media release](#) for further information.

Travel

From Wednesday, 9 February 2022, the following travel-related high caseload setting changes will be implemented:

- quarantine for approved international and interstate travellers reduced to seven days
- travellers must then wear a mask in indoor and outdoor settings for the seven days after they end their self-quarantine
- vaccinated direct international travellers permitted to self-quarantine at a suitable premise, if eligible, with the arrivals cap doubled to 530 travellers per week
- mandatory use of G2G NOW will still be required by all arrivals in self-quarantine
- unvaccinated international arrivals required to complete 14 days in hotel quarantine.

Refer to the [media release](#) and [announcement](#) for new hard border arrangement information.

RATs for travellers

All interstate and international travellers will be given two RATs on arrival at Perth Airport to accommodate their testing requirements.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for information.

New hard border

Western Australia's new hard border is now in place to enable safe, compassionate travel into WA and the return of Western Australians. This includes new requirements for approved travellers to enter WA from interstate or international locations.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and the WA.gov.au [website](#) for information.

Elective surgery

WA will reduce the number of elective surgery bookings made in anticipation of expected system pressures as COVID-19 case numbers increase.

All public hospitals, including public-private partnership hospitals, will temporarily pause further bookings for multi-day non-urgent Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgeries from 28 February 2022 for a two-months. Bookings made before this time are expected to be performed. A weekly cap will be introduced for Category 2 procedures. All Category 1 bookings will continue.

Refer to the [media statement](#) for information.

Transition resources for HCW

The Department of Health has developed a [webpage](#) for transition policies and resources for healthcare workers.

The policies and resources will assist the WA health system in responding to the anticipated surge in COVID-19 community transmission and continue to provide excellent care to our community. The information applies to WA public sector clinicians, private health providers, general practices and pharmacies.

RAT use

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) can now be used as a diagnostic tool for COVID-19, as per high caseload setting health advice. Positive COVID-19 RAT results must be reported [online](#) within the Department of Health. Those without online access must register their positive RAT result by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843).

Information regarding RAT use is available at [HealthyWA](#) and [WA.gov.au](#). Information for [managing COVID-19](#) can be found at HealthyWA.

RAT for emergency department screening

WA public hospital emergency departments (EDs) in Perth and the South West will bolster their COVID-safe measures by screening patients using RATs before they enter.

Refer to the [media release](#) for information.

Public health advice

In line with the national approach, reference to casual contacts has ceased in WA. High risk exposure locations related to close contacts – where we cannot identify all contacts at the location – will continue to be listed. Low risk exposure sites may be listed in circumstances determined by public health. Western Australians are asked to continue to visit this [HealthyWA](#) regularly for updated or new exposure sites.

Anyone experiencing any symptoms should get [tested](#) immediately and isolate until they receive a negative result. This applies to anyone symptomatic – even if you have not visited a listed exposure site.

Western Australians are encouraged to stay vigilant and use SafeWA/ServiceWA and mandatory contact registers to check into businesses and venues.

For information on public health measures including mask wearing and proof of vaccination, see the [WA.gov.au website](#). More information is also available in the [media statement](#).

New information on HealthyWA

The WA Department of Health continues to develop information material to ensure the WA public can continue to access critical health advice relevant to the current situation. **You are encouraged to check back regularly for updates, particularly as new announcements are made.**

The [website](#) now has information on managing COVID-19 at home and in the community, which will continue to be refined as the situation evolves. The WA COVID Care at Home [program](#), [rapid antigen test information](#) and positive rapid antigen test result [online registration](#) portal has recently been [published](#).

Business, industry and agencies developing COVID-19 resources should refer to information on [HealthyWA](#), the [Department of Health](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) websites to ensure appropriate advice is sourced.

Public hospital visitor guidelines and SAR

The *COVID-19 Public Hospital Visitor Guidelines* continues to be updated to provide clarification and incorporate feedback.

The WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR) will be updated in the coming weeks to align with revised policy and to provide clarification. Topics under review includes:

- visitor guidance
- testing guidelines
- publicly funded dental services
- mental health services provided by HSPs.

Outpatient guidelines are being revised and work is being progressed to develop web content.

The current risk rating is interim Amber for the following regions:

- Perth/Peel
- South West.

All other regions of the State remain at alert level Green.

Refer to the visitor guidelines [document](#) and [SAR](#) on the Department of Health website under 'clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community

Face masks

The use of [face masks](#) is an important tool to minimise COVID-19 transmission and the effect on the WA community, particularly when there is active community transmission.

The Directions that require mask use offer a list of [exceptions](#), including if the person has a physical or mental illness, condition or disability that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable.

If registered health practitioners believe their patient's medical condition is serious enough that they are unable to safely wear a mask, they can provide their patients with a letter of confirmation. The letter does not need to define the patient's condition.

Schools and gatherings

The WA Government released new guidance to schools to limit in-school gatherings of students to minimise the effect of a COVID-19 case attending the school before diagnosis. In-school gatherings of students and staff should be limited to class groups or small groups within a year level.

Refer to the [media release](#) for information.

Information for the fishing industry

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have developed [guidance](#) for the fishing industry, particularly relating to the impact of COVID-19 and mandatory vaccination.

Refer to the WA.gov.au [website](#) for further information.

Test and isolation payment

The WA Government announced a new COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment program to support Western Australian's who are required to isolate while waiting for a COVID-19 PCR test result and lose income as a result. More information is available in the [announcement](#) and [FAQs](#).

RAT consumer quotas

New regulations were implemented to enable proper management of the supply of COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in WA. A new iteration of the [Directions](#) is now available.

COVID-19 vaccination program

ATAGI approves Pfizer boosters for 16 and 17-year-old children

On 3 February 2022, ATAGI [recommended](#) all 16 and 17 years old receive a booster vaccination with the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine, 3 or more months after receiving their previous primary dose. This includes those who were aged under 16 years when they received their last primary dose and are now aged 16 years.

Those aged 16 and 17 years who are immunocompromised and have received a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine should also receive a booster dose (fourth dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible.

Those aged 16 and 17 years with risk factors for severe disease (including chronic disease) or pregnancy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or those who work in environmental settings that place them at higher risk should receive their booster as soon as they are eligible.

ATAGI advice on Novavax use in mixed primary schedule

ATAGI has [advised](#) that Novavax COVID-19 vaccine can be administered as part of a [heterologous \(mixed\) primary schedule](#) to people who have received one or more doses of another COVID-19 vaccine, including as a third dose for people with severe immunocompromise.

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is not currently recommended for use as a booster vaccine.

Booster Blitz

A two-week vaccination blitz to increase booster vaccination rates was [announced](#) on 2 February 2022 to keep Western Australians safe. The blitz will see an extra 40,000 appointments available at the State-run vaccination clinics, increasing the weekly capacity at these clinics to around 100,000

doses. People are encouraged to book an appointment by visiting [VaccinateWA](#) or calling 13COVID if assistance is required.

Community vaccination clinics

Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times. To avoid extended queues, people are encouraged to make a booking at [VaccinateWA](#) or 13COVID, as people with bookings will be prioritised.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) – workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- KAMS – [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Carlton Football Club](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Collingwood Football Club](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions West Coast Eagles Football Club](#)
- [Air North \(Crew and Engineer\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Chief Health Officer Approval to Request COVID-19 Testing on Patients of a Private Hospital](#)
- [Air Services and Border Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Aircraft Travel \(Face Mask\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Airport and Transportation \(Face Mask\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions](#)
- [Close Contact Definition Amendment Directions](#)
- [Fire and Emergency Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Quarantine Centre Workers \(Secondary Employment\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Rapid Antigen Test \(Restrictions on Sale and Supply\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination \(No 2\) \(Revocation\) Directions](#)
- [Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Access to Quarantine Centres Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Air North \(Crew and Engineer\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

- [Aircraft from Restricted Locations Arrival Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Beach Energy Ocean Onyx Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Consequential Revocations\) Directions](#)
- [Critical Businesses Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [DFES Interstate Firefighter Directions](#)
- [Entry by Approved Border Community Residents and Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Entry to Kimberley Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Kuri Bay Worker Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 39\)](#)
- [Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Santos Bayu-Undan Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Seasonal Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Transitional Travellers \(Continuation of G2G Entry QR Codes\) Directions](#)
- [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 12\)](#)
- [Yongah Hill Immigration Detainees Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Health Care Workers Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Unofficial Consolidation of the COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Directions \(as at 4 February 2022\)](#)
- [Health Care Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Meat Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Eastern Goldfields College: Identification Of Class To Whom A Proof Exception Under Paragraph 8\(D\) Applies](#)

Updated fact sheets

- [Information on COVID-19 and Building Ventilation](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Air Purifiers/Cleaners](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Ventilation at Home](#)

Testing

General population testing criteria

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Positive rapid antigen test results must be registered

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 14 January 2022.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact register](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific FAQs](#)
- [Proof of vaccination Directions, information and FAQs](#)

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **15 February 2022**.

Last updated **10 February 2022**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2021



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #12

Tuesday, 15 February 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the A/Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Tania Wallace

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Tuesday, 15 February**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **2,383** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **1,902** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,393,641** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

WA COVID Care at Home program

The WA COVID Care at Home [program](#) has been launched to provide home monitoring care for COVID-19 positive people who have risk factors which put them at greater risk of requiring hospitalisation. It is a free service, however [registration](#) is required to determine whether the program would be of benefit to the case.

High caseload setting

Western Australia (WA) transitioned to high caseload setting arrangements from Tuesday, 8 February 2022, to appropriately manage COVID-19 in the community. The high caseload setting arrangements include:

- new close contact definition
- new testing and isolation guidelines
- schools and childcare centre close contact [protocols](#)
- mandatory positive rapid antigen test [registration](#)
- removal of casual contacts.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and the [media release](#) for further information.

Travel

From Wednesday, 9 February 2022, the following travel-related high caseload setting changes will be implemented:

- quarantine for approved international and interstate travellers reduced to seven days
- travellers must then wear a mask in indoor and outdoor settings for the seven days after they end their self-quarantine

- vaccinated direct international travellers permitted to self-quarantine at a suitable premise, if eligible, with the arrivals cap doubled to 530 travellers per week
- mandatory use of G2G NOW will still be required by all arrivals in self-quarantine
- unvaccinated international arrivals required to complete 14 days in hotel quarantine.

Refer to the [media release](#) and [announcement](#) for new hard border arrangement information.

RATs for travellers

All interstate and international travellers will be given two RATs on arrival at Perth Airport to accommodate their testing requirements.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for information.

New hard border

Western Australia's new hard border is now in place to enable safe, compassionate travel into WA and the return of Western Australians. This includes new requirements for approved travellers to enter WA from interstate or international locations.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and the WA.gov.au [website](#) for information.

Elective surgery

WA will reduce the number of elective surgery bookings made in anticipation of expected system pressures as COVID-19 case numbers increase.

All public hospitals, including public-private partnership hospitals, will temporarily pause further bookings for multi-day non-urgent Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgeries for two-months. **This will start on 14 March 2022 at all WA public hospitals and on 21 March 2022 at some larger private hospitals.** Bookings made before this time are expected to be performed. A weekly cap will be introduced for Category 2 procedures. All Category 1 bookings will continue.

Refer to the [media statement](#) for information.

Transition resources for HCW

The Department of Health has developed a [webpage](#) for transition policies and resources for healthcare workers.

The policies and resources will assist the WA health system in responding to the anticipated surge in COVID-19 community transmission and continue to provide excellent care to our community. The information applies to WA public sector clinicians, private health providers, general practices and pharmacies.

RAT use

Rapid antigen tests (RATs) can now be used as a diagnostic tool for COVID-19, as per high caseload setting health advice. Positive COVID-19 RAT results must be reported [online](#) within the Department of Health.

Information regarding RAT use is available at [HealthyWA](#) and [WA.gov.au](#). Information for [managing COVID-19](#) can be found at HealthyWA.

RAT for emergency department screening

WA public hospital emergency departments (EDs) in Perth and the South West will bolster their COVID-safe measures by screening patients using RATs before they enter.

Refer to the [media release](#) for information.

Public health advice

In line with the national approach, reference to casual contacts has ceased in WA. High risk exposure locations related to close contacts – where we cannot identify all contacts at the location – will continue to be listed. Low risk exposure sites may be listed in circumstances determined by public health. Western Australians are asked to continue to visit this [HealthyWA](#) regularly for updated or new exposure sites.

Anyone experiencing any symptoms should get [tested](#) immediately and isolate until they receive a negative result. This applies to anyone symptomatic – even if you have not visited a listed exposure site.

Western Australians are encouraged to stay vigilant and use SafeWA/ServiceWA and mandatory contact registers to check into businesses and venues.

For information on public health measures including mask wearing and proof of vaccination, see the [WA.gov.au website](#). More information is also available in the [media statement](#).

Public hospital visitor guidelines and SAR

The *COVID-19 Public Hospital Visitor Guidelines* continues to be updated to provide clarification and incorporate feedback.

The WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR) will be updated in the coming weeks to align with revised policy and to provide clarification. Topics under review includes:

- visitor guidance
- testing guidelines
- publicly funded dental services
- mental health services provided by HSPs.

Outpatient guidelines are being revised and work is being progressed to develop web content.

The current risk rating is interim Amber for the following regions:

- Perth/Peel
- South West.

All other regions of the State remain at alert level Green.

Refer to the visitor guidelines [document](#) and [SAR](#) on the Department of Health website under 'clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community

Ventilation fact sheets

Three facts sheets have been developed to assist homeowners, building managers and public health personnel to assess and manage ventilation and indoor air quality to reduce the risk posed by COVID-19 in indoor environments. They can be found on the 'Information for business, industry and local government' page of the Department of Health [website](#).

Safe Transition Industry Support Package

The WA Government has announced the Safe Transition Industry Support Package to assist eligible businesses and individuals in sectors most affected by the decision to delay the full reopening of WA's borders. It includes nine support programs for the international education, tourism, aviation and events sectors. Information is available in the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au website](#).

Face masks

The use of [face masks](#) is an important tool to minimise COVID-19 transmission and the effect on the WA community, particularly when there is active community transmission.

The Directions that require mask use offer a list of [exceptions](#), including if the person has a physical or mental illness, condition or disability that makes wearing a face mask unsuitable.

If registered health practitioners believe their patient's medical condition is serious enough that they are unable to safely wear a mask, they can provide their patients with a letter of confirmation. The letter does not need to define the patient's condition.

Schools and gatherings

The WA Government released new guidance to schools to limit in-school gatherings of students to minimise the effect of a COVID-19 case attending the school before diagnosis. In-school gatherings of students and staff should be limited to class groups or small groups within a year level.

Refer to the [media release](#) for information.

Information for the fishing industry

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) have developed [guidance](#) for the fishing industry, particularly relating to the impact of COVID-19 and mandatory vaccination.

Refer to the WA.gov.au [website](#) for further information.

Test and isolation payment

The WA Government announced a new COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment program to support Western Australian's who are required to isolate while waiting for a COVID-19 PCR test result and lose income as a result. More information is available in the [announcement](#) and [FAQs](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

ATAGI announce new 'up-to-date' vaccination status

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) released a [statement](#) on 10 February 2022 defining 'up-to-date' status for COVID-19 vaccination. The advice states that all individuals aged 16 years and over are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to maintain an 'up-to-date' status. This booster dose is now recommended from 3 months after the last primary dose. This is called the 'due date'. Specific information for people who are severely immunocompromised or who have previously had COVID-19, is available in the [statement](#).

This 'up-to-date' guidance serves as the basis for policies for the public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic in a domestic context. It forms the basis of the due and overdue rules for the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Advice may change as the pandemic evolves.

New Commonwealth Vaccination Hubs open this week

The Australian Government has established a small number of pop-up vaccination hubs in the below locations for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. Walk-in appointments are available. Hubs are open from 15 to 19 February 2022 between 10:30am and 6pm.

Locations

Osborne Community Hub	11 Royal St, Tuart Hill WA 6017
Scarborough Library	173 Gildercliffe St, Scarborough WA 6019
Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre	400 Abernethy Rd, Cloverdale WA 6105
Uniting Church Hall	133 Le Souef Dr, Kardinya WA 6163
St Augustine's Church	21 Cale St, Como WA 6152

ATAGI approves Pfizer boosters for 16 and 17-year-old children

On 3 February 2022, ATAGI [recommended](#) all 16 and 17 years old receive a booster vaccination with the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine, 3 or more months after receiving their previous primary dose. This includes those who were aged under 16 years when they received their last primary dose and are now aged 16 years.

Those aged 16 and 17 years who are immunocompromised and have received a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine should also receive a booster dose (fourth dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible.

Those aged 16 and 17 years with risk factors for severe disease (including chronic disease) or pregnancy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or those who work in environmental settings that place them at higher risk should receive their booster as soon as they are eligible.

ATAGI advice on Novavax use in mixed primary schedule

ATAGI has [advised](#) that Novavax COVID-19 vaccine can be administered as part of a [heterologous \(mixed\) primary schedule](#) to people who have received one or more doses of another COVID-19 vaccine, including as a third dose for people with severe immunocompromise.

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is not currently recommended for use as a booster vaccine.

Booster Blitz

A two-week vaccination blitz to increase booster vaccination rates was [announced](#) on 2 February 2022 to keep Western Australians safe. The blitz will see an extra 40,000 appointments available at the State-run vaccination clinics, increasing the weekly capacity at these clinics to around 100,000 doses. People are encouraged to book an appointment by visiting [VaccinateWA](#) or calling 13COVID if assistance is required.

Community vaccination clinics

Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times. To avoid extended queues, people are encouraged to make a booking at [VaccinateWA](#) or 13COVID, as people with bookings will be prioritised.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) – workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- KAMS – [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Fremantle Dockers Football Club](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Perth Lynx](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Directions \(No 4\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Airport Workers – Direct International Arrivals\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Transport and Accommodation Services \(Exposed Maritime Worker\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(40\)](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Carlton Football Club](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions Collingwood Football Club](#)
- [COVID Transition Sports Directions West Coast Eagles Football Club](#)
- [Air North \(Crew and Engineer\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Air Services and Border Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Aircraft Travel \(Face Mask\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Airport and Transportation \(Face Mask\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions](#)
- [Close Contact Definition Amendment Directions](#)
- [Fire and Emergency Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Quarantine Centre Workers \(Secondary Employment\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Rapid Antigen Test \(Restrictions on Sale and Supply\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Access to Quarantine Centres Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Aircraft from Restricted Locations Arrival Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Beach Energy Ocean Onyx Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Consequential Revocations\) Directions](#)
- [Critical Businesses Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

- [DFES Interstate Firefighter Directions](#)
- [Entry by Approved Border Community Residents and Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Entry to Kimberley Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Exposure Sites \(Outside of Western Australia\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Seasonal Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Transitional Travellers \(Continuation of G2G Entry QR Codes\) Directions](#)
- [Yongah Hill Immigration Detainees Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Health Care Workers Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Health Care Workers Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Meat Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Eastern Goldfields College: Identification of Class to Whom A Proof Exception Under Paragraph 8\(D\) Applies](#)

Updated fact sheets

- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Non-State Quarantine Facilities Providing Accommodation for Guests in Quarantine or Isolation Version 5.1](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Onsite Healthcare Teams in State quarantine Facilities Version 9](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Neonatal Services Version 5](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Building Ventilation](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Air Purifiers/Cleaners](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 and Ventilation at Home](#)

Testing

General population testing criteria

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Positive rapid antigen test results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 14 January 2022.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases,

the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. AHPPC recently released the following statement:

- [15 February 2022](#) – Mandating booster vaccinations in residential aged care workers

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact register](#) information
- SafeWA [user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [FAQs](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [FAQs](#)

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **22 February 2022**.

Last updated **15 February 2022**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2021



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #13

Wednesday, 23 February 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Wednesday, 23 February**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **4,452** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **2,655** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,469,211** COVID-19 tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot & Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports & WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Advice on Liquor Stores and Bottle Shops](#) — 22 February 2022
- [Transition to level 1 public health and social measures](#) — 18 February 2022
- [Controlled Border Arrangements](#) — 18 February 2022

Public health and social measures

As of 6:00am Monday, 21 February 2022, additional public health and social measures took effect in regions across Western Australia (WA). Level 1 public health and social measures (PHSM) are in place for Perth, Peel, South West, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Pilbara regions and all other regions must adhere to baseline measures. Level 2 PHSM will be introduced, if necessary.

Refer to the WA.gov.au [website](#) and [announcement](#) for information.

Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine (TTIQ) Plan

As WA transitions to living with COVID-19, and caseloads are higher within the community – businesses, facilities and service providers will be required to play a more active role in managing COVID-19 related communications within their workplaces.

The [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan](#) provides guidance and [resources](#) for businesses, facilities, and service providers to assist with this transition.

These resources provide information on how to notify close contacts in the workplace of a case, and the testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine (TTIQ) requirements in different settings – including businesses, schools and aged care.

System alert and response

The *WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response* (SAR) provides overarching guidance for public hospitals to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 transmission. Non-government health care organisations, including private hospitals, may find the guidance useful when determining their own strategies to mitigate risks to patients and service delivery associated with COVID-19.

The current risk ratings in place for the following regions are:

- Interim AMBER: Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields and Kimberley
- AMBER: Perth, Peel, South West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern

Refer to the [SAR](#) on the Department of Health website for the requirements of each risk rating.

COVID-19 medicines available

The Commonwealth Department of Health has authorised a limited number of COVID-19 medications, available through the National Medical Stockpile, to treat WA patients who meet specific criteria.

Governance documents, patient information sheets and consent forms are available on the Department of Health [webpage](#) in the 'Clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community healthcare practice guidelines

The *COVID-19 Guidelines for Healthcare Practices in the Community in a High and Very High Caseload Environment* will assist healthcare practices in assessing the risk following a COVID-19 exposure. They are considered different to general workplace settings due to the potential susceptibility of patients and the duty of care related to providing health services. The guidelines will ensure that healthcare practices in the community can risk-assess COVID-19 exposure and ensure continuity of critical services, particularly in remote and rural WA, and that healthcare practitioners are better positioned to support patients in their ongoing health needs.

Refer to the Department of Health [website](#) for information.

Healthcare worker furloughing guidelines

The *WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines* have been [published](#), replacing the interim advice. Visit the 'Transition policies and resources for healthcare workers' [page](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Critical worker furlough registration

The WA Government launched the online critical worker furloughing registration [system](#), required during a very high caseload environment to ensure critical supply chains and services continue. WA is not currently in a very high caseload environment however, businesses are encouraged to assess the criteria and register relevant critical workers as part of their COVID-19 preparedness strategy.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for more information.

Updated COVID-19 modelling

The WA Department of Health released updated COVID-19 modelling to reflect the recent emergence of the Omicron variant.

Refer to [WA.gov.au](https://www.health.wa.gov.au) for more information.

Border update

Based on the latest health advice, the updated Safe Transition Plan will be in place from Thursday, 3 March 2022. This will allow for safe travel into WA from interstate and overseas, with vaccination and testing requirements on arrival.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

Elective surgery update

The temporary scale down of elective surgery, set to commence on 14 March at all WA public hospitals and on 21 March at some larger private hospitals, relates to all surgery, not just non-urgent multi-day elective surgery, as previously reported.

WA COVID Care at Home program

The WA COVID Care at Home [program](#) has been launched to provide home monitoring care for COVID-19 positive people who have risk factors which put them at greater risk of requiring hospitalisation. It is a free service, however [registration](#) is required to determine whether the program would be of benefit to the case.

Community

Kids and COVID-19

The Telethon Kids Institute have developed a variety of resources about COVID-19 and children. Refer to the Telethon Kids Institute [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) for information.

Ventilation fact sheets

Three facts sheets have been developed to assist homeowners, building managers and public health personnel to assess and manage ventilation and indoor air quality to reduce the risk posed by COVID-19 in indoor environments. They can be found on the 'Information for business, industry and local government' page of the Department of Health [website](#).

Safe Transition Industry Support Package

The WA Government has announced the Safe Transition Industry Support Package to assist eligible businesses and individuals in sectors most affected by the decision to delay the full reopening of WA's borders. It includes nine support programs for the international education, tourism, aviation and events sectors. Information is available in the [announcement](#) and WA.gov.au [website](#).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Moderna approved by TGA for 6 to 11-year-old children

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [announced](#) on 17 February 2022, the provisional approval of the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine for use in children aged 6 and older. This vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 years should be administered as 2 doses at least 28 days apart. A lower dose of 0.25 mL (50 micrograms) will be given to children 6 to 11 years, compared to the 0.5 mL (100 microgram) dose used for those 12 years and older. Further advice on the rollout of Moderna to this age group will be provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) in coming weeks.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

WA Department of Health [announced](#) on 21 February 2022 that the Novavax vaccine is now available at State vaccination clinics. Novavax will be offered to walk-in clients, for the first week only, on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday to Wednesday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday and Thursday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC) (Thursday to Sunday). Following this week, bookings will be essential via the [VaccinateWA](#) or [Roll up for WA](#) websites. From 28 February 2022, Novavax will also be available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

ATAGI recommend COVID-19 vaccine 4 months after COVID-19 infection

ATAGI recently provided updated [advice](#) reducing the time for deferral of COVID-19 vaccination after a previous COVID-19 illness to 4 months. This is due to the increased risk of re-infection with the Omicron variant, particularly for those who had a Delta variant infection in 2021. Current advice states that vaccination can occur following resolution of acute illness. A precaution for all vaccination is acute illness. This is to avoid adverse events (including common side effects of vaccination) in an already ill person or to avoid attributing illness symptoms to vaccination. Those with prolonged symptoms of COVID-19 should be vaccinated on a case-by-case basis.

ATAGI announce new 'up-to-date' vaccination status

ATAGI released a [statement](#) on 10 February 2022 defining 'up-to-date' status for COVID-19 vaccination. The advice states that all individuals aged 16 years and over are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to maintain an 'up-to-date' status. This booster dose is now recommended from 3 months after the last primary dose. This is called the 'due date'. Specific information for people who are severely immunocompromised or who have previously had COVID-19, is available in the [statement](#).

This up-to-date guidance serves as the basis for policies for the public health management of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a domestic context. It forms the basis of the due and overdue rules for the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Advice may change as the pandemic evolves.

New Commonwealth Vaccination Hubs open this week

The Australian Government has established a small number of pop-up vaccination hubs in the locations detailed below for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. **All hubs include wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.**

Address	Hours	Bookings
Uniting Church Hall 133 Le Souef Drive, Kardinya	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	Uniting Church Hall Kardinya booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328
St Augustine's Church (Como) 21 Cale St, Como	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	St Augustine's Church booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328
Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre 400 Abernethy Road, Cloverdale	Weekdays between 16 and 24 February 2022, 10.30am to 6.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	Belmont Sports and Recreation Centre booking link bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328

Osborne Community Hub 9 – 11 Royal St, Tuart Hill	Weekdays (excluding Wednesday) between 17 and 25 February 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available daily from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328
Scarborough Library 173 Gildercliffe St, Scarborough	28 February to 4 March 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm. Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328

Community vaccination clinics

Please check the community vaccination clinic list [online](#) for further information and opening times. To avoid extended queues, people are encouraged to make a booking at [VaccinateWA](#) or 13COVID (13 268 43), as people with bookings will be prioritised.

There will be numerous regional pop-up clinics available for walk-ins in the coming weeks. Visit the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) webpage for a list of these clinics and their opening times.

Existing [Community vaccination clinics](#) in WA include Armadale, Mirrabooka, Carramar, Mandurah, Canning Vale, Midland, Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, Claremont Showgrounds, Joondalup, Kwinana, and Bunbury.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna) and Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community) including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) – workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine FAQs (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 Vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- KAMS – [Get vaccinated against COVID-19 TVC Campaign](#)

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [Unofficial Consolidation of the COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(as of 22 February 2022\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Amendment Directions](#)
- [COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Jameson Community Immediate Lockdown Directions \(No 2\)](#)

- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.9\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Border Requirements\) Amendment Directions \(No 7\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Directions \(No 12\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 6\)](#)
- [Parliamentary Employees \(Restrictions on Access\) Direction](#)
- [Presentation for Testing Directions \(No 41\)](#)
- [Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Transport, Freight and Logistics Directions \(No 14\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Directions \(No 4\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [Exposed On-Board Worker Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Airport Workers – Direct International Arrivals\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Presentation for Testing \(Quarantine Centre Workers\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [Rig or Platform Crew Member Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Transport and Accommodation Services \(Exposed Maritime Worker\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)

Updated fact sheets

- [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan](#) (new)
- [WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines](#) (new)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35](#)
- [Clinician Alert – Public Health #80](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) (new)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians](#)
- [Medicines for COVID-19 in Residential Care Facilities and Aboriginal Health Services](#) (new)
- [Dialysis and COVID-19: Risks and Information](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Renal Dialysis Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Advice on Cleaning and Disinfection in the Workplace](#) (new)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Airport Staff Version 2](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Non-State Quarantine Facilities Providing Accommodation for Guests in Quarantine or Isolation Version 5.1](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Onsite Healthcare Teams in State quarantine Facilities Version 9](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Neonatal Services Version 5](#)

Testing

General population testing criteria

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35* is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) OR history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the notification form.

Positive rapid antigen test results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on **21 January 2022**.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\)](#) is the key decision-making committee for health emergencies. It is comprised of all state and territory Chief Health Officers and is chaired by the Australian Chief Medical Officer. The AHPPC has an ongoing role to advise the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) on health protection matters and national priorities. AHPPC is also tasked with the role of mitigating emerging health threats related to infectious diseases, the environment as well as natural and human made disasters. AHPPC recently released the following statement:

- [15 February 2022](#) – Mandating booster vaccinations in residential aged care workers

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [Department of Health Media Releases](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact register](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [FAQs](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [FAQs](#)

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **1 March 2022**.

Last updated **23 February 2022**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2022



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #14

Wednesday, 2 March 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Wednesday, 2 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **12,198** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **5,209** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,557,189** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) and [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Transition to Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 28 February 2022
- [Advice on Liquor Stores and Bottle Shops](#) — 22 February 2022

Public health and social measures

Level 2 [PHSM](#) will apply state-wide from 12:01am Thursday, 3 March 2022.

Refer to the [WA.gov.au website](#) for further information.

Resources for cases and contacts

Resources for confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts are available on the [HealthyWA](#) 'quarantine and isolation' page. The factsheets provide instructions to cases and close contacts to assist them to appropriately isolate or quarantine and understand their testing and post isolation and quarantine requirements.

Information about [COVID-19 positive children](#) is available.

Refer to the [HealthyWA](#) website regularly to access the most up to date advice.

SAR and hospital visitor guidelines

The *WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response* (SAR) provides overarching guidance for public hospitals to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 transmission. Non-government health care organisations, including private hospitals, may find the guidance useful when determining their own strategies to mitigate risks to patients and service delivery associated with COVID-19. Currently the State is at AMBER. **All regions will complete the transition to RED risk rating by 5:00pm Thursday, 3 March 2022.**

In line with this change, the *COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospital and Health services* have been [updated](#) and come into effect from 12.01am on Thursday, 3 March 2022. From this time, only essential visitors, as defined by this guideline and individual Health Service Providers, are permitted to visit.

The guidelines are a minimum requirement for public hospital and community services, however non-public hospital and community-based services may wish to apply the guidance.

Refer to the [SAR document](#) and [webpage](#) and the [visitor guidelines](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine (TTIQ) Plan

As WA transitions to living with COVID-19, and caseloads are higher in the community – businesses, facilities and service providers will be required to play a more active role in managing COVID-19 related communications in their workplaces.

The [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan](#) provides guidance and [resources](#) for businesses, facilities, and service providers to assist with this transition.

These resources provide information on how to notify close contacts in the workplace of a COVID-19 positive case, and the testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine (TTIQ) requirements in different settings – including businesses, schools and aged care facilities.

COVID-19 medicines available

The Commonwealth Department of Health has authorised a limited number of COVID-19 medications, available through the National Medical Stockpile, to treat WA patients who meet specific criteria.

Commencing 1 March 2022 Lagevrio® (Molnupiravir) will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Section 85 program as an Authority Required (Streamlined) benefit for patients with mild-moderate COVID 19 who have a high risk for developing severe disease, reducing the need for admission to hospital. Additional information can be found in a fact sheet on the PBS [website](#).

Governance documents, patient information sheets and consent forms are available on the Department of Health [webpage](#) in the 'Clinical guidelines' accordion.

Community healthcare practice guidelines

The *COVID-19 Guidelines for Healthcare Practices in the Community in a High and Very High Caseload Environment* will assist healthcare practices in assessing the risk following a COVID-19 exposure. Healthcare settings are considered different to general workplace settings due to the potential susceptibility of patients and the duty of care related to providing health services. The guidelines will ensure that healthcare practices in the community can risk-assess COVID-19 exposure and ensure continuity of critical services, particularly in remote and rural WA, and that healthcare practitioners are better positioned to support patients in their ongoing health needs.

Refer to the '[Community healthcare practice guideline](#)' accordion on the Department of Health [website](#) for information.

Healthcare worker furloughing guidelines

The *WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines* have been [published](#), replacing the interim advice. Visit the 'Transition policies and resources for healthcare workers' [page](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Critical worker furlough registration

The WA Government launched the online critical worker furloughing registration [system](#), required during a very high caseload environment, to ensure critical supply chains and services continue. WA

is not currently in a very high caseload environment however, businesses are encouraged to assess the criteria and register relevant critical workers as part of their COVID-19 preparedness strategy.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for more information.

Updated COVID-19 modelling

The WA Department of Health released updated COVID-19 modelling to reflect the recent emergence of the Omicron variant.

Refer to [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for more information.

Border update

Based on the latest health advice, the updated Safe Transition Plan will be in place from Thursday, 3 March 2022. This will allow for safe travel into WA from interstate and overseas, with vaccination and testing requirements on arrival.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

Community

COVID-19 Business Assistance Package

The WA Government announced [Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#) COVID-19 Business Assistance Packages to support businesses adversely affected by increasing cases and the necessary implementation of Public Health Social Measures. The announcements include a Small Business Rental Relief Package, an Outdoor Dining and Entertainment Support Package, the Small Business Hardship Grants Program and COVID-19 Commercial Sporting Franchises Support Program.

Refer to [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for further information.

Tourism industry support

Tourism's businesses can now apply for the WA Tourism Deposit Refund Program and the WA Tourism Support Program. Applications will soon be open for the Travel Agent Support Fund.

Refer to the Tourism WA [website](#) for information.

Tourism giveaway for Perth arrivals

Free tourism vouchers will be provided to interstate and international arrivals at Perth Airport to encourage visitors to support local tours and experiences while in WA.

Refer to the [announcement](#) for further information.

WA free RAT program

Every household in WA can register online to receive five free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) and have them delivered to their home address. [Register online](#). People who cannot register online or who need assistance can phone 13 COVID (13 26843).

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for further information.

Kids and COVID-19

The Telethon Kids Institute has developed a variety of resources about COVID-19 and children. Refer to the Telethon Kids Institute [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) for information. [Information about COVID-19 positive children](#) is also available on HealthyWA.

COVID-19 vaccination program

ATAGI recommendations for Moderna vaccine for 6 to 11-year-old children

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has made [recommendations](#) for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 years.

ATAGI recommends Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine can be used for primary vaccination in children aged 6 to 11 years, as an alternative option to the Pfizer vaccine for this age group. Pfizer remains the only vaccination available for children who are 5 years old.

There are currently no vaccines licensed for children aged 4 years and under.

ATAGI recommends vigilance to avoid potential dosing errors with the Moderna vaccine for children, given there is no paediatric-specific formulation for the Moderna vaccine. The Moderna dose for 6 to 11 years is half the dose used for the primary course for people 12 years and older; and the same as the booster dose (50µg per dose; 0.25mL) for adults.

The recommended schedule for Moderna vaccination in children 6 to 11 years is 2 doses (50µg per dose; 0.25mL), provided 8 weeks apart. The interval can be shortened to 4 weeks for children at risk of moderate to severe COVID-19, in [special circumstances](#).

A third COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for children aged 5 and older who are [severely immunocompromised](#). An mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is recommended for this third dose (either Pfizer for children 5 years and older or Moderna for children 6 years and older). This dose is recommended to be administered from 2 months after the second dose.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

Selected State-run clinics commenced vaccinating clients with the Novavax vaccine from 21 February 2022. Bookings are preferred for Novavax and offered on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). Bookings are available via the [VaccinateWA](#) and [Roll up for WA](#) websites. Novavax is available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines

ATAGI has developed advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of [2022 seasonal influenza vaccines](#). This includes information about co-administration with COVID-19 vaccines.

ATAGI advises that all COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered (given on the same day) with an influenza vaccine.

Commonwealth Vaccination Hub continues this week

The Australian Government pop-up vaccination hub for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries **will continue this week at the locations detailed below**. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. **The hub has** wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.

Address	Hours	Bookings
Scarborough Library 173 Gildercliffe St, Scarborough	28 February to 4 March 2022, 9.00am to 4.00pm.	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph:1300 662 328

	Disability drop-in sessions available from 10.30am to 12.00pm.	
--	--	--

COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations

Find the nearest metropolitan or regional COVID-19 vaccination location by visiting the [Roll up for WA website](#).

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) – workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- [Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government [Easy Read](#) resources

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions](#)
- [Professional Sportspersons Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Authorisation of Authorised PHEOC Officers](#)
- [COVID Border Opening \(Consequential Revocations\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Border Opening \(Release from Quarantine and Testing\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Interstate and International Border\) Directions](#)
- [Maritime Crew Member Directions \(No 7\)](#)
- [Remote Aboriginal Communities Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Transiting Aircraft Passengers Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Air Travel \(Face Covering\) Directions](#)
- [Authorisation by the Chief Health Officer](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Healthcare Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Critical Government Regulator \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Education Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Ministerial Staff Member \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Resources Industry Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Bidyadanga Community COVID-19 Lockdown Directions](#)
- [Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [Jameson Community Immediate Lockdown Directions \(No 3\)](#)

- [COVID Safe \(Phase 5\) Directions \(No 2\) Revocation Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No.9\)](#)
- [Parliamentary Employees \(Restrictions on Access\) Direction](#)

Updated factsheets

- [COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospital and Health services \(Version 8.3\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response \(SAR\) Version 5](#)
- [Infection prevention and control advice on cleaning and disinfection in the workplace \(Version 1.1\)](#)
- [What to do if you are a COVID-19 close contact \(Version 2\)](#)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 \(Version 3\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Maternity Services \(Version 4\)](#)
- [Residential Strata Properties Frequently Asked Questions \(new\)](#)
- [PPE for Non-Healthcare Workers in Community Settings \(Version 7\)](#)
- [Clinician Alert #81 – All Clinicians](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control for Airports \(new\)](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities \(Version 13\)](#)
- [WA COVID-19 TTIQ Plan \(new\)](#)
- [WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines \(new\)](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace \(new\)](#)
- [Release of Cases from Isolation: Information for Clinicians](#)
- [Medicines for COVID-19 in Residential Care Facilities and Aboriginal Health Services \(new\)](#)
- [Dialysis and COVID-19: Risks and Information \(new\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Renal Dialysis Version 2](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #35* is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the notification form (**standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed**).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 2 March 2022. Key updates include changes to the reinfection definition, release from isolation criteria and management of contacts.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- WA [Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- SafeWA [user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice – The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **8 March 2022**.

Last updated **2 March 2022**

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2022



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #15

Thursday, 10 March 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday, 10 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **34,250** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **16,226** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,677,476** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) and [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Transitioning to Very High Caseload Settings](#) — 8 March 2022
- [Transition to Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures](#) — 28 February 2022

Very high caseload setting

Western Australia moved to a very high caseload setting from Thursday 12.01am, 10 March 2022 to ensure continuity of operations for critical industries as COVID-19 cases approach the peak.

Businesses that have registered their critical workforce will have the option of implementing new testing and isolation protocols for critical workers, if needed, to continue essential operations.

The critical worker definition is essential to maintain critical services and avoid catastrophic losses, such as loss of life, ongoing access to care and essential goods and workplace safety. These critical workers who are asymptomatic close contacts can attend work, if mutually agreed between employer and employee, and they follow strict protocols.

There is a significant risk associated with close contacts attending work as they remain highly susceptible to contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of their contact with a positive case. This risk is substantially higher in households where the case cannot isolate effectively. The Critical Worker Policy is intended as a last resort following (and not in advance of) actual acute worker shortages and resulting disruptions to essential services. The exemption is not a substitute for business continuity planning, which appropriately accounts and plans for anticipated workforce shortages in an environment where COVID-19 is prevalent in the community in high numbers, without resorting to requiring close contact critical workers to attend work. Employers are responsible for providing a safe work environment and minimising the risk of workplace COVID-19 transmission so far as is reasonably practicable. Eligible employers are therefore encouraged to only apply the Policy in extreme circumstances and after all attempts to deploy substitute staff have been exhausted.

Schools and very high caseload setting

In a very high caseload setting, students in school, or early childhood education and care settings, who are asymptomatic but have been identified as a close contact (but not a household close contact), will be able to continue attending school or childcare and benefit from face-to-face learning.

The school-based close contact protocols allow asymptomatic students in school or childcare to attend school, childcare, after-school care and other school-based sporting, cultural training or after-school events at the students' school, but require them to isolate at all other times until the seven days have passed.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for further information.

Advice for parents/guardians of close contacts

Parents and carers are no longer required to automatically quarantine with a child who is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case. Depending on the child's needs, one parent or carer may still need to stay home to care for them while the child is quarantining.

Parents and carers of children who are close contacts need to take extra precautions and limit interaction with the close contact where possible. If symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are experienced by the child or carer, they should get tested immediately.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [HealthyWA](https://www.health.wa.gov.au) for further information.

SAR and hospital visitor guidelines

The *WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response* (SAR) provides overarching guidance for public hospitals to manage and mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 transmission. Non-government health care organisations, including private hospitals, may find the guidance useful when determining their own strategies to mitigate risks to patients and service delivery associated with COVID-19. **Currently the State is at RED risk rating.**

The *COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines for WA Public Hospital and Health Services* have been updated. Only essential visitors, as defined by this guideline and individual Health Service Providers, are permitted to visit.

The guidelines are a minimum requirement for public hospital and community services, however non-public hospital and community-based services may wish to apply the guidance.

Refer to the SAR [document](#) and [webpage](#) and the [visitor guidelines](#) on the Department of Health website for further information.

Public health and social measures

Level 2 [PHSM](#) apply state-wide from 12:01am Thursday, 3 March 2022.

Refer to the [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) [website](#) for further information.

Border update

Based on the latest health advice, the updated Safe Transition Plan **has been** in place from Thursday, 3 March 2022. This allows for safe travel into WA from interstate and overseas, with vaccination and testing requirements on arrival.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au](https://www.wa.gov.au) for further information.

Community

Resources for industry and business

A new 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors (including congregate living, industrial, mining and offshore and secure facilities) and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace. This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ \(Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine\) Plan](#).

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

COVID-19 Business Assistance Package

The WA Government announced [Level 1](#) and [Level 2](#) COVID-19 Business Assistance Packages to support businesses adversely affected by increasing cases and the necessary implementation of Public Health Social Measures. The announcements include a Small Business Rental Relief Package, an Outdoor Dining and Entertainment Support Package, the Small Business Hardship Grants Program and COVID-19 Commercial Sporting Franchises Support Program.

Refer to WA.gov.au for further information.

Tourism industry support

Tourism's businesses can now apply for the WA Tourism Deposit Refund Program and the WA Tourism Support Program. Applications will soon be open for the Travel Agent Support Fund.

Refer to the Tourism WA [website](#) for information.

WA free RAT program

Every household in WA can register online to receive five free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) and have them delivered to their home address. [Register online](#). People who cannot register online or who need assistance can phone 13 COVID (13 26843).

COVID-19 vaccination program

Enhanced access and sensory clinics at Kwinana and Carramar

The vaccination clinics at [Kwinana](#) and [Carramar](#) have been set up to support people with disabilities, mental health conditions, those who require a low sensory environment or who may need other additional support to receive their vaccination. These enhanced access and sensory clinics provide quiet, large and separate consultation rooms, accessible parking directly in front of the clinic, a range of distraction and sensory options, hoists to support people with mobility issues and trained staff to support people with a disability, mental health condition or who require additional support. Therapy dogs are also available on certain days of the week. Bookings are strongly recommended and further information is available at the Roll up for WA [website](#).

ATAGI advice on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine booster

Recommendations for the use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose have been [updated](#) by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). AstraZeneca is **no longer** recommended for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose. AstraZeneca is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

ATAGI recently [approved](#) the Novavax vaccine as a booster for individuals aged 18 years and over, where an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is not suitable.

Selected State-run clinics commenced vaccinating clients with the Novavax vaccine from 21 February 2022. Bookings [through VaccinateWA](#) are preferred for Novavax (**first and second doses**) and offered on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). **To receive a booster dose, please book by calling 13 COVID (13 26843) or walk in to any one of the above clinics.** Novavax is available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

ATAGI recommendations for Moderna vaccine for 6 to 11-year-old children

ATAGI has made [recommendations](#) for the use of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 6 to 11 years.

ATAGI recommends Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine be used for primary vaccination in children aged 6 to 11 years, as an alternative option to the Pfizer vaccine. Pfizer remains the only vaccination available for children who are 5 years old.

There are currently no vaccines licensed for children aged 4 years and under.

ATAGI recommends vigilance to avoid potential dosing errors with the Moderna vaccine for children, given there is no paediatric-specific formulation for the Moderna vaccine. The Moderna dose for children aged 6 to 11 years is half the dose used for the primary course for people 12 years and older; and the same as the booster dose (50µg per dose; 0.25mL) for adults.

The recommended schedule for Moderna vaccination in children 6 to 11 years is 2 doses (50µg per dose; 0.25mL), provided 8 weeks apart. The interval can be shortened to 4 weeks for children at risk of moderate to severe COVID-19, in [special circumstances](#).

A third COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for children aged 5 and older who are [severely immunocompromised](#). An mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is recommended for this third dose (either Pfizer for children 5 years and older or Moderna for children 6 years and older). This dose is recommended to be administered from 2 months after the second dose.

ATAGI advice on seasonal influenza vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines

ATAGI has developed advice for immunisation providers regarding the administration of [2022 seasonal influenza vaccines](#). This includes information about co-administration with COVID-19 vaccines.

ATAGI advises that all COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered (given on the same day) with an influenza vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations

Find the nearest metropolitan or regional COVID-19 vaccination location by visiting the [Roll up for WA](#) website.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#) (for WA health providers)
- Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) – workplace [information](#) about the COVID-19 vaccine (general information for businesses and employers)
- The Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government [Easy Read](#) resources

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [Designation by the Chief Health Officer](#)
- [Designation of Fremantle Oval as a specified vaccination venue under paragraph 65\(b\) Proof of Vaccination Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Close Contact Modification \(Schools and Approved Education Facilities\) Directions](#)
- [Authorisation by the Chief Health Officer \(police officers\)](#)
- [Designation by the Chief Health Officer \(critical workers at D'Orsogna Limited\)](#)
- [Unofficial Consolidation of the COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Critical Worker\) Amendment Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- [Unofficial Consolidation of the COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Amendment Directions](#)
- [Authorisation by the State Emergency Coordinator \(as at 4 March\)](#)
- [Flight Crew Testing Regime Directions](#)
- [Designation by the Chief Health Officer \(Woolworths Distribution Centre\)](#)
- [Prohibition on the Use of Nebuliser Machines Directions \(No 3\)](#)
- [Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 10\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 3\)](#)

Updated factsheets

- [RAT FAQs Version 4](#)
- [Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #36](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Congregate Living Facilities](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Industrial Facilities](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Mining and Offshore Facilities](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Secure Facilities](#) (new)
- [Identifying Close Contacts in the Workplace Checklist](#) (new)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia #36* is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [online](#) or by printing out the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the Department of Health [website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 26843).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 2 March 2022. Key updates include changes to the reinfection definition, release from isolation criteria and management of contacts.

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Proof of vaccination [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 132 6843 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 To report breaches of: self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **16 March 2022**.

Last updated 10 March 2022

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2022



SHICC PUBLIC HEALTH BULLETIN #16

Thursday, 17 March 2022 16:00 Hours

This bulletin has been authorised by the Deputy Incident Controller – Public Health,
Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

COVID-19 case and vaccination numbers

- **Summary:** as of **Thursday, 17 March**, in Western Australia (WA), there have been:
 - **69,465** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified
 - **38,238** people recovered from COVID-19
 - **2,780,227** COVID-19 PCR tests conducted
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#) and [Vaccination dashboard](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status & Australia's vaccine roll-out](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#) and [WHO Dashboard](#)

Living with COVID

Chief Health Officer advice

The latest advice from the Chief Health Officer is available [here](#).

- [Transitioning to Very High Caseload Settings](#) — 8 March 2022

COVID-19 case resources

Resources are available for people who return a positive COVID-19 test result. HealthyWA contains information about [looking after yourself](#), a 'what to do' [checklist](#), [quarantine and isolation](#) information, COVID-19 positive [children](#) advice, and a [symptom diary](#). The testing and isolation [protocols](#), among other resources, are available on [WA.gov.au](#).

COVID-19 cases and their family / caregivers are encouraged to refer to the resources on [HealthyWA](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) regularly to access the most up to date information.

State-run clinic testing guide

A [guide](#) to getting a COVID-19 test for different cohorts of people (e.g. close contacts, school close contacts or symptomatic people) is available on HealthyWA. This allows staff and the community to easily identify whether a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or a rapid antigen test (RAT) will be offered at a State-run [testing clinic](#), and when testing is not required.

Face mask exceptions

People who are unable to fulfil the requirement to wear a face covering (mask) under the [Directions](#) **must** have a supporting medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner currently registered by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). This is referred to as an 'approved medical certificate' in the Directions.

The medical certificate does not need to state the condition that makes mask wearing unsuitable. Use the AHPRA [website](#) to search for a medical practitioner. Refer to [WA.gov.au](#) for mask wearing requirements and [HealthyWA](#) for mask advice.

Mask use guidance

Updated [guidance](#) on the use of face masks in the community, and healthcare and high-risk, client-facing workplaces has been provided by the Department of Health.

Face mask advice, including advice on mask wearing for children, is available on [HealthyWA](#).

Workplace RAT use

The *Guidance for the use of RATs in workplaces* [recommends](#) that workplaces **do not** use RATs for widespread screening of asymptomatic staff.

RATs are most effective when they are used to test people with symptoms of COVID-19.

The guidance provides further advice for higher risk workplaces and asymptomatic critical worker close contacts.

Resources for the immunocompromised

Printable patient [information sheets](#) for the immunocompromised have been developed by South Metropolitan Health Services to provide advice on how to stay safe, including during social gatherings.

COVID-19 ICU capacity

A 24-bed intensive care unit (ICU) at Royal Perth Hospital [opened](#) this week to increase the State's ICU capacity. The redevelopment is optimised for COVID-19 conditions, including frequent air changes throughout the unit, separate rooms fitted with switch glass windows and a ventilation system that enables the safe accommodation of both COVID and non-COVID patients. The facility includes 24 single rooms, including one positive pressure room, four negative pressure rooms and two rooms equipped to accommodate bariatric patients.

Very high caseload setting

Western Australia moved to a very high caseload setting from Thursday 12.01am, 10 March 2022 to ensure continuity of operations for critical industries as COVID-19 cases approach the peak.

Schools and very high caseload setting

In a very high caseload setting, students in school, or early childhood education and care settings, who are asymptomatic but have been identified as a close contact (but not a household close contact), can continue attending school or childcare and benefit from face-to-face learning.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [WA.gov.au](#) for further information.

Advice for parents/guardians of close contacts

Parents and carers are no longer required to automatically quarantine with a child who is identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case. Depending on the child's needs, one parent or carer may still need to stay home to care for them while the child is quarantining.

Refer to the [announcement](#) and [HealthyWA](#) for further information.

Community

TGA advice for RAT purchasing

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) released [advice](#) urging the public to only use COVID-19 RATs that are approved for use in Australia to avoid poor test performance. Consumers should refer to the [TGA website](#) before RAT purchase / use and refer to the *Obtaining approved COVID-19 rapid antigen tests* [factsheet](#) for advice.

Public library ServiceWA grants

WA public libraries can apply for ServiceWA app assistance grants to help the community understand and use the app. ServiceWA is a convenient, secure and important tool in WA's COVID-19 response and all Western Australian's are encouraged to use it. The grant [guidelines](#) are available at the State Library of Western Australia website.

Resources for industry and business

A 'COVID-19 in the workplace: Information for employers and employees' hub is now available on the Department of Health [website](#). Resources include tailored advice for certain sectors (including congregate living, industrial, mining and offshore, secure facilities and **education and early learning**) and a checklist to identify close contacts in the workplace. This advice accompanies existing guidance, including the [TTIQ](#) (*Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine*) Plan.

Businesses are encouraged to refer to the [Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#) websites regularly for the most up to date advice.

WA free RAT program

Every household in WA can register online to receive **15 (10 in addition to the original 5)** free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RAT) and have them delivered to their home address. [Register online](#). People who cannot register online or who need assistance can phone 13 COVID (13 26843). **Free RATs will be [provided](#) at some train stations, major events, universities and shopping centres. Households in remote communities in the [Kimberley](#) will be distributed 20 RATs.**

COVID-19 vaccination program

Getting vaccinated after testing positive for COVID-19

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 can be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends people have their next dose of the vaccine once they have fully recovered from the acute illness.

People can choose to defer the dose by up to 4 months after COVID-19 infection and should seek advice from their health care provider about what is best for them.

Learn more about vaccination after testing positive for COVID-19 at the Australian Government Department of Health [website](#).

In-home vaccinations available

Every effort is being made to vaccinate as many Western Australians as possible to protect against COVID-19, including the delivery of in-home vaccination to people who need assistance or who may not easily be able to get to a clinic, pharmacy or GP location.

Teams of vaccinators are going into residential areas to deliver vaccines to people, based on feedback from the community, local health service providers and requests registered through callers to 13 COVID (13 268 43).

Learn more on the Roll up for WA 'Vaccine information for people with a disability or require additional support' [webpage](#), fill out the 'Further Assistance Required' [online form](#) or call 13 COVID (13 268 43).

The vaccination team can provide the COVID-19 vaccine to anyone at the household aged 5 years and older if they are eligible for a first, second or booster dose.

People do not need to have a Medicare card or photo identification to receive the vaccine.

Enhanced access and sensory clinics at Kwinana and Carramar

The vaccination clinics at [Kwinana](#) and [Carramar](#) have been set up to support people with disabilities, mental health conditions, those who require a low sensory environment or who may need other additional support to receive their vaccination. These enhanced access and sensory clinics provide quiet, large and separate consultation rooms, accessible parking directly in front of the clinic, a range of distraction and sensory options, hoists to support people with mobility issues and trained staff to support people with a disability, mental health condition or who require additional support. Therapy dogs are also available on certain days of the week. Bookings are strongly recommended and further information is available at the Roll up for WA [website](#).

ATAGI advice on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine booster

Recommendations for the use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose have been [updated](#) by ATAGI. AstraZeneca is **no longer** recommended for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose. AstraZeneca is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.

Novavax available for eligible Western Australians

ATAGI [has approved](#) the Novavax vaccine as a booster for individuals aged 18 years and over, where an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (either Moderna or Pfizer) is not suitable.

Selected State-run clinics [provide](#) the Novavax vaccine. Bookings through [VaccinateWA](#) are preferred for Novavax (first and second doses) and offered on the following days and locations: Kwinana (Monday), Mirrabooka (Wednesday) and Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (Sunday). To receive a booster dose, please book by calling 13 COVID (13 26843) or walk in to any one of the above clinics. Novavax is available in the Goldfields-Esperance region at all State-run clinics and selected clinics in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions.

Commonwealth vaccination hub next week

The Australian Government pop-up vaccination hub for individuals working in disability, aged care, childcare, food, freight and pharmaceutical distribution industries will operate at the location detailed below. People with disability, their families and carers are also eligible to attend. The hub has wheelchair access, walk-in appointments, dedicated time slots for people with disabilities and in-car vaccination availability.

Address	Hours	Bookings
Dianella Plaza 366 Grand Promenade, Dianella	Monday, 21 March to Friday, 25 March – 9am to 5pm Saturday, 26 March – 9am to 4.30pm Sunday, 27 March – 11am to 4.30pm Disability drop-in sessions are available from 11am to 12pm	bookings.support@vitalityworks.com.au Ph: 1300 662 328

COVID-19 vaccination clinic locations

Find the nearest metropolitan or regional COVID-19 vaccination location by visiting the [Roll up for WA](#) website.

The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Spikevax (Moderna), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Nuvaxovid (Novavax) COVID-19 vaccines are being administered at participating GPs and pharmacies for eligible populations. Participating GPs and pharmacies can be found by using the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Vaccine information and resources

Please visit the sources below for more information and resources related to vaccines:

- HealthyWA – [COVID-19 vaccine](#) (for WA community), including [FAQs](#)
- WA Health – [COVID-19 vaccination program](#) (for WA health providers)
- **Australian Government** – [Children's COVID-19 vaccination program](#) **community kit**
- Australian Government – [COVID-19 vaccines hub](#)
- [Roll up for WA](#) and [Roll up for WA posters](#)
- Keeping Culture Safe and Strong Aboriginal - COVID-19 [vaccination resources](#)
- Australian Government – **COVID-19 vaccination** [Easy Read](#) resources

Directions updates

COVID-19 State of Emergency [Declarations](#) and community [advice](#) webpages summarise the latest COVID-19 Directions in place in WA. Further information can be found on WA Government [website](#).

New Directions

- [COVID Transition \(Testing and Isolation\) Directions \(No 5\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Face Covering\) Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [Prohibition on the Use of Nebuliser Machines Directions \(No 4\)](#)
- [COVID Transition \(Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)

Updated factsheets

- [WA COVID-19 Healthcare Worker Furloughing Guidelines Version 2.1](#)
- [Designated Zoning Posters for Residential Care Facilities](#) (new)
- [RAT FAQs Version 5](#)
- [COVID-19 TTIQ Workplace Checklist — Schools and Early Childhood Education Settings Version 1.2](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 Guidelines for Management of Diabetes and Hyperglycaemia](#) (new)
- [COVID-19 Guideline for Outpatient Services Version 3.4](#)
- [Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks on International Commercial Vessels in Western Australia](#) (new)
- [Clinician Alert #82](#) (new)
- [What to do when you test positive for COVID-19 Version 3](#)
- [COVID Transition: Information for the Maritime Industry](#) (new)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Information for Rottnest Island Ferry Operators](#) (new)
- [Doffing Coveralls in the Context of COVID-19](#) (new)
- [Aboriginal Sector Communication Update #35](#)

Testing

General population [testing criteria](#)

The *Testing Criteria for SARS-CoV-2 in Western Australia* #36 is available on the Department of Health [website](#).

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) **OR** history of fever (e.g. night sweats, chills), without a known source **OR** acute respiratory symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose) **OR** acute loss of smell or taste **OR** a positive or inconclusive rapid antigen test result.

Testing locations

Testing locations are listed on [HealthyWA](#).

Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form [online](#) or by printing the notification form (standard notifiable infectious diseases process should be followed).

COVID-19 positive rapid antigen test (RAT) results must be registered on the [HealthyWA website](#) or by phoning 13 COVID (13 268 43).

Series of National Guidelines (SoNG)

The [latest](#) iteration was released on 2 March 2022.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)

The AHPPC recently [released](#) the following statements:

- [Mandating booster vaccination for disability support workers](#) — 16 February 2022
- [Mandating booster vaccinations in residential aged care workers](#) — 15 February 2022

Business and industry

Resources for more information

- [WA Department of Health](#) and [HealthyWA](#)
- [WA Department of Health Media releases](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)
- [Advice in other languages](#) and [Translated Resources](#)
- [Advice and resources for Aboriginal people](#)
- [Covid Clinic walkthrough](#) – in multiple languages
- [Contact registers](#) information
- [SafeWA user guide](#)
- [ServiceWA user guide](#)
- [Mandatory vaccination](#) Directions and supporting documents
- [Mandatory vaccination general and industry-specific](#) [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Proof of vaccination](#) [Directions](#), [information](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [COVID-19 in the workplace](#) – Information for employers and employees
- [Posters, signage and resources](#) for businesses

More information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: 1800 313 223 (Note: NOT for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: 13 268 43 (13 COVID)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: 131 444 to report breaches of self-quarantine, business activities, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions

Next advice The Bulletin is issued weekly. Next issue: **23 March 2022**.

Last updated 17 March 2022

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

© Department of Health 2022