

Transitioning management of accommodation services to non-government providers

Update for families, June 2014

Transition planning to non-government service providers is underway for about 80 people currently supported by the Commission's accommodation services. These individuals live in the Stirling, Armadale, Joondalup, Vincent, Bayswater, Wanneroo, Bassendean, Canning and Rockingham local government areas.

The first group began transition planning in January 2014 while the second group started the planning process in March 2014. These individuals, families and other key decision makers are engaging well in the planning process and are at various stages of deciding their preferred non-government provider. Some individuals and families have already confirmed their preferred provider, while others are still in the process of making that decision and are meeting with a number of providers and viewing their existing accommodation services.

This means that the planning process is taking longer than initially anticipated. The Commission recognises this process will take as long as it needs to take, and people will only be transitioned when there is a sustainable plan in place for their future care and support.

The transition team has a finite capacity, and want to ensure they are able to direct enough time and support to each individual moving through the process. Based on these factors, the Commission will now commence planning with the third transition group at a time to be confirmed later this year. Future transition groups will also be contacted after the third transition group has commenced their transition planning.

Disability sector organisations exploring options

The Commission is staying in close contact with the disability sector organisations that expressed an interest in supporting people who will be transitioning to new service providers. They tell us that they are having very positive discussions with families and key decision makers about what their future supports may be.

Like the Commission, all the alternative service providers are strongly committed to setting up long-term, sustainable support arrangements. For some of the organisations, this includes staff and industrial relations planning as well as service planning. We recognise that some organisations are working through what the Fair Work Act 2009 will mean for them, and are taking the time to do this to ensure their services to people with disability are sustainable.

Metropolitan information sessions

The first information session about this transition process was held in late April 2014 in Mandurah, with the second occurring in late May 2014 in Maylands. This enabled local families to meet one to one with a Commission representative, to ask questions they had about the transition process.

Further information sessions have been scheduled to occur over the next few months. One key part of the feedback we have received from people who have commenced their planning is that talking to the Transition Team is really useful. It allows people to ask questions specific to their situation and allows us to give people complete and accurate information about what the process is and how it will work, so we strongly encourage you to come along to one of the sessions if you have any questions. The table below shows the sessions scheduled for the Perth metropolitan area:

Date	Venue	Address	Times available
Thurs 24 July 2014	Redcliffe Community Centre	Cnr Morgan Road and Field Ave, Redcliffe	From 1:30pm
Wed 20 August 2014	Maddington Community Centre	19 Alcock St, Maddington	From 1:00pm
Tue 23 September 2014	The Boulevard Centre	99 The Boulevard, Floreat (below Cambridge Library)	From 1:30pm
Thurs 23 October 2014	The Hive: Cockburn Youth Centre	25 Wenworth Parade, Success	From 1:30pm

To RSVP, please phone Tess Foote on **6104 9589** or email Theresa.Foote@dsc.wa.gov.au

Tess will allocate up to an hour for you to meet one to one with a Commission representative. As there are limited spaces it is recommended you make contact early.

Regional information sessions

If you would like to discuss the transition process with a Commission representative but the above times are not workable for you, teleconferences can be organised at your local community resource centre or Local Area Coordinator's office. Please phone Tess Foote on **6104 9589** to arrange a time.

If you have any questions about this process, whether the information is from the Commission or other sources, I encourage you to keep in contact with your Local Area Manager and/or make use of the metropolitan information sessions to clarify any information.

Wendy Cox
Executive Director, Accommodation Services
Phone: (08) 9426 9734 or 0407 084 614
Email: Wendy.Cox@dsc.wa.gov.au