MY WAY PARTNERSHIP GROUP

Minutes of the Meeting held on
Thursday 31 January 2013 in the Barry MacKinnon Room, Level 2
146-160 Colin Street, West Perth
at 10.00am

1. Attendance, apologies and opening of meeting

1.1 Present

Robyn Massey, Marcus Stafford, Anne Oliver, Annie Cohen, Peter Seaward,
Leticia Grant, Sue Davis, Debbie Karasinski, Andrew Jefferson, Charlie Rook,
Darren Ginnelly, Kylie Davis, Pamela Toster, Linda Higgie, Fleur Hill, Anita
Peiris, Nihal Iscel (proxy for Wendy Rose), Stuart Jenkinson (proxy for Andrew
Jefferson)

1.2 Apologies

An apology was noted from Ron Chalmers, Wendy Rose, Taryn Harvey and
Joanne Woolhouse

1.3 In attendance

Claire Harding

2. Confirmation of previous minutes

Minutes of the meeting of 15 November 2012 were confirmed.

3. Project Update

3.1 Partnership developments R Massey

R Massey provided an update on partnership developments with other
government departments and organisations that are keen to engage with My
Way.

Refer to the report from the Executive Director My Way for details about this item.

R Massey welcomed input from members of the Partnership Group who could
contribute their experience and expertise into the development of the projects.

C Rook suggested approaching the Department of Corrective Services.

D Karasinski suggested providing information about the project to Rotary and
Lions clubs.

*Action: My Way to explore these options and further updates on partnership developments
to be provided at future meetings.*
3.2 Ministerial launches

R Massey briefed the Partnership Group on two recent My Way Ministerial launches which were held in Cockburn (11 December 2012) and Kalgoorlie (23 January 2013). The events were well attended by local people with disability, their families and carers, along with representatives from a number of local community organisations, government departments and local Members of Parliament.

3.3 General project update

R Massey advised:
- Stage 1 of the project is complete. Stage 2 is now underway.
- Over 400 people state-wide have now signed up with My Way.

Refer to the report from the Executive Director My Way for further details about this item.

4. NDIS

4.1 NDIS Executive visit WA

M Stafford advised that the Chief Executive Officer of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Launch Transition Agency, Mr David Bowen, and Deputy Chair of the NDIS Advisory Group, Mr Bruce Bonahady, visited Western Australia from 14-16 January 2013 to find out more about our disability service system.

R Massey and the Commission’s Director General Ron Chalmers accompanied Mr Bowen and Mr Bonahady on a trip to Busselton to provide firsthand experience of how Local Area Coordination and My Way operate in a regional setting. Mr Bowen expressed an interest in the My Way planning approach and the possibility of representatives from each jurisdiction visiting WA in the near future, to learn more about the process and how it can be used nationally.

4.2 NDIS and My Way

The Partnership Group discussed how to allay the general confusion which many people seem to be experiencing in relation to where My Way fits with the NDIS (i.e. that My Way is WA’s response to the NDIS).

R Massey explained that whilst the WA state government is committed to signing up to the NDIS, there is a commitment to building on the strengths of the current state system and what we know works well. Whenever possible and where it is practical, My Way is being developed in parallel to the NDIS. Full roll out of the NDIS is still several years away.

WA is keen to participate in an NDIS launch in one or more of the My Way project locations. However, until key governance issues are addressed, My Way will continue as a WA state government initiative.
5. Monitoring and evaluation steering committee

M Stafford

Following discussion from the previous meeting on this item, the group AGREED that the My Way monitoring and evaluation steering committee would consist of Richard Matthews (the Commission's Performance Reporting and Evaluation Manager), a My Way representative and two Partnership Group members.

C Rook and T Harvey both registered their interest to be part of the committee. The group ENDORSED their membership.

Action: R Matthews to Chair the group, with the initial meeting to be convened prior to the next Partnership Group.

6. Outcome of My Way grants process

R Massey

R Massey advised that negotiations were underway with seven applicants and the successful organisations would be announced shortly. 25 organisations applied in total and local panels 'highly recommended' almost a third of the applicants.

Refer to the report from the Executive Director My Way for further details about this item.

Action: Finalised version of the grants documentation to be provided at the next Partnership Group meeting.

7. Engagement with the sector

R Massey

R Massey acknowledged that circulating information in an appropriate and accessible format to all stakeholders is particularly challenging. This combined with broader sector initiatives such as outcomes based contracting and procurement, is causing confusion for many.

M Stafford advised that we cannot under-communicate at this point in time. Regular, simple and consistent messages are paramount. We also need to be aware not everyone has access to the internet or want to receive messages via this channel, so it is important to keep utilising other methods such as community papers.

A Peiris from WA Special Families (an on line support group for families and carers of children with special needs which has a member list of approximately 1300 people) met with R Massey to discuss ways of working together to provide better information to families.

Refer to the report from the Executive Director My Way for further details about this item.

R Massey advised the group to share any other ideas that will facilitate the flow of information.
8. Other Business

D Karasinski provided an update on work being done on the Taxi User Subsidy Scheme (TUSS) and engagement with disability sector organisations such as Disability Development Council, CarersWA and People With Disabilities Western Australia.

9. Next Meeting

After discussion the Partnership Group AGREED to reconvene following the March 9 election.

*Action: Invite for next meeting to be sent once date is confirmed.*