Five brief updates:

### Department of Communities

With Grahame Searle retiring tomorrow as Director General of the Department of Communities, Michelle Andrews has been appointed as Acting Director General for three months. Michelle has been closely involved in the Service Priority Review through her role with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and has shown strong interest in the Community Services sector. [Attached](https://www.communitylaw.net/members-update-attachments) is a brief biography on Michelle and the announcement by the Public Sector Commissioner.

On a related issue, we have continued to follow up with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as to the setting of Whole of Government targets, which was a platform announced by the Labor Party prior to the election. We have recently been advised that there will be announcements of the ‘Premier’s priorities’ on 20th February, and will endeavour to keep members informed when we hear more.

### Supporting Communities Forum

[Attached](https://www.communitylaw.net/members-update-attachments) is a one page update on the work of the Supporting Communities Forum (SCF) which they asked us to circulate. The update includes several links to the SCF website, which contains further information.

### Department of Communities’ Strategic Plan

We thought members might be interested to see the Department’s 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. [Attached](https://www.communitylaw.net/members-update-attachments) is a short presentation by the outgoing DG, which includes the Department’s Strategic Plan on a page. Amongst other areas highlighted in the Plan, the focus on “*initiatives and policy responses that have greater emphasis on prevention, earlier intervention and strengths… and Services that are co-designed with and for the people we serve”* , are two key aspects for the all stakeholders to keep top of mind.

### WAPHA

We would appreciate **feedback** from members on your experiences in working with WAPHA over the past 12-18 months. We have recently heard several concerns with regard to the timeliness of their contracting, payments,  and other areas, and are keen to understand if there are broader perspectives and issues. All responses will be kept anonymous and confidential.

### NFP Governance Principles

[Attached](https://www.communitylaw.net/members-update-attachments) is a 3 page updated summary of the 10 NFP governance principles, prepared by the Australian Institute of Company Directors. It is an excellent checklist and timely reminder for all organisations to reflect on their governance processes and principles, and we would encourage you to share them with your boards. For those would like to read the full 56 page report, it can be viewed here <https://aicd.companydirectors.com.au/resources/not-for-profit-resources/not-for-profit-governance-principles>