



WALGA Health and Wellbeing Advocacy Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Secretariat initiated the establishment of a Public Health Advisory Group in 2015 and following the progressive proclamation of the *Public Health Act 2016*, which provides Local Government with an expanded role in public health and well-being, the name of the Group was amended to the WALGA Health and Well-being Advocacy Group.

Purpose

The Advocacy Group provides expertise, technical advice and insight into the implementation of public health planning in Local Government. It will assist WALGA in developing advocacy across public health portfolios including but not limited to; environmental health, health promotion, physical activity, mental health and preventive health.

The outcomes of the Advocacy Group will guide WALGA in prioritising its limited resources to develop and implement policy work and advocacy strategies to State and Federal Governments that addresses the needs of Local Government and the communities they serve.

The Advocacy Group will give due consideration to:

- The implications for the Local Government sector as a whole;
- How to best coordinate activities across Local Government portfolios;
- Alignment with priorities identified in the WALGA Strategic Plan and endorsed WALGA Policy Positions; and
- Opportunities to partner with government or other stakeholders.

Scope of Activities

The Advocacy Group will:

- Undertake research to build Local Government knowledge and support WALGA's advocacy and policy work;
- Contribute to developing WALGA submissions that respond to government policy proposals on behalf of the Local Government sector;
- Contribute to developing WALGA Policy Positions to influence future State and Federal Government policy proposals;
- Contribute to developing better practice guidance to support consistent sector-wide approaches;

- Assist in identifying and exploiting partnership opportunities for WALGA and Local Governments to work with State and Federal Government and other sectors for the benefit of the community;
- Assist in identifying funding opportunities for Local Governments, and to build capacity within WALGA to undertake further action.
- Receive presentations from external agencies, WALGA staff or Local Government business relevant to the Advocacy Group's scope of activities.

All proposals, recommendations and outcomes of the Advocacy Group are subject to consideration and endorsement by the WALGA State Council or relevant Policy Team.

Membership:

Membership of the Advocacy Group will be by invitation only, will be at the completed discretion of WALGA, and will comprise:

- Local Government employees whose job role has a focus and responsibility for public health;
- Local Government employees who represent other significant health network groups (eg: Metropolitan Environmental Health Management Group, Health and Wellbeing Network);
- WALGA People and Place representative/s.

Advocacy Group members will commit to attend and actively contribute to Advocacy Group meetings.

Governance:

WALGA will chair the Advocacy Group and will provide executive officer support.

WALGA will prepare and circulate by email to the Advocacy Group membership, information relevant to the Advocacy Group scope of activities, meeting agenda and meeting notes.

Meeting Frequency:

WALGA will endeavour to schedule Advisory Group meetings on a quarterly basis (March, June, September and December).

Meetings will be held at the WALGA offices, ONE70, Level 1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville WA 6007, unless otherwise advised to the Advocacy Group.

Review:

The Advocacy Group Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the WALGA Secretariat at least once every five years, in line with the review of the WALGA Strategic Plan, but in any case the Terms of Reference are to be reviewed as required subject to changes in WALGA Policy Positions and resourcing priorities.

Last reviewed: March 2020