

## Message from the Director General

### Department of Communities



Hi everyone,

Earlier this year I spoke to you about the establishment of a new Communities Leadership Team and the realignment of accountabilities to ensure Communities is better placed to do its important work of helping vulnerable Western Australians.

As part of efforts to make sure we appoint the very best leaders, we have recently conducted an extensive executive search for a number of key leadership positions. Given the importance of applying a cultural lens to everything we do, a respected member of the Aboriginal community joined me and other senior public sector leaders in the rigorous merit-based selection process. It was pleasing once again to have confirmed during that process that Communities remains an attractive employer.

I am very pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Rachael Green as Deputy Director General, Community Services effective 14 December 2020.
- Professor Catherine Stoddart as Deputy Director General, Governance, Integrity and Reform, effective 1 February 2021.
- Caron Irwin as the Assistant Director General, Strategy and Partnerships effective 14 December 2020.

Rachael has been Acting Deputy Director General Community Services since earlier this year. She has extensive experience working with vulnerable people, including in both community and custodial settings across the United Kingdom and Australia. She also has extensive experience in operational service delivery, as well as expertise in service design and implementing large scale reform. Prior to joining the Department of Communities, Rachael was the Deputy Commissioner Youth Justice Services in Western Australia.

Catherine is an experienced public sector executive, having held a number of senior positions in the WA, Federal, interstate and overseas health sectors. In her most recent role she has been the Chief Executive Officer for the Department of Health in the Northern Territory during which time she has led the construction and delivery of a new hospital,

expansion of specialist health services, full transition to the NDIS and the NT's frontline health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Catherine was previously the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Nurse at the Oxford University Hospital's National Health Service Foundation in the United Kingdom. She was awarded the 2011 Telstra Western Australian Business Woman of the Year for leadership and development of Aboriginal employment programs across the Department of Health. In September 2013 Catherine received the Public Service Medal in recognition of her contribution to health and innovative global community health volunteering programs. Her interest in improving the lives of vulnerable groups of people has been the focus of many of her roles.

Caron has been Acting Assistant Director General Strategy and Partnerships since earlier this year and has over 30 years' experience in the Western Australian public service. Before joining Communities she was Chief of Staff to Minister McGurk and prior to that was Assistant Commissioner Youth Justice at the Department of Corrective Services. Caron has a degree in social work and extensive experience in strategic policy development and has worked throughout her career to promote the wellbeing of children and young people.

These appointments are an important step in consolidating leadership reforms we have been implementing in Communities this year. These reforms have been designed to ensure we remain a disciplined and sustainable organisation into 2021 and beyond.

Preparations are well advanced for finalising Tier 3 appointments in the new year.

Finally, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to Samantha Palmer who has been invaluable in her assistance since joining Communities on placement from the Commonwealth Public Service in mid-November 2019. Sam served in the roles of Acting Assistant Director General Corporate Operations and Deputy Director General, Governance, Integrity and Reform.

Sam has been an outstanding role model in public service leadership under challenging conditions and has been a key driver of crisis response, governance and other significant reforms across Communities. She has done so with grace and grit in equal measure.

Sam will be with us until 28 February 2021 and will support Catherine in the handover to her new role.

Thank you.

**Michelle Andrews**  
Director General  
Department of Communities



**Director General**  
Michelle Andrews



**Community Services**  
Deputy Director General  
Rachael Green



**Governance, Integrity and Reform**  
Acting Deputy Director General  
Samantha Palmer



**Strategy and Transformation**  
Acting Assistant Director General  
Jacqueline Littlejohn



**Assets**  
Assistant Director General  
Ben Rooke



**Strategy and Partnerships**  
Assistant Director General  
Caron Irwin



**Finance**  
Chief Finance Officer  
Michael Crevola



**People**  
Chief People Officer  
Kevin Hollingsworth