



BRIEFING NOTE

TO: York Shire Council

FROM: The Wheatbelt Development Commission

DATE: 13/10/12

SUBJECT: THE WHEATBELT INTEGRATED AGED SUPPORT AND CARE SOLUTION/S (WIASCS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing note is to provide some more information on the Wheatbelt Integrated Aged Support and Care Solution/s project (WIASCS), to assist you in your decision to participate. The project would see an extension of the current Central East Aged Care Regional Solution/s project into an integrated aged care plan for the entire Wheatbelt.

Background:

During the 2011 Country Local Government Fund and Sub-regional Planning process, North East Wheatbelt and Wheatbelt East Region Organisation of Councils (NEWROC and WEROC) agreed to undertake Aged Care planning for the Central Eastern Wheatbelt. These 11 Local Government Authorities (LGA's) were keen to engage in a proactive process that resulted in:

- Identifying aged care service, accommodation and governance models for a highly dispersed population setting;
- Building on the assets that existed in communities; and
- Solutions that guided sound investment in the Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI), especially stream 3 – Primary Health Demonstration Program, and stream 4 – Residential Aged and Dementia Investment Program.
- Services that enable locals to age 'in place' as outlined in the new National Aged Care Package Reform.

The Central East Aged Care Alliance was born. At a meeting in Merredin on the 31st of January 2012, the member councils agreed to a financial contribution of \$5,000 per LGA, with a further contribution coming from the Country Local Government Fund as part of the administration fund provided to the Wheatbelt Development Commission for business case development.

On behalf of the Alliance members, RDA Wheatbelt ran a tender process, and the successful applicant was Melbourne based Verso Consulting. The consultants have prepared draft reports for each community and an aggregate sub regional report. These reports have been presented to Alliance and feedback is being collected. The final report is due later this month (November 2012). Local governments within other Region Organisation of Councils in the Wheatbelt have made formal requests to undertake the planning process and committed funding to the process.

Current Situation:

WA Country Health Service's Southern Inland Health Initiative (SIHI) has confirmed its support and financial commitment to the WIASCS.

A tender document has been developed to engage an external consultant to undertake the WIASCS, with assessments now completed.

WDC together with the Department of Finance are currently finalising the assessments and will announce the successful consultant shortly.

All Region Organisation of Councils (ROC) in the Wheatbelt that have not confirmed their participation and investment into the project are now being approached to do so.

ROCs keen to participate will need to contribute in terms of the following:

- Project oversight by way of participating in sub regional steering groups; and
- Financial support: \$5,000 per Shire. This will provide you with a detailed Aged Care profile for your Shire, as well as the opportunity to participate in developing aged care solutions to meet your community needs. These needs will help identify within the sub region, the scope of services, governance and infrastructure for achieving well aged communities. For those Shires who have undertaken detailed planning by external consultants, you may commit the findings of that research in lieu of this financial contribution.

CONCLUSION

A copy of the tender document has been attached for you to gather a better understanding of the initial scope of the project. Once your commitment has been confirmed we will workshop the specifics of the scope to accommodate your community, Shire and regional needs.

For more information please call WDC Research and Project Officer Chelsea Mott on 0488120476 or chelsea.mott@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au