

## **SOUTHERN REGIONAL INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE**

### **Rationale:**

In response to the current seasonal conditions in rural areas, representatives of Health, Great Southern Development Commission, AgWest, and AgCare have been working together to identify gaps and inefficiencies in service delivery and create a model of collaboration to address these challenges. The model addresses the ongoing nature of seasonal and other events affecting rural communities.

A similar process is occurring at state level involving all stakeholder agencies to support the state government's Seasonal Advisory Committee in setting policy to respond to the situation.

It is to all agencies' advantage to have operational processes in place that can be maintained beyond the current crisis over the long term in order to enable communities to cope with and adapt to changes beyond their control. The Regional Interagency Taskforce is focused on this objective to build 'social capital'.

### ***DEFINITION OF SOCIAL CAPITAL***

*"It is the norms and social relations embedded in the social structures of societies that enable people to coordinate actions to achieve desired goals." (World Bank website).*

All state government agencies rely on a receptive and informed community audience for their programs to be effective. No one agency has responsibility for maintaining social capital. Each agency makes a contribution.

### ***CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL INTERAGENCY TASKFORCE***

AGWEST - Steven Porritt, Romy Collier

HEALTH - David Fenwick, Richard Menasse, Marc Zweier, Kim Tomlinson.

GREAT SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION - Maynard Rye, Bruce Manning, Sally Haigh.

AGCARE - David Poultney, Helen Byles-Drage.

FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES - Libby Hawker

Other agencies are aware of the initiative and will be invited to take part at some time and level yet to be established.

## VISION

*All southern rural and regional communities are vibrant and sustainable.*

## MISSION

*Working together to manage change and improve quality of life for all people in southern regional Western Australia.*

## OBJECTIVE

*Using a collaborative approach to provide more effective and efficient ways of delivering state agency services to meet the needs of rural communities.*

*The SRIT proposes the adoption of the following guiding principles:*

- The need for integrated and cooperative approaches to building social capital.
- Each agency has a body of core business that will benefit from the collaboration.
- The need to build and improve on existing links and programs.
- Community involvement is essential in decision making.
- All individuals and communities need access to essential services.
- Initiatives are not restricted to individual agency district and regional boundaries and spheres of influence.

## PROPOSED OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

1. Improved service delivery
2. More efficient use of joint and individual agency resources
3. Policy development at organisational and community levels
4. Streamlined processes to manage change through improved relationships between organisations
5. Social, community, and economic development that strengthens communities

Strategies to achieve these outcomes are being developed by the SRIT team and other agencies and communities in the context of existing agency programs.

## **PROPOSED MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

*The SRIT will function within a two tiered management structure.*

1. **Senior Management Group** (SMG) will meet to:
  - Amend/endorse action plans and identify appropriate resourcing strategies;
  - Receive reports and review progress with plans including detailing how each agency is achieving set objectives within the SRIT plan;
  - Nominate members of project working groups from each agency; and
  - Share information on emerging trends and issues relevant to the Taskforce.

The SMG will comprise one member from each of the SRIT agencies and the evaluation agency. The role of the evaluation agency is to monitor the performance of the Taskforce and make recommendations for improvement.

A dedicated Project Coordinator may be required to provide secretarial support and program advice to the SMG. Meetings will be held at each participating agency's facilities by rotation.

The inaugural Chair of the SMG will be the Regional Director of AgWest, who will hold this office for a period of 12 months. Following this period, the SMG will elect a Chair from another participating agency for the next 12 months; it is recommended that this position be rotated among the agencies.

The proposed initial membership of the SMG will include:

- General Manager from one of the Great Southern Region Health Service departments
- Regional Director of the WA Agriculture Department (Chair)
- Chief Executive Officer of the Great Southern Development Commission

Additional membership from other agencies should be encouraged whenever it can be demonstrated that the proposed new member is keen to make an active contribution to the project. It is suggested that in the first instance, this will be achieved through participation in the ***Operational Group*** (discussed below).

## **2. *Operational Group***

The Operational Group will plan and implement strategies to achieve outcomes in the following key impact areas:

### **A. Economic Participation**

*GOAL*

***More effective and efficient use of agency resources, creating opportunity through cooperation.***

### **B. Provide support to strengthen community networks and decision-making capacity**

*GOAL*

***Build and maintain social support and leadership within our agencies and the communities that we serve.***

### **C. Helping to establish a vision for rural communities**

*GOAL*

***Work with regional communities in developing and implementing their vision for a vibrant and sustainable future.***

The SMG will nominate members for the Operational Group, which may include staff from agencies, community groups, or organisations outside the Taskforce. Sub-committees may be formed to undertake specific tasks.

One agency will be nominated as the lead agency for the Operational Group, and will provide temporary coordination until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001, or until it is deemed necessary to fund a project coordinator position.

The SMG has endorsed the principle that the lead agency for the Operational Group will be different from the agency chairing the SMG to ensure broad participation.

The Operational Group will meet to:

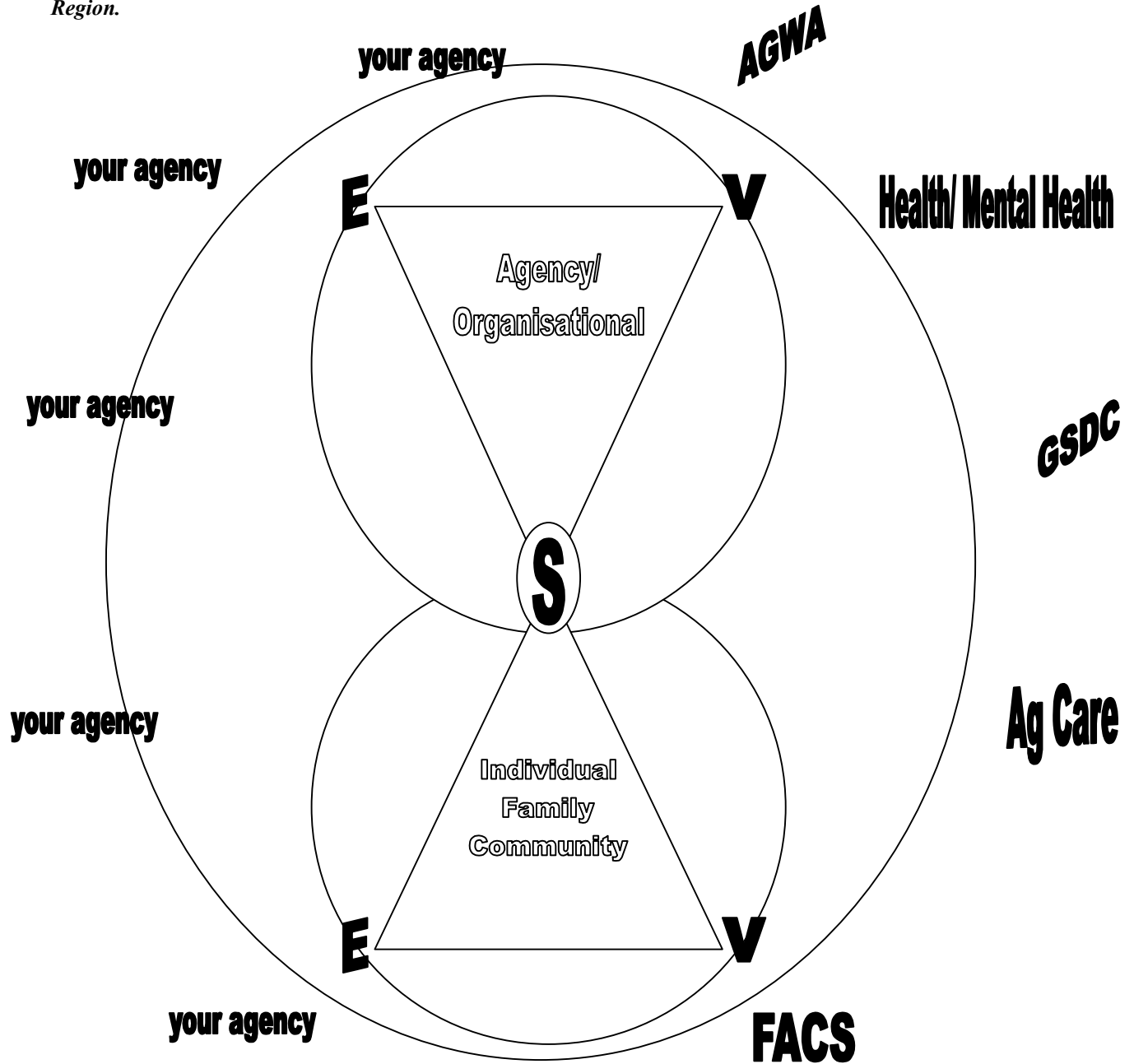
1. Develop joint action plans, identify and recommend resourcing strategies;
2. Prepare and evaluate progress reports outlining agency achievements against objectives of the SRIT;
3. Share and record information and report on emerging trends and issues relevant to the SRIT.

### **Proposed Timelines**

*The following SRIT action timeline is proposed:*

First meeting of the Senior Managers Group First meeting of Operational Group	December 2000
Completion of Operational Group action plans for 2001 Endorsement of action plans for 2001 by SMG	February 2001
Review of SRIT operations and Operational Group actions Development of SRIT Strategic and Evaluation Plans commences	May 2001
Review of SRIT operations and Operational Group actions Complete SRIT Strategic and Evaluation Plans	June 2001
Formal Launch of the SRIT 3-Year Plan	July 2001

*Mission: Working together to manage change and improve quality of life for all people in the Region.*



<p><b>E- Economic participation</b></p> <p><b>V-Visions for rural communities</b></p> <p><b>S- Social support and leadership capacity</b></p>
---