
Trio of not-for-profits set to merge to create bigger, stronger WA-based care organisation

Perth-based care providers Care Options, Volunteer Task Force and Community First are set to merge to create a bigger, stronger WA-based organisation which will offer a range of improved community services, from mental health support to home care and disability services.

In the coming months, the not-for-profit organisations will merge to form a single support services organisation, which will focus on becoming the future ‘new face’ of community services in WA.

Care Options Chief Executive, Sheilah Cummins, said Care Options had fostered a strong relationship with both organisations, all similar-sized not-for-profits that assist people to live and participate in their community.

“The integration of Care Options with Volunteer Task Force and Community First provides us with an exciting opportunity to build on each other’s strengths and grow our services to assist people improve the quality of their lives,” she said.

“We’ll be working in collaboration with Volunteer Task Force and Community First board members, staff, volunteers and clients to provide the best possible outcomes through our merger, and to ensure a smooth transition of our customer services.”

Volunteer Task Force Chief Executive, Kath Snell, said each organisation would do its utmost to ensure the merger had minimal impact on new and existing customers.

“Our decision has been driven by the need to create a sustainable future for our organisations in the age of Consumer Directed Care; we are three strong not-for-profits coming together to create a robust, wide-ranging, quality driven, professional and welcoming organisation.”

A new name for the combined organisation has yet to be announced.

Community First Executive Director, David Shelton, added: “Much has changed in the aged and disability sectors and we are positioning ourselves for success, excellence and accessibility for a greater number of people in this new era.

“Given the changes already underway and those afoot, we believe our merger to be a natural, prudent and timely move forward.”

Care Options is a non-profit, charitable organisation that assists elderly, ill, disabled and socially-isolated people to live and participate in their community. Care Options’ multiple programs span the South West Metropolitan area and include a range of home and community services.

Volunteer Task Force exists to provide people of limited, financial, social and physical capacity to live with safety, amenity and comfort in surroundings of their choice. The organisation provides gardening, cleaning, home maintenance, social visits and outings for people who are elderly or have disabilities.

Community First has grown over 30 years from a small Mandurah community services provider to being one of WA’s most respected support based organisations, and a stable, respected member of the local WA community, providing services to seniors, people with a disability and those experiencing mental illness.

ENDS

Ruth Gourley, Shine Communications, (08) 9203 5891 or 0434 330 384