

Communique - Meeting No. 34/2025

25 and 26 February 2025

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (the Council) held Meeting No.34 on Tuesday 25 February and Wednesday 26 February 2025 at Dumas House.

Members in attendance were Michael Ogilvie, Rani Randall, Jenny Bedford, Marty Sibosado, Anthony Hansen, Maureen (MK) Kelly, Irene Stainton, Damien Parriman, Joslyn Eades-Tass, Rowena Leslie and Gail Beck.

Jenny Bedford stood down in her role a Co-Chair, and Rani Randall was voted in as the next Co-chair alongside existing Co-Chair Marty Sibosado.

The meeting was led by Co-Chairs, Martin Sibosado and Jenny Bedford, and included engagements with the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, the Commissioner for Children & Young People WA, the Department of Justice, the Council of Aboriginal Services WA and the Aboriginal Health Council of WA.

The key items discussed and considered by the Council included:

External Presentations

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage provided an overview of the Sites of Truth Telling current program of work and key priorities.

The Council expressed their desire to prioritise the development of frontier war memorial sites and management of data including storage, access and trauma informed approaches for releasing sensitive information.

Commissioner for Children & Young People

The Commissioner outlined the purpose and evolution of the Speaking out Survey noting the increase in participation in the survey and the significant insights the survey provides.

The Council and Commissioner discussed a range of topics including progress of the recommendations noted within the Hear Me Out Report, factors that impact youth wellbeing, barriers within youth detention, the need for individualistic plans and throughcare and the Commissioner's role and responsibilities.

Department of Justice

The Department of Justice (DOJ) and IPS Management Consultants provided a brief overview on the development of the new youth detention facility and the Aboriginal Engagement Strategy.

Discussions were focussed on the new model of care; how cultural authorities are being utilised in the development of the facility and the need to redirect focus to rehabilitation and prevention for young people.

The Council will continue to receive updates from DOJ regarding the development of the Aboriginal Engagement strategy and the model of care.

Council of Aboriginal Services WA and Aboriginal Health Council of WA

Council of Aboriginal Services of WA (CASWA) and the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) provided an update on the time limited youth justice reform partnership with the WA Government and their collaboration with DOJ to develop a cultural security framework.

The Council expressed support for the youth justice reform partnership and advocated for the engagement of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations throughout the process.

CASWA, AHCWA and Council agreed to continue to find ways to work together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

Internal Presentations

Strategic Planning

Council was presented the final draft of the Strategic Planning Report and discussed the key pillars and goals for 2025-2026. All strategic pillars and goals were unanimously agreed.

Culture at the Heart Forum

Council was provided a planning update on the upcoming Culture at the Heart Forum scheduled for June 26-27. The Forum will provide an opportunity for Aboriginal Advisory Groups to collaborate on important initiatives in alignment with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.

Governance Review

Council received an update on the comprehensive Governance review program of work that is currently being conducted, which aims to establish solid governance foundations and set a standard for other Aboriginal Advisory Groups across the state.

The Council worked through their Terms of Reference and Charter documents, with key changes to be made and presented at the next Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 29-30 April 2025.



Ms Jenny Bedford
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique.