



# WA Forced Adoption Reference Group

## Meeting 1 Communique – 13 June 2025

The WA Forced Adoption Reference Group (Reference Group) has been established and held its first meeting on 13 June 2025. The Reference Group has 13 members, 12 of which have lived experience of forced adoption. Two members with lived experienced co-chair the Reference Group with the Deputy Director General Child Protection and Family Support from the Department of Communities (Communities).

The members recognised the strengths and resilience of all those who have experienced forced adoption in the community and acknowledged those who shared their experiences and contributed to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Past Forced Adoptive Policies and Practices in Western Australia (Inquiry), as well as the many people who were unable to participate in the Inquiry.

Facilitators from Lived Experience Australia supported members in the development of agreed ways of working with each other and with the Communities team, which will work with the Reference Group during its two-year term.

Communities' Director General congratulated and welcomed members on their appointment to the Reference Group and acknowledged their generosity and willingness to share their lived experience expertise to inform and shape change and the implementation of the Government Response to Report 66 – Broken Bonds, Fractured Lives: Report on the Inquiry into Past Forced Adoption in Western Australia (Government Response).

Members shared and discussed their key areas of concern and priorities for change with the Director General. The Reference Group also had an opportunity to hear about some of the work being progressed by Communities on the recommendations supported in the Government Response.

The Reference Group reviewed the Terms of Reference with an intention to finalise this document for the next meeting for approval. The next Reference Group meeting is planned to take place by the end of August 2025.