



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Communique No. 15 – AJAC Meetings 1, 2 and 3 of 2025

Meeting 1 of 2025

Meeting 1 of 2025 was held at the State Administrative Tribunal building in Boorloo (Perth). We provided input to the Department's proposed changes to the *Restraining Orders Act 1997*; gained further knowledge about the cross-agency initiative 'On Track to Thrive' program, implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan and Closing the Gap initiatives such as:

- Bail Support Services;
- Aboriginal Justice Open Days;
- Prison-to-Employment programs; and
- Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy.

We also received a briefing on the Department's role in the National Legal Assistance Partnership and provided our insight to the issues faced by community with legal assistance.

Youth Justice Facility update

New Youth Justice Facility Working Group representative and fellow AJAC member Joslyn Tass provided a briefing of the Working Group's recent visit to Unit 18. While we were pleased with the updates, we also identified key areas for improvement.

Commissioner Corrective Services

We met with the Commissioner of Corrective Services, Brad Royce to discuss key topics that align to our Strategic Priorities such as the prevention of deaths in custody, youth justice, prison infrastructure and technology, workforce culture, health in custody, housing and reintegration, and community directed solutions.

We learnt about initiatives such as Cultural Connections Project and the collaboration between Corrective Services and Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research (WACSAR) on their bail support programs to reduce the numbers of youth in custody.

Meeting 2 of 2025

We were delighted to visit Kinjarling (Albany) for our third regional meeting, guided by our Great Southern member Joslyn Tass.

Local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

During our visit we met with the Albany Magistrates Court and with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in the region.

Southern Aboriginal Corporation shared with us the key issues the region is currently facing in relation to community housing, health issues in custody, support services for men and youth programs that support young people with complex needs.

Our discussions with Gorenang Moortabiin Aboriginal Corporation comprised of their grassroots initiatives such as their Target 120 delivery, their partnerships with Nowanup Aboriginal Corporation to deliver local traineeships and WA Tourism to deliver registered training on land management, community services and art on country.

We discussed the current services provided by Yorgum Healing Services Aboriginal Corporation and suggested ways in which the Department can work with organisations to assist the community.

In understanding the vital services these ACCOs offer our mob in the region, we acknowledge the cultural and operational commitment required to deliver these programs.

Pardelup Prison Farm

We were hosted by Pardelup Prison Farm for a farm to table lunch followed by a tour and discussions with the Superintendent and Senior Staff. We spoke about section 95, which allows prisoners to participate in reparation work activities in the community, parole and reintegration assistance.

We finished our visit in the facility's cultural garden, which was established and landscaped by the Aboriginal prisoners themselves.



L - R: Jean O'Reeri, Ben Ripper, Amanda King, Henry Lockyer, Joslyn Tass, Asst. Superintendent Patterson, Dr Shona Hyde, Trent Davies, Kylie Le Lievre, Daniel English, Delshad Fitter and Monique Nile (Dimer).

Meeting 3 of 2025

Our final meeting for the year spanned over four days and was held in Boorloo (Perth).

Strengthening Cultural Protocols

We have embedded a new cultural protocol for all future AJAC meetings. We will open with a minute of silence to honour all Aboriginal people who have passed in custody. This reflects our commitment to keeping the community at the heart of all we do.

AJAC Strategic Priority Recommendations

Our 41 Recommendations were presented to the Director General and the Department's Divisional Leads.

At our final meeting, we had the opportunity to have discussions with the Department's Divisional Leads across the business areas. We welcomed the respectful discussions

and responses received and look forward to working together through the implementation phase.

The 41 Recommendations form the foundation of AJAC's first term and set a clear roadmap for the future.

Department of Communities

We were pleased to host the Department of Communities' Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group (ASAG) and their Secretariat to align on shared priorities and explore opportunities for future collaboration.

Together we are committed to strengthening cross-agency initiatives that deliver meaningful, sustainable change for our communities.

Supporting Department Initiatives

We welcomed Magistrate Kim Farmer from the Children's Court for an update on key initiatives we strongly support: INROADS and Dandjoo Bidi-Ak. We were pleased to hear that children are successfully finishing the INROADS program in the community and that Dandjoo Bidi-Ak is now in its fifth year.

We also provided our input on Reducing Avoidable Remand, a priority initiative of the Justice Priority Reform Committee.

The work done by such initiatives support our youth and the broader community.

Reflecting on AJAC's First Term

We would like to take a moment to reflect on our first term as a high level Aboriginal advisory committee. Since being established in October 2021, we have maintained our commitment to improving the outcomes for our mob and are proud of the journey we have been on together.

We look forward to continuing our engagements in 2026.

AJAC Contact Information

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Online: Kylie Maj (Director General), Kylie Le Lievre.
Clockwise: Joslyn Tass, Justin Kickett, Ben Ripper, Jean O'Reeri, Daniel English, Henry Lockyer, Laura Darch, Monique Nile (Dimer), Amanda King, Commissioner Corrective Services Brad Royce and Trent Davies.



L to R: Trent Davies, Justin Kickett, Monique Nile (Dimer), Henry Lockyer, Ben Ripper, Kylie Maj and Daniel English.