



WA Forced Adoption Reference Group

Communique Meeting 4 - 20 February 2026

The fourth meeting of the WA Forced Adoption Reference Group (Reference Group) was held on 20 February 2026.

Representatives from the Department of Communities (Communities) Adoption Services and Legal and Business Services teams attended the meeting to provide information on the current approach to services and discuss the Adoption Act 1994.

Reference Group members shared their views on how their lived experience of forced adoption and of accessing records and information could enhance current practices and improve the experience of others.

The legislative amendments to the Adoption Act supported in the [First Annual Implementation Progress Report of the Government Response to Report 66 – Broken Bonds, Fractured Lives](#) were also discussed and members advocated strongly for substantial reform to the Adoption Act 1994 in addition to the amendments.

Members were provided with an update from Communities on recommendation 19 – Raising Public Awareness on forced adoption, actions completed to date and others in progress. Members are involved in providing feedback on draft resources and initiatives and in assisting Communities to prioritise resources to developed.

Recommendations 14 and 17 focus on the development and implementation of a plan for services to meet the needs of people impacted by forced adoption in Western Australia in relation to mental health support; access to adoption records and information; and search, contact, genealogy and mediation services. The Reference Group were briefed by Communities on the plan for the service design and commissioning of services.

Members provided early feedback on service specifications for forced adoption services and will continue to be consulted and updated on this work. Current service provision will remain in place until December 2027 with planning, commissioning and commencement of new services for all adoption services complete in early January 2028.

The next meeting of the Reference Group is scheduled for May 2026.