



WA Forced Adoption Reference Group

Communique Meeting 5 – 29 May 2026

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The fifth meeting of the WA Forced Adoption Reference Group (Reference Group) was held on 29 May 2026. An independent facilitator has been engaged to assist with the Reference Group going forward.

Members agreed on amendments to the Terms of Reference and agreed these changes would be endorsed out-of-session.

Members were provided with a draft program of work for the second year of the Reference Group for feedback. This work plan provides a proposed structure of discussions of in scope recommendations for future Reference Group meetings.

The Department of Communities is developing an online resource that is clear, comprehensive, with up-to-date advice identifying the existing collections of records relevant to forced adoption. This will include where they are held and how the records can be accessed (Recommendation 9). During the meeting, members shared their experiences in searching for records and provided advice which will contribute to the development of this resource.

Members also considered a draft communication strategy, to support the development of a public awareness campaign, intended to increase education and awareness of the history and ongoing impacts of forced adoption in Western Australia (Recommendation 19). Members provided advice on communication considerations. Members will continue to work with the secretariat and Department of Communities communications team and provide advice regarding the campaign.

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