



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Communique No. 16 – AJAC Meeting 1 of 2026

Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee Members Appointed

We came together for our first Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) meeting of 2026, marking the beginning of our second term and welcoming new members while expanding regional representation.

As part of this new term, we have grown from 10 to 12 regions to better reflect communities across Western Australia. This includes the addition of East Pilbara and the separation of Midwest and Gascoyne into distinct regions, enabling the AJAC to strengthen the local experiences, priorities, and aspirations, while ensuring broader representation at the table.

Our member profiles have been updated and are available on the Department's website: [Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee - Member Profiles](#).

It is important that we take time to acknowledge and sincerely share our gratitude to outgoing members Daniel English and Kylie Le Lievre, for their commitment over the past four years. Both made significant contributions to the development of the 41 AJAC recommendations, which continue to guide our work.



L to R – Justin Kickett, Henry Lockyer, Raylene Button, George Hayden, Jean O'Reeri, Dylan McCarthy and Joslyn Eades-Tass.
(Noting not all AJAC members are present in the photo)

Meeting 1 of 2026

We held our first meeting at the David Malcolm Justice Centre in Boorloo (Perth), beginning with a Welcome to Country by Noongar Elder Nick Abraham. This grounded our discussions in respect and connection, overlooking the Derbarl Yerrigan, as a suitable meeting place.

Co-Chair Elect

A key milestone for us was agreeing to move toward a Co-Chair leadership model shared with the Department. This approach will share responsibility and strengthen collaboration with Department Co-

Chair, Director General Kylie Maj. We unanimously selected Henry Lockyer as Co-Chair elect, demonstrating our commitment to this shared leadership model and to working collaboratively to drive reform.

AJAC 2026 Planning

Together, we discussed our meeting schedule and strategic priorities for the year ahead. We are working with the AJAC Secretariat to plan a strategic workshop in August 2026 to finalise our key priorities.

OFFICIAL

Aboriginal Visitors Scheme (AVS)
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Deputy Commissioner of Young People

We welcomed Deputy Commissioner of Young People Rick Curtis, attending on behalf of the Commissioner of Corrective Services, who provided an update on youth justice initiatives. We heard about the Juvenile Justice Team pilot being planned for delivery in Kununurra, Carnarvon and metropolitan areas. The program focuses on strengthening relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Elders, reflecting a shift toward more community-led approaches.

We also received a presentation from the WACSAR division on the AJAC Data Dashboard. This provides us with important insights into trends for Aboriginal people in custody and on remand, supporting more informed decision-making and helping us identify where reform efforts are most needed.

AJAC Strategic Priority Recommendations

We reaffirmed our commitment to the 41 AJAC recommendations. These will be embedded within the Department's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and progressed through the RAP Steering Committee.

To support this, we will nominate an AJAC member to provide oversight of the implementation of these recommendations, with regular reporting and updates to the AJAC.



Supporting Department Initiatives

We heard about several initiatives aimed at supporting Aboriginal people and communities, including: the Barndimalgu evaluation; research into in-prison traineeship programs and their impact on reoffending; the newly launched *On Track to Thrive* program.

Karnet Prison Farm

We would like to thank Paul Kenyon the section 95 workers and team at Karnet Prison Farm who catered for the two-day meeting. We look forward to engaging with Karnet Prison Farm for future catering services.

Overall, our first AJAC meeting of 2026 set a strong foundation for the year ahead. With a new membership and a shared leadership, the AJAC is well positioned to continue driving meaningful reform in Aboriginal justice.

AJAC Contact Information

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