



28<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
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Western Australia 6005  
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### A Path Forward Developing the Western Australian Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above named discussion paper. The Langford Aboriginal Association (LAA) Management Committee and Senior Executive Officer met to discuss the document and provide the following in response to the three questions.

#### **1. Are the main ideas right?**

Do you agree with the description of the overall goal, principles, strategic elements and framework? Would you change or add anything?

*We agree with the overall goal, principles, strategic elements and framework however several questions were raised regarding the intent of the document such as:-*

- *The document makes no mention of **resources**. The strategy needs resources. Will there be additional funding committed to ensure long-term commitment?*
- *What faith do we have that anything will happen from this strategy?*
- *The strategy appears to be 'led by Government'.*
- *How will government ensure accountability and transparency for the strategic outcomes?*
- *There must be a focus on long term sustainable funding for Aboriginal focussed programs and organisations.*
- *Our community do not want representatives selected by government but rather by and from community. Government need to engage community to ensure-a transparent process.*
- *Two way communication is important.*
- *Language of the document should be in simple English and directed at all levels of community.*
- *State funders must trust and fully fund Aboriginal community controlled organisations. Directing funding to mainstream organisations for Aboriginal community must change.*



**LANGFORD ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION INC (LAA)** ABN: 43 117 457 998  
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- *What happens to this strategy if Government (political parties) change?*
- *Robust program evaluation based on whose ideology (Western or Aboriginal Culture)?*
- *COAG Agenda – we do not want Coalition of Peaks representing us in WA.*
- *Be mindful of terms used.*
- *What is the definition implied in the document in reference to 'Traditional Owner' groups. This could have different meanings and needs to be fully explained.*
- *What is the government going 'to do' to make sure all these ideas are going to be implemented?*

## 2. Are we using the right words?

You might broadly agree with the main ideas, but want to see them expressed using different language. We welcome your recommendations. In particular, we are interested in whether the term "Aboriginal people" should be used or whether other terms such as "First Nations" would be more appropriate.

*Our collective preferred language is **Aboriginal people(s)** which is in recognition of the diversity of Aboriginal people.*

## 3. What else should we be thinking about?

You may have a view on how the strategy should be implemented in a particular region or subject area, or examples of current good practice. Your ideas are valuable to us.

- *Where is the Community voice?*
- *TOF should be set by Aboriginal people*
- *Process should be holistic in approach.*
- *How would you ensure we (community, community organisations, mums, dads, youth, Elders) would be a part of the design?*
- *Community members who don't work do not necessarily have access to technology*
- *Access and Resources needs to be considered in the strategy.*
- *Need to develop capability at a local level.*
- *Concepts are okay in principle but how do they interconnect and are they interconnected?*
- *What is the definition of "good" lives.*
- *It is important to use capital "E" when referring to Elders.*
- *How are they going to make sure its going to happen and be resourced?*
- *Should be from bottom up.*
- *During implementation need to use Cultural Frameworks.*

The discussion papers mention the focus on a number of areas including creating jobs. LAA propose a focus also include

- Increasing the **cultural, social and emotional wellbeing (CSEWB)** of our community through sustainable funding of the CSEWB, a program delivered by LAA.
- To compensate the **stolen generation** and their children for the pain and suffering caused.
- To assist LAA with the acquisition of 8 to 10 hectares of land for an **Aboriginal Aged Care Community Hub** and contribute to sustainability of such. Consider a blended funding model.
- Building the capacity of small Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, such as LAA, who are supporting and contributing to building the capacity of Aboriginal community members.



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- Funding the continuation of programs namely
  - Art
  - Noongar Language
  - Healing programs
  - Men and Women's programs
  - After school support programs
  - Co-morbidity of alcohol and other drugs with mental health

Contact Raelee Cook, Chairperson or Leonie Pickett, Senior Executive Officer on 9451 1424 or email [manager@laalangford.com.au](mailto:manager@laalangford.com.au) if you have any queries.



Raelee Cook

Chairperson

On behalf of the Langford Aboriginal Association Management Committee and Senior Staff



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