

Our Reference D20/10340

26 February 2020

Mr Nicholas Duff
Principal Policy Officer
Aboriginal Policy Coordination Unit

Dear Mr Duff,

A Path Forward: Developing the Western Australian Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy

I write in response to your invitation to provide feedback on the discussion paper *A Path Forward: Developing Western Australian Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy* and reply in my capacity as Acting CEO of both Lotterywest and Healthway.

Our organisations strongly support this discussion paper which reflects a clear step change in the way Government engages with Aboriginal people. In particular, investment in early intervention and preventative initiatives is a priority funding area for Lotterywest and Healthway.

A Healthway initiative currently underway is a targeted research round to fund projects that better understand Aboriginal health issues, Aboriginal health promotion programs or policy intervention in Western Australia. Research projects funded through the scheme will respond to a community need, are co-designed and led by at least one indigenous Chief Investigator.

Through the Community Investment Framework our organisations provide funding for important projects such as innovative trials in new early intervention approaches, and community projects that improve cultural understanding and appreciation. As identified in this discussion paper, these are priority areas for both the Government and Lotterywest Healthway. I encourage those eligible local government authorities and not-for-profit organisations to work together and discuss their ideas with our grants team to take forward the strategy.

Lotterywest and Healthway continue to strive in its support of improved outcomes for our indigenous counterparts and this year will be implementing its new Reconciliation Action Plan.

Should you require any further information please contact Tracy Parker, Executive Policy Officer on 9488 6185 or tracy.parker@lotterywest.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Ioannis Gerathanasis
Acting Chief Executive Officer