



WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE FORCE

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ISSUE: Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Discussion Paper

BACKGROUND:

Assistant Commissioner Whiteley attended the Supporting Communities Forum on 2 December 2019.

At the meeting the Western Australia Police Force were requested to provide feedback on the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Discussion Paper, produced by the Department for the Premier and Cabinet.

The WA Police Force were requested to provide feedback on three specific questions addressing the following references in the discussion paper documents (attached):

- A Path Forward - community information sheet (2 pages)
- Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy discussion paper (32 pages)

The feedback will be used by the Department for the Premier and Cabinet in the development of the implementation strategy.

CURRENT STATUS:

Aboriginal Affairs Division has reviewed the document and consulted with members of the Aboriginal Police Advisory Forum. A response to the feedback question is provided below.

1. Are the main ideas right?

The WA Police Force agree with the description and overall goals.

2. Are we using the right words?

The words contained in the document are inclusive and empowering for Aboriginal people.

Whilst engaging across a number of different communities when conducting business, WA Police Force have been advised Aboriginal people do not endorse First Nations or First Peoples as a term to be applied to Aboriginal people within Western Australia.

Aboriginal is the preferred terminology.

3. What else should we be thinking about?

The implementation of the strategy should be coordinated through the Aboriginal Affairs Coordinating Committee (AACC).

The existing Aboriginal strategic plans held by the various state government agencies should be brought together to avoid duplication and a siloed approach. It's suggested a cross-agency steering committee for implementation be formed.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Positives of the strategy's is culturally centred approach include:

- The consultation was a human centred approach and design, centred design strategies are on trend as opposed to a construct design of strategies.
- This extends to many high performing organisations employing Citizen Experience Officers, therefore you might want to consider, putting 'Aboriginal Culture and Citizens' at the centre of the strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

Deputy Commissioner Blanch endorses the provision of the above feedback to the Aboriginal Policy and Coordination Unit at the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

CURRENT AS: 17/02/2020

APPROVED BY: BRIAN WILKINSON
SUPERINTENDENT
ABORIGINAL POLICY DIVISION

ENDORSED BY: COL BLANCH
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER