**Communique – Meeting 1 (16 Feb 2021)**

A series of roundtables with Aboriginal stakeholders and service providers, as well as a workshop with Department of Communities Aboriginal Practice Leaders were held in late 2020 for the Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM) pilot.

Professor Rhonda Marriot and Associate Professor Melissa O’Donnell facilitated the Roundtables and wrote the *Report on the Co-Design for an Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making Pilot for the Department of Communities, December 2020*.

In line with stakeholder feedback, an Implementation Group was established and held its inaugural meeting today.

Ten Aboriginal members were appointed to the Implementation Group following an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Professor Marriot assessed the EOIs and selected members that represented gender balance, complementary strengths and statewide interests from multiple diverse backgrounds, thus providing the authenticity of the Aboriginal lens.

The Implementation group will make key decisions based on the Roundtable report and ongoing discussions. The first Implementation group meeting was scheduled for 2 February which was postponed because of a brief COVID lockdown.

The first meeting of the group was on Tuesday 16 February and was held at Wungening Aboriginal Corporation. In attendance at the first meeting were Implementation group members William Hayward, Corina Martin, Keiran Dent, Emma Truman, Kate George, Glenn Pearson, Rekisha Eades and Jonathon Reid. Apologies were given by Glenda Kickett and Damien Parriman.

The meeting was opened by a stirring Welcome to Country from Aunty Marie Taylor and respects were paid to the late Ms Leah Bonson. A brief tribute was given along with one-minute silence to acknowledge her life’s work and commitment to the Aboriginal community.

The key decision from the first meeting was to appoint the co-chairs,
Mr William Hayward and Ms Corina Martin as well as the deputy co-chairs,
Mr Keiran Dent and Ms Emma Truman. The choice of the co-chairs recognised the level of experience of the group with senior members leading the discussion about succession planning and creating opportunities for current and future leaders. All members agreed on a gender balance also in recognition of the importance of the voice of men and women in the child protection space.

The Implementation Group endorsed a small number of Department of Communities staff including the Secretariat to attend the Implementation Group meetings to present agenda items.

Due to the state election period and the caretaker period, the Implementation Group was unable to publish the first communique until the end of the caretaker period.