



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Meeting 1 2021: 1 and 2 December 2021 – Communique No. 1

The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) held its inaugural meeting over two days on 1 – 2 December 2021. The nine men and women representing Western Australia's diverse Aboriginal community were appointed by State Cabinet on 4 October 2021. The AJAC's role is to provide cultural advice and guidance to the Department on justice issues.



Director General Dr Adam Tomison (far left) and Gina Hill, Director Aboriginal Justice Transformation (far right) with Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee Members.
Front Row: Joslyn Eades-Tass, Kylie Le Lievre, Merle Carter and Ella Smith.
Back Row: Mitchell Drage, Jacob Collard, Daniel English, Justin Kickett and George Hayden

The AJAC will help identify and suggest improvements to initiatives, policies and strategies to help achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Establishing the AJAC was a key deliverable of the Department's [Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021](#).

During the meeting, AJAC Chair, Department of Justice Director General Dr Adam Tomison, expressed his commitment to open and transparent communication with the Committee, and a desire to achieve real outcomes as a result of the Committee's advice.

Senior Department of Justice executives presented to the AJAC, including:

- **Kylie Maj Executive Director Strategic Reform** Members were presented with an overview of the State Government Aboriginal affairs strategy agenda covering the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy, the Closing the Gap Jurisdictional implementation Plan and the newly established Justice Policy Partnership.
- **Gina Hill, Director Aboriginal Justice Transformation** Members were informed of the current initiatives of the Aboriginal Justice Transformation Directorate
- **Dr Shona Hyde, Director of the Office of Western Australian Crime Statistics and Research (WACSAR)** Members received an introduction to WACSAR and a presentation on data points relevant to Aboriginal justice.
- **Paul McMullan, Deputy Commissioner Offender Services** Members were given a report on current programs tailored to the needs of Aboriginal people within the custodial estate.
- **Kati Kraszlan, Commissioner Victims of Crime** Members were presented with an overview of the Department's current services to victims of crime, strategies for reform and the recently established Victims of Crime Reference Group.

AJAC Members attended a meeting with **Western Australian Chief Magistrate Steven Heath**, to discuss current services provided by the Court to Aboriginal people and strategies for increasing Aboriginal participation in the legal profession. Members also attended a meeting with **Chief Assessor of Criminal Injuries Compensation Charmaine Holyoak-Roberts** to discuss the regional presence of the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation and strategies to improve services for Aboriginal victims of crime.

The AJAC considered and endorsed the following governance documents:

- **The AJAC Terms of Reference**
- **The AJAC Code of Conduct**

Governance and Responsibilities

Members participated in a group learning session outlining the standards expected of members of state government boards. They discussed responsibilities around conflicts of interest, misconduct and the importance of appropriate risk management and ethical decision making. They also discussed their strategic focus and how to ensure effective committee operations.

Renaming Event

The inaugural AJAC meeting was a fitting occasion to also host a celebration of the re-naming of the Esplanade Meeting Room on Level 23 of the David Malcolm Justice Centre. In acknowledgement of the traditional owners, the Whadjuk People of the Noongar nation, and considering the way the space is used, the room was renamed in Noongar language - Boodier Mya (*Home of Leaders*). This room will be the regular meeting place of the AJAC.

AJAC Members attended a morning tea event to celebrate the renaming, and to unveil newly commissioned artwork which decorates windows of Boodier Mya.



Director General Dr Adam Tomison unveils the artwork adorning Boodier Mya on Level 23 of the David Malcolm Justice Centre.

The AJAC will next meet in February 2022.