



## Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

### Meeting 1 of 2022: 23 and 24 February 2022 – Communique No. 2

The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) convened for Meeting 2, and its first sitting of 2022, on February 23 and 24.

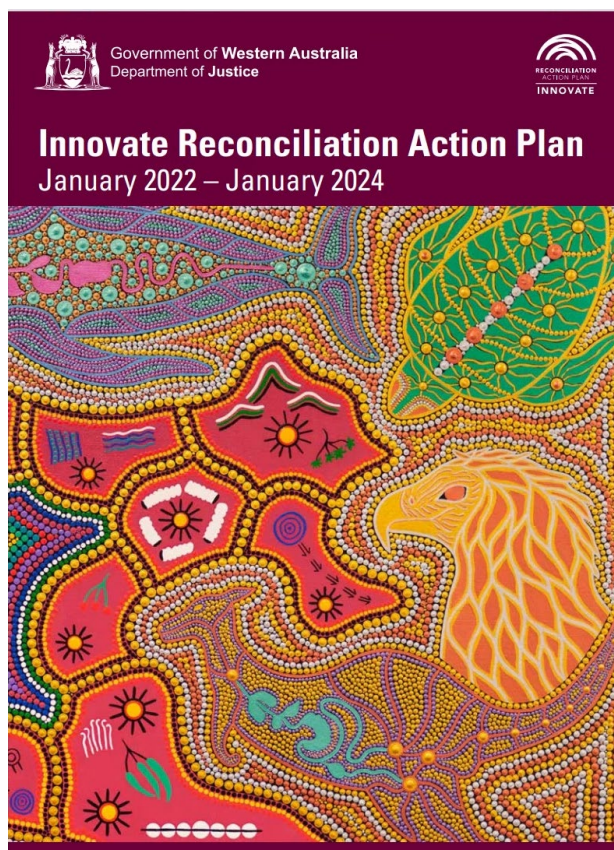
### Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024

Emma Roebuck, Assistant Director Reconciliation and Simon Keenan, Manager Reconciliation, briefed members on the Department's new Reconciliation Action Plan launched on 14 February 2022.

This is the Department's second RAP at the 'Innovate' level. It contains more ambitious actions with the aim to build upon the Department's achievements of its first RAP.

Ms Roebuck and Mr Keenan highlighted an increased external focus which intends to embed the voice of the Aboriginal community in the Department's work and improve its relationships with the Aboriginal community.

The document's 119 deliverables include initiatives in the areas of Aboriginal stakeholder engagement, Aboriginal employment, substantive equality in justice outcomes and increased procurement arrangements with Aboriginal owned businesses.



### Youth Justice Presentations and Discussion

The AJAC continued its focus on youth justice and the experiences of Aboriginal young people who come into contact with the justice system. Members held discussions with Department of Justice senior executives regarding current operations within the WA youth justice system and received briefing on some of the programs and services provided by the Department to support Aboriginal young people.

#### Women and Young People

Deputy Commissioner Andy Beck briefed members on the Department's Women and Young People portfolio, and the current situation at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre and outlined the Department's future plans at the facility.

Zoran Trajkovski, Director Youth Justice Operations and Jaide Lancaster, Director Youth Justice Services from the Women and Young People directorate joined members for a discussion about Western Australia's youth justice system and the role of the Department of Justice.

## **Metropolitan Youth Bail Service**

Members travelled to the Metropolitan Youth Bail Service (MYBS) offices in Victoria Park to meet with frontline staff who are helping some of Western Australia's most vulnerable young people to get bail. The AJAC members were hosted by Jaide Lancaster and MYBS Manager Jarrad Wall and discussed how the service operates and the many challenges faced by Aboriginal young people who come into contact with it.

## **Legal Aid Western Australia**

AJAC members were hosted by Legal Aid WA Chief Executive Officer Dr Graham Hill and First Nations Coordinator Michelle Sims at their offices in Perth at the beginning of Day 2.

Members were given an overview of:

- Legal Aid's Virtual Office facilities,
- Legal Yarn, a project that gives Aboriginal people seeking legal advice the opportunity to speak with an Aboriginal person in the first instance,
- the Reducing Avoidable Remand Project, and
- Blurred Borders, a Commonwealth funded project that provides a system of resources for communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who speak English as a second language. These resources use visual art and storytelling to help explain, in a culturally accessible way, key legal concepts.

## **COVID 19 and the AJAC in 2022**

The AJAC intends to adhere to its five meeting schedule for 2022.

AJAC Chair Director General Dr Adam Tomison remarked that meetings would be held remotely during COVID-19 to ensure the ongoing safety of AJAC members, Aboriginal communities and Department of Justice staff. These safety arrangements will be reviewed periodically during 2022.

The Department is making all necessary arrangements to ensure AJAC members are supported to continue their important work.

**The AJAC will next meet on 27 and 28 April 2022.**