



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Meeting 5 of 2022: 15 and 16 September 2022 – Communique No. 5

The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) convened for Meeting 5 of 2022 on September 15 – 16.

The Attorney General and Minister for Corrective Services meet with the AJAC

The Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney-General; Minister for Electoral Affairs and the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations met with AJAC members over lunch on Day 1 of Meeting 5.

The meeting sets the foundation for what is anticipated to be a fruitful working relationship between the Attorney General, the Corrective Services Minister, and the AJAC.

Culture at the Heart

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA (AACWA) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet invited the AJAC to participate in a gathering of State Government Aboriginal Advisory Boards and Committees. The Culture at the Heart workshop took place on Thursday, 1 September at Perth Yacht Club.

The AJAC was represented by members Jacob Collard and Kylie Le Lievre. The workshop brought together Aboriginal Advisory Committees and Groups that work in partnership with the WA Government. The desired outcome was to develop a shared understanding of the respective roles, strategic priorities and aspirations in order to collectively influence a whole of government approach to Aboriginal Affairs.

Jacob and Kylie briefed AJAC Members on the workshop at Meeting 5. The workshop represents the first step in ongoing communication and collaboration between Aboriginal advisory boards and committees in Western Australia.

Aboriginal Cultural Courts

Katrina Peterson, Acting Director at Magistrates Courts and Tribunals, attended the meeting to discuss Aboriginal Cultural Courts across Australia, including the Barndimalgu Family Violence Court currently operating in the Geraldton region.

Strategic Priorities

The AJAC continues its strategic work in the priority areas of Young People; Safe Housing and Homelessness; Aboriginal Workforce Development and Employment; and Procurement and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations. The AJAC has made tangible progress on all four priority areas having consulted both within the Department and externally to identify policy gaps and areas where the committee can influence change. The AJAC has also established a regular Aboriginal workforce data reporting relationship with Corporate Services to monitor the Department's progress in this area.

Consultation

AJAC members received a further update and provided advice on the development of key Department of Justice strategies including the **Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy** and the **Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy**.

Victim Voices Conference 2022

On Day 2 of the meeting, the AJAC attended the Victim Voices Conference, held by the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime at State Library WA.

The Hon John Quigley MLA, Attorney General of Western Australia delivered the opening address. The conference encompassed themes relating to the victims' journey through the Criminal Justice system, and featured speakers from the Department, Public Prosecutions, WA Police and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (North Metropolitan Health Service).



The Conference included an evaluation of Department's trial service dog program at the Perth Children's Court. Five-year-old black Labrador, Winston, is specially trained by Guide Dogs WA to support victims of crime, witnesses to crime and other court users. Sadly, Winston was self-isolating on the day of the conference. Fortunately, Lynette, a new facility dog, was present to meet conference attendees, provide support and brighten their days.

The AJAC will next meet on 16 and 17 November 2022.