



# Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

## Communique Meeting 02/2022 – 05 December 2022

The second meeting of the Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group focussed on setting the group up for success.

There was a clear commitment from all members to improve outcomes for Aboriginal families and communities in WA.

### Updates provided to the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group received data from the Department of Communities (Communities) on its Aboriginal workforce, including retention rates. The Advisory Group also received an update on the Disruptive Behaviour Policy in public housing, including the introduction of alternative and proportionate actions, which have significantly reduced evictions.

### Closing the Gap

Senior leaders from Communities outlined Communities' significant work to support Closing the Gap outcomes in Western Australia.

The presentation focused on Communities' role in leading Outcome 12 and Outcome 13, and the programs driving progress in toward the targets:

- **Outcome 12 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system**
  - 10 Year Road Map to Reduce the Number of Aboriginal Children in Care
  - Early intervention programs such as Early Intervention Family Support programs; Pre-birth program; Target 120; and Homestretch
  - The Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy
  - Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making
  - Aboriginal Representative Organisations
  - Communities' Aboriginal Cultural Capability Reform Program to develop staff and build capacity
- **Outcome 13 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe**
  - Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy

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#### Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Communities acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their Elders past and present.

## Creating the conditions for change

Advisory Group members and Communities senior leaders participated in interactive workshop sessions to discuss key issues affecting Aboriginal people and families.

Advisory Group members shared insights about the challenges faced by communities and individuals in accessing services, the important role of carers and informal supporters, and where some programs are not yet working well, or people may be falling through the gaps.

The Advisory Group decided on five Strategic Priorities to be worked on at each meeting in 2023:

- Aboriginal empowerment through procurement
- Communities' Aboriginal Workforce
- The Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy
- The 10-Year Roadmap to reduce the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care
- Homelessness and housing

Other issues will also be brought to meetings, with members providing a voice for issues on the ground in the community. Communities' Director General will also raise matters for strategic advice from the Advisory Group.

## Aboriginal Employee Network Forum

Several Advisory Group members will attend Communities' Aboriginal Employee Network Forum to talk about what drew them to become a part of the Advisory Group and their vision for the work with Communities. This event will provide a valuable opportunity for the members to meet Aboriginal employees and develop a connection with the Aboriginal Employee Network as a foundation to work together.

## Presentation on matters for WA government boards and committees

The Public Sector Commission provided a group orientation on the principles that all advisory structures must follow with regards to integrity and accountability as members of a public sector committee.

## Actions and next steps

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia has invited the Advisory Group Co-Chairs and senior representatives from Communities to participate in a workshop discussion on youth justice issues.

The Advisory Group will receive an out of session briefing from Communities' Aboriginal Outcomes division on the work of the Closing the Gap Implementation Oversight Committee.

The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be in Walyalup (Fremantle) on 13 March 2023.

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**Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group Communique 02/2022**

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