



ABORIGINAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL WA

COMMUNIQUE – MEETING NO. 1

10 – 11 December 2019

The newly appointed members of the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (AACWA) held their first meeting on Tuesday 10 December and Wednesday 11 December 2019, at Dumas House in West Perth. A list of all members of the AACWA is available at <http://www.dpc.wa.gov.au>.

In accordance with section 18(3) of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*, at the commencement of that meeting, the members appointed Ms Gail Beck and Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado as Co-Chairpersons of the AACWA.

Key items discussed and considered by the AACWA included the following:

- **Appointment of Western Australia’s representatives for Closing the Gap**

Members appointed Mr Jonathan Ford and Ms Vicki O’Donnell as Western Australia’s representatives for State and Commonwealth Closing the Gap forums.

- **Draft Terms of Reference**

Draft Terms of Reference, prepared by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), based on the agreed principles of the former Interim Aboriginal Working Group, were presented to the AACWA for consideration. Members provided some feedback and agreed to formally endorse the revised terms of reference at its first meeting in 2020.

- **New Branding for the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia**

To reflect the refreshed AACWA, previously known as the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council or the WAAAC, four graphic options were presented to members. These options were developed by an Indigenous graphic designer, Mr Darryl Bellotti.

Option 4, the graphic used at the top of this Communique, was chosen by members after consideration of each option and the story attached to their development.

- **Good Governance for WA Boards and Committees**

A respected and trusted public sector is vital to effective government (collectively referred to as ‘boards’). Boards contribute to community confidence in the public sector by providing relevant skills and experience to support public sector decision making, and ensuring the views of interest groups and stakeholders are considered in public sector service delivery.

Representatives from the Public Sector Commission gave a presentation on good governance to members.

- **Closing the Gap - Coalition of Peaks-Led Engagements in Western Australia**

DPC provided an overview of the recent community engagements around the State, which were led by the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations

(Coalition of Peaks). A number of AACWA members were closely involved in the engagements and shared their account of the workshops with the other members.

- **Discussion paper – A Path Forward: Developing the Western Australian Government’s Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy**

Members noted the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt MLA, released the ‘Discussion paper – A Path Forward: Developing the Western Australian Government’s Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy’ on 2 December 2019 for public comment.

Developed in collaboration with the AACWA, and a range of Aboriginal organisations, the discussion paper outlines measures to strengthen co-ordination, co-operation and accountability through working with Aboriginal people and organisations to develop a long-term plan to improve social, economic, health and cultural outcomes for Aboriginal people.

This will make it easier to see where progress is being made and where Government needs to direct more effort.

The Discussion Paper is open for comment until 28 February 2020, with Aboriginal people encouraged to have their say. The Discussion Paper is available at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/developing-aboriginal-empowerment-strategy>.

The Strategy is expected to be finalised later in 2020.

- **Climate Health WA Inquiry**

In March 2019, the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Minister for Health, announced an Inquiry into the impacts of climate change on health in Western Australia.

Representatives from the Department of Health gave a presentation to members on the Climate Health WA Inquiry, noting that some of the members had provided feedback to the Inquiry through their involvement with other organisations.

Details about the Inquiry are available at <https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Improving-WA-Health/Climate-health-inquiry>.

- **Other issues discussed by members included the:**

- State Government’s response to the Coroner’s Inquest into Aboriginal Youth Suicide; and
- Remote Communities Project.

Due to time constraints, however, these issues will be discussed in more detail at the February 2020 AACWA meeting. The 2020 schedule of meeting dates and locations for the AACWA will be published on DPC’s website following its February meeting.

- **Joint Meeting with the Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinating Committee**

A joint meeting of the AACWA and the Aboriginal Affairs Co-ordinating Committee was held on 11 December 2019.

This meeting was to provide for an initial exchange of expectations and priorities by the two groups to ensure they are working in unison. The members noted the AACWA will hold a strategic planning session at its February 2020 meeting, which will help to shape the agenda for the AACC meetings.

Ms Gail Beck
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia

Mr Martin (Marty) Sibosado
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia