



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

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AJAC Meeting 5 of 2023

On 23 and 24 August in Perth we met for our fifth Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee meeting of 2023. We were very happy to welcome new AJAC members Henry Lockyer, Jean O'Reeri and Amanda King to their first meeting in Perth. We also said farewell to Goldfields AJAC member Ella Smith, who has taken on a senior position within the Department working on its Closing the Gap commitments. Ella was a founding member of the AJAC and we will greatly miss her knowledge and experience in youth justice. We wish her all the very best in her new role.

Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility

The Department updated us on work it is doing on the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR). Specifically, we were consulted on how MACR reform is being implemented in the Northern Territory, and the reforms currently being considered in the Australian Capital Territory. We provided our feedback on these models for raising the age and advised on what we think is appropriate for our communities if the WA Government considers such reform in Western Australia.

AJAC Strategic Priorities

In 2022 we identified 4 strategic priority areas for the AJAC to focus our efforts. They are **Young People, Safe Housing and Homelessness, Aboriginal Workforce Development and Employment**, and **Procurement and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs)**. Over the course of the last year, we have received regular briefings on all four of these priority areas and participated in workshop discussions to identify our goals. At this meeting we confirmed the next steps for each of our three subcommittees which will drive our work with the Department:

- AJAC Young People Subcommittee
- AJAC Aboriginal Workforce Development and Employment Subcommittee
- AJAC ACCO and Procurement Subcommittee

We look forward to sharing the results of this work with our communities when we get to the end of the AJAC's first term.

Justice Policy Partnership

AJAC Members were further updated on the progress of the Justice Policy Partnership (JPP), which is focussed on delivering holistic and long-lasting structural actions to meet justice targets for reducing Aboriginal overrepresentation in the justice system.

Regional Meeting Discussion

Finally, we reflected on our first regional meeting which took place earlier this year in Kununurra and Wyndham.

Thank you to the mobs in Wyndham and Kununurra for welcoming us to your country and for sharing your stories with us. We were overwhelmed and inspired by the commitment and passion of the people we met working for their communities.

It was a valuable learning experience and emphasised the need for the Department to continue connecting the AJAC with community on country around WA, so that our advice reflects the needs of regional and remote communities.

We look forward to those future connections.



Fig 2: Ngaanyatjarra Lands Elders Elizabeth Ellis and Daisy Ward meet Miriwoong Elder Agnes Armstrong at Celebrity Tree Park in Kununurra.