



Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

Communique – Meeting 08/2024

25-26 November 2024 – Induction and Meeting
27 November 2024 – Planning Day

On 25 and 26 November 2024, the Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its eighth meeting on the land of the Noongar people in Walyalup (Fremantle), with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony with Boorna Waankiny by Elder Brett Collard, from Dooga Waalitj Healing. Prior to the meeting, the Department of Communities (Communities) held a half day induction for incoming members of the Advisory Group which was also attended by existing members.

On 27 November 2024, Advisory Group members held a planning day to elect Co-Chairs Patricia Hayward and Tony Hansen, and set strategic priorities and meeting dates for 2025.

Key presentations at the 25-26 November 2024 meeting included:

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Commissioning Framework

Over 2023-2024 Communities has been developing an ACCO Commissioning Framework (Framework) through consultation with the ACCO sector, the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia, the Australian Health Council of Western Australia, Aboriginal people and people involved in commissioning community services across Western Australia (WA).

This initiative is intended to support an increase in the number of ACCOs providing services to the community. The Framework will support and guide Communities through culturally informed ways of working, to build trust with ACCOs and Aboriginal communities, enable self-determination and economic and socio-economic opportunities for ACCOs across WA.

Feedback received to date throughout the development of the Framework was presented in the form of themes and principles. Advisory Group members provided input into this Framework and feedback on its development.

This initiative is intended to support an increase in the number of ACCOs providing services to the community, in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2 – Building the Community Controlled Sector. It is aligned with the intentions of Communities' ACCO Strategy 2022-2032, and the Whole of Government ACCO Strategy released in May 2024.

Statewide housing contracts and development in the housing space

Communities provided an update on the current status and future pathway of statewide housing contracts and development in the housing space:

- Housing program.
 - Communities manages 2,700 rental houses across 111 remote and town-based communities.

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.

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- Remote Communities Fund.
 - Established in the 2022-23 State Budget with \$200 million to improve power and water services and \$150 million for housing and municipal services.
 - Communities is delivering: 111 Refurbishments, 65 New Houses and 12 municipal projects by June 2028.
- Housing Construction and Refurbishment Builders Panel.
 - Communities has established a panel of registered builders to further accelerate the state-wide delivery of social housing.
 - Out of 145 builders on the Panel, 17 are registered Aboriginal businesses.

Aboriginal Outcomes Overview

Communities provided an overview of the Aboriginal Outcomes Division:

- The Aboriginal Outcomes Division was established in July 2021 to lead and enable Communities to deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities in WA.
- Culture is at the Koort (Heart) of the Aboriginal Outcomes Division. In striving to achieve its vision, the division continues to actively work in the following ways:
 - Listen with respect to the perspective of Aboriginal people across the State to ensure Truth Telling is at the centre.
 - Champion Aboriginal-led approaches, driven by Aboriginal staff and communities at all levels, including leadership.
 - Facilitate formal genuine partnerships and collaboration across Communities and government, Aboriginal business and Aboriginal community stakeholders.
 - Empower shared decision-making to support the Aboriginal community in the achievement of outcomes.
 - Be agile and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people.
 - Build the evidence base of outcomes and what works, for Aboriginal people to ensure we are building the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector.
 - Promote accountability and trust for Aboriginal outcomes.
- Aboriginal Outcomes is strategically aligned to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy Western Australia 2021-2029, and the Aboriginal Procurement Policy WA.

New Appointments

On 7 October 2024, WA Cabinet endorsed the reappointments of eight existing members and the appointment of eight new members for a full complement of 16 members. The [instrument](#) was gazetted on 29 October 2024, validating the appointments commencing 1 November 2024.

The current Advisory Group membership list is available [here](#).

The next Advisory Group meeting will be held in late March 2025.

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