



Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

Communiqué 10/2025 – June 2025 Meeting



Advisory Group members and Communities staff atop Radio Hill lookout
L-R: Ariana Matos, Margaret Collard, Renae Hodgson, Tony Hansen (Co-chair), Mike Rowe (Ex-officio Member), Belinda Marra, Harry Taylor, Sarah Ugle, Leanne Lockyer (Member), Tracey Brand (Member), Devon Cuimara (Member), Patricia Hayward (Co-chair), Nikita Hawke (Member), Glen Caton, Dave Burns-Wallace, Amy Hearder.

The Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its second meeting of 2025 on beautiful Nyiyaparli Country in Newman on 16-17 June 2025. Members were Welcomed by Martu Elder, Uncle Colin Peterson.

Each day had a focus area, based on the Advisory Group's strategic priorities and guiding principles decided at the March 2025 meeting.

This meeting of the Advisory Group did not have quorum. At the request of the Director General, the meeting went ahead, and all formal advice provided has this noted.

Day 1: Child Protection and Family Support

Child protection and family support overview

This session provided Advisory Group members an opportunity for a dialogue with Melanie Samuels, Deputy Director General, Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS). Members

and the Deputy Director General discussed efforts made to reunify children in out-of-home care (OOHC) with their families, the data on Aboriginal children in OOHC, and the Pre-Birth Planning Program at King Edward Memorial Hospital.

The Deputy Director General then gave an overview of Safe and Supported: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 (Safe and Supported). The Advisory Group discussed financial and health support for carers and cultural capability training for non-Aboriginal carers.

The Advisory Group spent time developing formal advice regarding the CPFS portfolio, facilitated by Margaret Collard, A/Assistant Director General, Aboriginal Outcomes.



Glen Caton (Executive Director – Priority Initiatives, Aboriginal Outcomes) and Tracey Brand, Advisory Group member

Lunch with Newman staff

The Advisory Group was joined for lunch by several Communities staff from the Newman office and members heard about their roles and experiences.

Guest speakers

The Advisory Group heard from three guest speakers in the afternoon and heard different perspectives and experiences of the child protection system in Newman and the Pilbara.

Local carers, Uncle Bruce and Auntie Jodie, spoke about their experience providing a safe place for children who need it.

Naomie Winter (Team Manager, Pilbara CFPS) and Harry Taylor (Senior Child Safety Practitioner Care Services, Pilbara CPFS) spoke about their roles and the experiences they have had while working at Communities, especially key learnings from working on the front line with children and families.

The day closed with a reflection on the day and a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 2: Healing

Aboriginal Healing Framework

The Advisory Group heard from Dr Victoria Hovane and Dr Sharni Chan of Tjallara Consulting and members of the internal project team. The Aboriginal Healing Framework is an action under Communities' Aboriginal Family Safety Strategy 2022-2032. Discussion focused on best practice for healing Aboriginal families and communities.

Q&A with the Director General

Advisory Group members had an informal Q&A with the Director General, who had flown up to Newman for the day to attend. The discussion largely focused on economic

development and increasing OOHC services provided by Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and how that may reduce the number of Aboriginal children entering into OOHC.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The A/Assistant Director General, Aboriginal Outcomes, gave an overview of Communities' new Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and affirmed the commitment to providing the Advisory Group with six-monthly updates on the progress of RAP deliverables.

September agenda planning

The group brainstormed ideas for the agenda of the next meeting and decided on the focus areas of housing and homelessness and the Aboriginal Cultural Framework and Aboriginal Engagement Framework.

Newman tour

Advisory Group member and Newman resident, Devon Cuimara, took the group and Communities staff on a tour of Newman. Devon spoke to members about the Aboriginal Males Healing Centre, the Parnpajinya community, BHP's Newman West site, the Martu Student Hostel, and the Communities offices in Newman.

They visited the Radio Hill lookout, Martumili Art Gallery, and received a tour of the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service Newman clinic, courtesy of Jenny Saler.



Advisory Group members, Nikita Hawke and Patricia Hayward, at the Martumili Art Gallery

Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

The next Advisory Group meeting will be held on Yamatji Country, in Jambinu (Geraldton), on 1-2 September 2025.

Email: AdvisoryGroupSecretariat@communities.wa.gov.au

Webpage: [Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group](#)