

Communique - Meeting No. 39/2025

25 and 26 November

Meeting No.39 of the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (Council)_included a range of engagements aligned to Council's Strategic Pillars: Systemic Reform, Truth-telling and Youth and Family Justice. Key items Council discussed and considered included:

Engagements*

Minister for Goldfields-Esperance

The Hon. David Michael met with the Council to discuss his role as a regional minister and provided an overview of the Mines and Petroleum, Finance and Electoral Affairs portfolios. Discussions referenced the prevalence of racism towards Aboriginal people in mining companies, Aboriginal procurement and local government matters.

Minister for Mid-West

The Hon. Jackie Jarvis met with the Council to discuss her priorities in the Mid West, in addition to providing an overview of the Agriculture and Food, Fisheries, Forestry and Small Business portfolios. Discussions included the importance of consulting with Traditional Owners to better understand the environmental landscape, fishing sustainability issues and the lack of Aboriginal representation in District Leadership Groups.

Minister for Wheatbelt

The Hon. Sabine Winton met with Council to provide an overview of her role as the Minister for Wheatbelt. Key areas of discussion included the Education and Early Childhood portfolios. Minister Winton provided an overview of key Government initiatives such as the Kimberley Schools Project and the full-time Kindergarten pilot set to commence in 2026. Members advocated for the importance of schools better addressing the needs of Aboriginal children.

Department of Communities

The Department of Communities met with Council to provide an overview of its key responsibilities and progress in socio-economic targets set under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Council advised of the importance of supporting ACCOs to enable the provision of services to Aboriginal communities and ensuring Aboriginal people occupy identified positions only.

Department of Justice

The Department of Justice provided an update on the progression of the New Youth Detention Facility. Discussions centred around embedding elements of culture into the facility, optimising care and improving outcomes for young people. Discussions were held on Unit 18, Banksia Hill Detention Centre and the prevalence of undiagnosed children in youth justice systems.

Office of the Digital Government, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Officer of the Digital Government presented an overview of the anticipated Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (PRIS) Act and Aboriginal data governance provisions. Key items discussed included the role of the Chief Data Officer under legislation, the Establishment of a PRIS Advisory Committee and proposed guidance material to support agencies.

Office of the Multicultural Interests, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport (DCITS)

DCITS presented its work in developing a WA Multicultural Act and welcomed Council to be a part of its consultation process. Council highlighted ongoing experiences of racism towards Aboriginal people and the need to improve society's understanding of Aboriginal people.



Ms Rani Randall
Co-Chairperson
Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA

* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique