



# Aboriginal Representative Organisations

## Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Communities (Communities) is reforming child protection processes to strengthen safety, and connection to family, culture and Country for Aboriginal children and families through partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

## Registration of Interest

Communities has opened a Registration of Interest (ROI) to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) across Western Australia.

ACCOs are invited to register their interest in providing Aboriginal Representative Organisations (ARO) services through TendersWA.

Please note that submitting a Registration of Interest is not a guarantee or representation of any kind that Communities will procure an ACCO which registers interest in delivery of ARO services.

### Contact details for more information

- Email: [ARO.ROI@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:ARO.ROI@communities.wa.gov.au)
- Website: [www.communities.wa.gov.au/ARO](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/ARO)

### ACCO support and strengthening

Communities is committed to supporting ACCOs and strengthening the ACCO sector in line with the ACCO Strategy 2022 -2032. Information about specific support will be provided as part of future procurement processes.

## Frequently asked questions

### 1. What is the purpose of the Registration of Interest?

The purpose of the Registration of Interest process is to engage with ACCOs to: understand which ACCOs may be interested in delivering ARO services,

- define what is required by ACCOs to deliver ARO services in each region according to regional priorities, and
- gather early insights about the readiness of ACCOs to deliver these services across all regions in Western Australia.

This information will inform the most appropriate procurement pathway for each region.

## **2. Who is eligible to respond to the Registration of Interest?**

This Registration of Interest process is open to all ACCOs across Western Australia.

## **3. What happens after submitting a Registration of Interest?**

Communities plans to hold a webinar and some On Country yarns with ACCOs during April and May 2026 regarding their Registration of Interest submission.

## **4. What regions will the ARO expansion focus on?**

All regions across Western Australia will be required to have an ARO, currently only the Kimberly and Perth metro areas have ARO services through the early pilot.

## **5. What is an ACCO?**

ACCO Strategy 2022 -2032 defines an ACCO as “an organisation that is:

- a) incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit
- b) controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- c) connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the Programs
- d) governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.”

## **6. Do ACCOs previously awarded an ARO ACCO Sector Building Grant need to complete a Registration of Interest?**

Yes, all ACCOs are required to submit a Registration of Interest, including those previously awarded an ARO ACCO Sector Building Grant.

## **7. Does responding to the Registration of Interest mean we will receive funding or a contract?**

The Registration of Interest is exploratory only and does not form part of a formal procurement process. Following sector engagement, Communities may release a Request for Tender and ACCOs will be required to follow a formal procurement process to assess their suitability to provide ARO services.

## **8. If our ACCO does not register an interest during this process, can we still submit a Request for Tender in the future?**

The Registration of Interest process enables discussion with Communities about the programs, service delivery and potential future tender process.

While your organisation will not be prohibited from submitting a Request for Tender in the future, you will not have the same opportunity for early discussion.

## **9. How will ACCOs be informed of the timeline for procuring ARO services?**

Communities will keep ACCOs, who submit a Registration of Interest, updated on the proposed timeline for any future procurement processes.

**10. What are the reporting requirements and performance expectations of an ARO service provider?**

ARO providers are required to meet regulatory and policy obligations under the Children and Community Services Amendment Act 2021. Approved ARO service providers will be required to collect, maintain, and report data as per future contractual obligations.

**11. Will Registration of Interest submissions be confidential?**

Yes. Submissions will be kept confidential and processed by Communities only. However, insights from the Registration of Interest may be combined and de-identified to inform service design, procurement approaches and market readiness assessments.

**12. How do we become an ARO?**

This Registration of Interest does not require an ACCO to be recognised as an ARO. Information about the process of approval as an ARO will be available prior to any formal procurement commencing.