

# Communique - Meeting No. 40/2026

11 and 12 February

The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (Council) held Meeting No. 40 on 11 and 12 February 2026 at Dumas House.

The Council is comprised of 13 experienced Aboriginal leaders, who bring cultural knowledge and expertise from across the State. The Council appointed a new male Co-chair, Mr Lance Morich, joining Ms Rani Randall.

The meeting included engagements aligned to Council's Strategic Pillars: Systemic Reform, Truth-telling and Youth and Family Justice.

## Key items\* Council discussed and considered included:

### Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Hon. Don Punch met with the Council to discuss the upcoming *WA Closing the Gap 2026-28 Implementation Plan*. Reflections were shared on the alleged terrorist incident during the Forrest Place rally on 26 January 2026 and the prevalence of racism across Western Australia. Council received an update on the WA Stolen Generations Redress Scheme and advocated for the importance of prompt compensation payments.

### Department of Treasury and Finance

The Department of Treasury and Finance met with the Council to provide an overview of its functions since the 2025 Public Sector Reforms. Representatives also provided an overview of the *Aboriginal Expenditure Review 2023-24* and key findings. Council discussed the issue of black cladding, data accuracy of Aboriginal business reporting and advocated for increased funding for Closing the Gap initiatives.

### Public Sector Commission

The Public Sector Commission provided an overview of Aboriginal Employment in the WA Public Sector and initiatives in place to support diverse employment. Council advocated for increased Aboriginal representation across the sector and provided advice on opportunities.

### Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Closing the Gap Team)

The Closing the Gap Team met with the Aboriginal Health Council of WA, the Council of Aboriginal Services WA and the Council to provide an overview of the drafting of the *WA Closing the Gap 2026-28 Implementation Plan*. Discussions focussed on themes arising from consultation sessions and Government's commitment to a refreshed approach to Closing the Gap.

### National Indigenous Australians Agency

The National Indigenous Australians Agency met with the Council to provide an overview of its key projects, which include the Remote Australian Employment Service, Remote Jobs and Economic Development, Indigenous Rangers Program and Food Security Initiatives. Discussions focused food security in the regions.

### Office of the Multicultural Interests, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport

Office of the Multicultural Interests provided an update on the consultation processes held regarding a WA Multicultural Act. Council reinforced the importance of the proposed Act identifying Aboriginal people as the First people of Western Australia.



Lance Morich  
Co-chairs, Aboriginal Advisory Council of WA



Rani Randall

\* Confidential agenda items were not included in this Communique