



# Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group

## Communiqué 12 – March 2026 Meeting



Advisory Group Members, Director General, Communities Leadership and Bundiyarra staff at the newly opened Bundiyarra Regional Aboriginal Community Kinship Stay (BRACKS) accommodation facility in Jambinu (Geraldton)

The Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group (Advisory Group) held its first meeting of 2026 in Jambinu (Geraldton) on beautiful Yamatji Country on 24 and 25 March 2026. Advisory Group Members were warmly welcomed by Yamatji man, Uncle Derek Councillor, who belongs to the Naaguja language group.

The meeting focussed on Homelessness and Aboriginal Economic Reform, based on the Advisory Group's strategic priorities and guiding principles decided at the March 2025 meeting. This meeting of the Advisory Group achieved quorum and generated 2 pieces of formal advice for the Director General.

## Day 1: Themes: Homelessness and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

### Members reports

Members provided updates on emerging issues relevant to the Advisory Group's remit prompting vast discussions across portfolios of Family and Domestic Violence, Child protection

(specifically birth removals), Cultural safety of community services, Stolen Generations Redress and Elder Abuse, Disability and an All-Staff Survey to establish a cultural capability baseline across Communities' staff, workplaces and systems.

## Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation

The Advisory Group discovered Communities' newest Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility in Jambinu (Geraldton), where the meeting was held, and which follows the establishment of similar accommodations in Kalgoorlie, Broome and Derby. Development of the Perth Short Stay Accommodation is in development (expected completion in 2027).

The group discussed how these initiatives provide culturally safe, short-term accommodation for Aboriginal people travelling for medical, cultural, family or business reasons.

The members were also taken on a tour of the facility whereby they were able to learn about significant sites, artwork considerations and experience family services available in rooms.



Advisory Group Members at Bundiyarra Regional Aboriginal Community Kinship Stay  
L-R (Tracey Brand, Patricia Hayward, Tony Hansen, Jodie Clarke, Leanne Kickett)

## Midwest – Gascoyne Region

The Midwest Communities team provided an overview of the Midwest Gascoyne District including project development, staffing and key priorities.

Advisory Group members heard about an Aboriginal District Lead Pilot program currently being piloted across the Midwest and Joondalup. The Pilot aims to strengthen cultural voice and Aboriginal-led decision-making across the districts.

Alongside the Pilot, an Aboriginal led Cultural Awareness Immersion and Training program is being delivered across Midwest and Gascoyne regions. These sessions have received strong participation and positive feedback, with monitoring taking place to measure compliance against the National Agreement on Closing the Gap targets.

## Homelessness

The Office of Homelessness provided an update on the overall vision and principles driving the Department's engagement with homelessness in WA. The work of the office has a strong focus on Aboriginal wellbeing, and the Advisory Group was updated on Commissioning and Innovation; System Reform, Service Delivery and Coordination; and Strategy and Policy work, guided by [All Paths Lead to Home](#).

## Day 2: Aboriginal Economic Reform and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

### Communities' ACCO Commissioning Framework and ACCO Strategy

The Commissioning and Contracting Team provided an update on the Commissioning Framework and provided an overview of Communities journey to improve and increase commissioning to ACCOs, where services are significant for Aboriginal children, families and their communities.

This was followed by a discussion on the ACCO Strategy and the ACCO Dashboard.

The Aboriginal Economic Reform team shared the strong outcomes from the first Implementation Plan and actions to be integrated into the second Plan.

Members discussed 'Black Cladding' and the current landscape, concerns and opportunities to strengthen the ACCO Sector.

### Communities Draft Strategic Plan

The Office of the Director General outlined the development of Communities draft Strategic Plan 2026–2030, noting the shift in title from Strategic 'Direction Statement', alignment with WA Government priorities, and current consultation timelines.

Key changes include updated vision and purpose statements, and Advisory Group supported the use of Aboriginal language used in the Plan to strengthen cultural messaging and truth-telling, noting the Plan is a corporate document, and advice that regions may translate into the language group for their areas. Members discussed workforce capability, addressing racism as a whole-of-government priority, strengthening culture at the heart approaches and inclusion of healing and truth-telling.

### Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA)

Midwest Aboriginal Organisation Alliance Co-Chairs presented to the membership. The priority of the Alliance was to raise the Advisory Group's awareness of the role of this peak advocacy and consultative body in the Midwest and Murchison regions. Members were grateful to hear about the role of MAOA and their representation of ACCOs across the Midwest.

The next Advisory Group meeting will be held on Whadjuk Noongar Country, in Walyalup (Fremantle), on 25-26 June 2026 focussing on Disability, Child Protection and Family Support.

Email: [AdvisoryGroupSecretariat@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:AdvisoryGroupSecretariat@communities.wa.gov.au)

Webpage: [Aboriginal Strategic Advisory Group](#)