GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing

2024 and 2025 Progress Report

Correction notice:

The Mental Health Commission acknowledges incorrect information published on page 29 of the 2022 and 2023 Progress Report. This should read:

"This section provides an update on five key initiatives that have been funded to support the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing (the Commitment) and the recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest and Message Stick reports."

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Within Western Australia, the term ‘Aboriginal people’ is used in reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in recognition that Aboriginal people are the Traditional Custodians of Western Australia. Reference to “Aboriginal people” throughout this document is respectfully inclusive of Torres Strait Islander people.

Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of this Country and its waters. We wish to pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend this to all Aboriginal people seeing this message.

Artist acknowledgement

Danica Anne is an Aboriginal Artist and Graphic Designer from Broome with cultural ties and connections to Yawuru, Djugun, Nimanburr and Bard groups of the Kimberley. The artwork represents the connection liyan has between yourself, your relationships, culture, country and purpose, whilst the colours chosen represents the many Kimberley landscapes.

Recognition of Lived Experience

We recognise the individual and collective expertise of those with living and lived experience of mental health, alcohol, and other drug issues and or suicidal crisis, including their families, carers and significant others. We value the vital contribution they make by sharing their unique experience to achieve better outcomes for all.

We recognise Aboriginal people with living and lived experience and extend our recognition to the Aboriginal young people, their families and carers who have contributed and influenced the development of the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing.

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Western Australian State Government Departments and Agencies

The following Western Australian Government departments and agencies have contributed to this Progress Report. While responsibility for reporting on the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing rests with the whole of the Western Australian State Government, the entities listed below are those that have actively contributed to, and are reporting on, progress for the 2024 and 2025 reporting period.

- Department of Communities
- Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport *(previously Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries)*
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing and Works *(previously Department of Finance and housing functions from the Department of Communities)*
- Department of Justice
- Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety *(previously Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and parts of the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety)*
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Treasury and Finance *(previously Department of Treasury and Department of Finance)*
- Mental Health Commission
- Public Sector Commission
- WA Country Health Service
- Western Australia Police Force

Acronyms List

ACCHS	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
ACCHO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
ACCO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
CLO	Community Liaison Officer(s)
KEYN	Kimberley Empowered Youth Network
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
KAYWSC	Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee
SEWB	Social and Emotional Wellbeing

A note on language and terminology

Language is important and the words we choose matter. We acknowledge that some terminology used in this report may reflect language drawn from earlier reports and inquiries related to the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing and may not align with current preferred language used. We are committed to using language that reflects the preferences and voices of Aboriginal people and communities, while acknowledging this is an ongoing process of listening, learning and improvement.





Minister's Foreword

Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Progress Report 2024 and 2025

The loss of life to suicide is devastating, with far-reaching impacts deeply felt by families, friends, services and the wider community.

The State Coroner's 2019 Inquest into the deaths of 13 children and young persons in the Kimberley region (Coroner's Inquest), alongside the Parliamentary Inquiry, Learnings from the Message Stick: the report of the inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas (Message Stick), were a powerful call to action. Together, these reports reinforced the urgent need to strengthen efforts to prevent suicide and to better support and empower Aboriginal young people.

Central to this work is the recognition that solutions must be guided by the voices, leadership and expertise of Aboriginal communities, organisations and leaders across the state.

The Western Australian Government remains committed to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal communities, supporting culturally informed approaches that strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal young people.

I am pleased to release the final progress report for the Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing (Commitment), outlining the work undertaken across Western Australia during 2024 and 2025. The report details progress against the combined 86 recommendations from the State Coroner's Inquest and the Message Stick Inquiry.

I acknowledge the strength, leadership and advocacy of Aboriginal communities, who continue to emphasise the importance of culture, connection and community as foundations for wellbeing. Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations play a critical role in delivering culturally grounded supports and strengthening the resilience of young people, families and communities.

While progress has been made, we know there is still more work to do. Although this is the final progress report under the current Commitment, this does not signal the end of this important work. Together, we will continue striving for a future where all Aboriginal young people feel strong in their identity, culture and community, and are supported to thrive.

Hon Meredith Hammat MLA
Minister for Mental Health

Introduction

Reflecting on Our Journey

The Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing (Commitment) represents the Western Australian State Government's (State Government) coordinated, whole-of-government approach to improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people.

The Commitment is a State Government response to two key reports:

- The State Coroner's Inquest into the deaths of thirteen children and young persons in the Kimberley region, Western Australia (Coroner's Inquest), and
- Learnings from the Message Stick: The report of the inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas (Message Stick Inquiry).

These reports highlighted the urgent need for the State Government to work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people and to strengthen support for community-led solutions.

Released in March 2020, the Commitment brought together 86 recommendations under 12 key commitments. Whilst the commitments were developed in the Kimberley region, the State Government recognised the need for a statewide approach to ensure that Aboriginal young people across Western Australia benefit from coordinated and culturally responsive support.

To maintain accountability and transparency, the State Government committed to releasing annual progress reports on activity from 2021 to 2025, against the 86 recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest and Message Stick Inquiry reports. These Progress Reports provide a point in time reflection of State Government activities in response to the Commitment and 86 recommendations. Assessment of impact and outcomes of specific services, programs and initiatives are at the discretion of associated lead State Government agencies.

Since 2020, relevant State Government agencies have continued to contribute to actions under the Commitment by delivering programs, initiatives and reforms that support the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people. This includes strengthening cross-government coordination, building partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and embedding culturally informed and community-led approaches.

Through the Commitment, the State Government has established foundational partnerships, programs and initiatives, such as the establishment of the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee, that aims to strengthen State Government responses to community-led priorities in a meaningful way.

This Progress Report provides an update during the most recent reporting period, 2024 and 2025. Key actions in the 2024 and 2025 reporting period include strengthened foundations for culturally responsive service delivery through the continued implementation of cultural competency training across government agencies and the release of the Whole-of-Government Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strategy for community services to Aboriginal People in 2024. Greater transparency and accountability in investment has also been progressed through the 2025 Western Australian State Government Aboriginal Expenditure Review, identifying opportunities to shift funding towards Aboriginal organisations. At a community level, continued investment in initiatives such as the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre's Yiriman Project (Yiriman Project), Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS) and the WA Police Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program demonstrate a sustained focus on strengthening cultural connection, supporting early intervention, and enabling community-led responses to improve outcomes for Aboriginal young people and their families.

This work has been supported by broader policy initiatives, including the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy – Western Australia 2021-2029 (Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy), and the Priority Reform Areas of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Closing the Gap), of which the State Government is a signatory.

While this is the final Progress Report, it does not mark the end of the State Government's work to address the 12 commitments. It is imperative the work and positive outcomes attributed to the Commitment continues, to advance the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people. Many of the initiatives and programs identified in this report are ongoing and will continue to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children, young people, and communities across Western Australia.

Background

> The Commitment draws on the Coroner's Inquest and Message Stick Inquiry reports that examined factors contributing to Aboriginal youth suicide. The reports identified systemic gaps in policy, services and community support in Western Australia and made a combined total of 86 recommendations, which formed the basis of the Commitment.

Coroner's Inquest

The State Coroner investigated the deaths of 13 Aboriginal young people (10 to 24 years of age) in the Kimberley region between 2011 and 2016, finding that 12 of the deaths occurred by suicide. The Coroner's Inquest, released in 2019, identified common, interrelated contributing factors across their life courses,[1] including:

- The ongoing impacts of colonisation, displacement from family and Country and intergenerational trauma.
- Witnessing severe or chronic domestic violence and high levels of alcohol use in the home.
- Suspected Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Although none of the young people had been diagnosed, there was significant history of prenatal alcohol exposure and early developmental difficulties.
- Adverse childhood experiences, such as extended periods of being in the care of other family members on an informal basis, early alcohol and other drug use, domestic violence and in some cases, child sexual abuse.
- Limited contact with mental health services and low awareness among family and friends about how to seek help.

The Coroner made 42 recommendations, emphasising the need for holistic, culturally informed responses. Key priorities included addressing alcohol and other drug use alongside mental health, expanding wraparound family services, incorporating cultural healing into care, strengthening connection to Country (including support for initiatives such as Yiriman Project and the Jalngangurru Healing Trial), and embedding self-determination and empowerment in policy and programs.

Message Stick Inquiry

The Message Stick Inquiry was established following advocacy from Ms Josie Farrer MLA in response to "the worrying number of youth suicides amongst Aboriginal youth in Western Australia, particularly in remote communities..."[2] The Education and Health Standing Committee undertook extensive consultations across the Kimberly and wider Western Australia and received 48 submissions.

The Report of the Message Stick Inquiry, released in 2016, highlighted that despite more than 40 previous inquiries and over 700 recommendations in the preceding 15 years, many recommendations had not been implemented and suicide rates among Aboriginal young people continue to rise. The Message Stick Inquiry made 42 Findings and 44 Recommendations, largely focused on improving the State Government's ways of working.

Statement of Intent on Aboriginal Youth Suicide in Western Australia

In response to the Coroner's Inquest and the Message Stick Inquiry, the State Government released the Statement of Intent on Aboriginal Youth suicide in Western Australia (Statement of Intent) in 2019, outlining an interim, whole-of-government approach to addressing Aboriginal youth suicide in a holistic way. The Statement of Intent emphasised the importance of balancing clinical approaches with the intrinsic role of culture in Aboriginal wellbeing, identified a commitment to further consult with Aboriginal communities and stakeholders and to release a draft Aboriginal Affairs Strategy.

1 2019 Coronial Findings on the Deaths of Young People in the Kimberley Region: https://cbpatsisp.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Fact-Sheet-6_12923.pdf

2 Ms J. Farrer, Western Australia, Legislative Assembly, Parliamentary Debates (Hansard), 16 March 2016, pp1208-1226.

The Commitment

The Commitment was developed as a holistic and long-term approach to addressing Aboriginal youth wellbeing. It was informed by the previous inquiries and extensive engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders, including young Aboriginal people in Broome and Kununurra.

The Commitment groups the 86 recommendations from the earlier reports under 12 commitments across the four focus areas of Cultural Wellbeing, Health, Community and Youth. The Commitment reflects Aboriginal communities' priorities, with a focus on culture, connection and community-led solutions.

The Commitment recognises that the wellbeing of young Aboriginal people is an essential consideration in the development of any new strategies, initiatives and actions that affect Aboriginal people, particularly in regional and remote areas.

Access to Full Reports

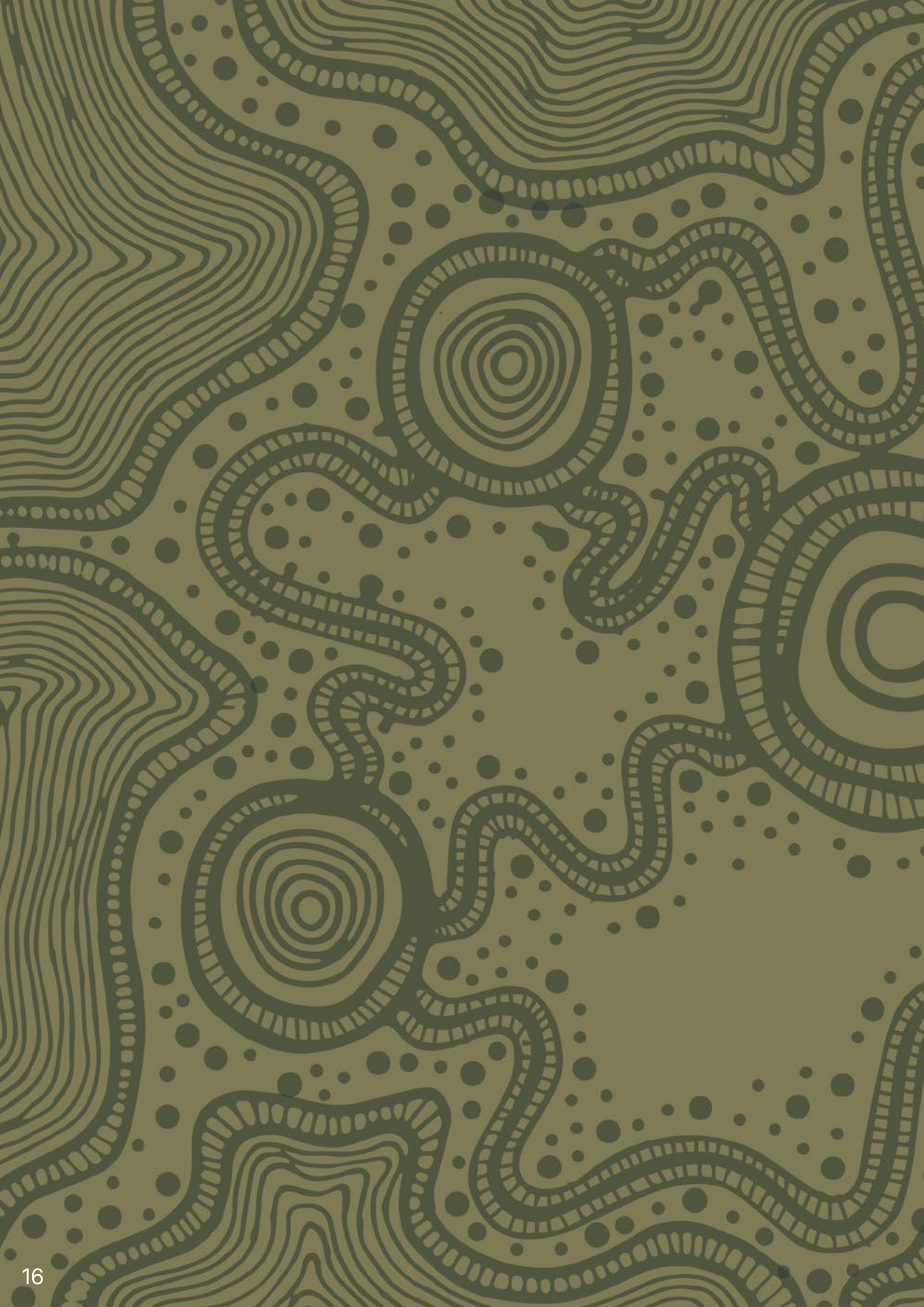
Inquest into the 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region

Learnings from the Message Stick: The report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas.

Statement of Intent on Aboriginal youth suicide in Western Australia

Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing





Context of the Commitment for the Kimberley Region

> In recognition of the two reports underpinning the Commitment, and the important connection with the Kimberley region, there have been a number of region-specific initiatives undertaken following the release of the Commitment. These initiatives have delivered significant progress, including the establishment of formal partnerships that are helping to refine State Government approaches to working with Aboriginal communities.

Kimberley Regional Governance

In April 2021, a Strengthening Partnerships Workshop was held between leading Kimberley ACCOs and State Government representatives. The workshop prioritised the development of place-based, community-led actions to address the 12 Commitments and improve Aboriginal youth wellbeing. It also provided a forum for meaningful discussions on strengthening partnerships and identifying new ways of working collaboratively between the State Government, ACCOs and Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal Regional Governance Group

Following the Strengthening Partnerships Workshop, Kimberley leaders established the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group as an interim mechanism to support ongoing engagement and progress in this space.

The Aboriginal Regional Governance Group unifies the deep authority of Aboriginal leadership with Kimberley communities, building on longstanding relationships, and providing the State Government with a clear accountability partner.

Since 2021, the Mental Health Commission has funded an Executive Support Officer to coordinate Kimberley ACCO engagement and planning in partnership with the State Government. Through the 2024-25 State Budget, the Mental Health Commission received $2.65 million over three years to enhance Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group initiatives, and provide support to Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group Policy and Secretariat team. This investment supports:

- Enhanced coordination capacity to progress Aboriginal Regional Governance Group strategic initiatives and maintain collaborative partnerships with State Government.
- Dedicated support for co-design and delivery of priority Aboriginal Regional Governance Group initiatives as part of:
    - Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing
    - Empowered Young Leaders
    - Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Regional Plan
    - initiatives aligned to justice outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, including the KJJS and the Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response.
- Design and establishment of a formalised Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Body.

Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee

In 2021, the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee (KAYWSC) was established to formalise the partnership between State Government and the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group through a Partnership Agreement 2024-2034 (Partnership Agreement). The Partnership Agreement was formalised in Broome on 5 February 2026, signed by all KAYWSC members, the Hon. Minister Hammat MLA Minister for Health; Mental Health and the KAYWSC Co-Chairs.

The Partnership Agreement sets out new ways of working that embeds the expertise of Aboriginal people and enables genuine partnership between State Government and Aboriginal communities. It also reflects a contribution to the Closing the Gap Priority Reform One, strengthening partnerships and shared decision making between governments and Aboriginal communities.

KAYWSC coordinates delivery of an Implementation Plan which outlines key initiatives for the Kimberley region, drawn from the combined 86 recommendations within the Commitment, and provides a clear foundation for coordinated and collaborative action.

The Kimberley Co-Design Guide was developed by Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre and endorsed by KAYWSC in October 2022. It is a practical resource to support authentic and respectful co-design of programs, policies and actions for the KAYWSC partnership.

The Partnership Agreement aims to:

a. support co-design approaches that foster transformational and sustainable change and respond to community priorities to improve Kimberley Aboriginal youth wellbeing
b. demonstrate how implementation of the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms is fundamentally changing the way State Government does business with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations
c. track implementation of the Commitment in the Kimberley, to demonstrate the practical impacts of the commitment on the ground
d. support Kimberley Aboriginal communities to determine their aspirations and priorities, share decision making, drive community-led outcomes and support community-led development of initiatives under the Agreement.

KAYWSC consists of representatives from the following organisations:

- Binarri-Binyja Yarrawoo Aboriginal Corporation
- Commission for Children and Young People
- Department of Communities
- Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation
- Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services
- Kimberley Development Commission
- Kimberley Land Council
- Kimberley Language Resource Centre
- Mental Health Commission
- West Kimberley Futures – Empowered Communities
- Western Australia Police Force

Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation

The Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation was registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations on 1 September 2023. It is committed to building the capacity, leadership and empowerment of Aboriginal young people in the Kimberley.

Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation functions as a representative body that:

- advocates for Aboriginal young people
- ensures the voices of Aboriginal young people are captured and heard
- creates opportunities for young people to flourish
- celebrates Aboriginal culture to ensure that the next generation is informed
- contributes to decision making when youth issues are being discussed.

Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation provides an integral voice at regional governance forums, including at the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group and the KAYWSC, ensuring direct youth input into State Government policy and program design.

Kimberley Strategic Plans and Projects

Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy

The KJJS is a State Government initiative to improve Aboriginal youth wellbeing and community safety, and to address the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system. It supports a range of community-led, placed-based responses across the Kimberley, designed to engage Aboriginal young people in culturally safe and appropriate activities that steer them away from the criminal justice system.

The KJJS continues to focus on:

- reducing youth offending
- improving wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal youth
- enhancing community safety
- investing in long-term, community-led solutions to address youth recidivism
- contributing to Target 11 of Closing the Gap.

A defining feature of the KJJS is its partnerships model. All KJJS initiatives are co-designed, community-led and delivered with ACCOs to better engage at-risk young people.

In 2024, two new initiatives were implemented:

- **Ngurru Buru (Broome Night Space)** is a community-led, culturally secure night space for young people who are street present after dark. The co-design of the initiative was led by ACCOs, community members, government agencies and Empowered Young Leaders. The program is delivered by Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Incorporation. Ngurra Buru supports young people's wellbeing while strengthening connection to culture, Country, and community, and is guided by the shared principles of cultural safety, youth voice and Aboriginal-led decision making.
- **Youth Connection Night Space (Fitzroy Crossing)** was opened by Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation in September 2024 and provides a culturally secure, trauma-informed safe space for young people to engage with services and improve their social and emotional wellbeing.

Both night spaces offer immediate triage, outreach, follow-up engagement through next day home visits, coordinated supports to connect young people with a responsible adult and referrals to appropriate services.

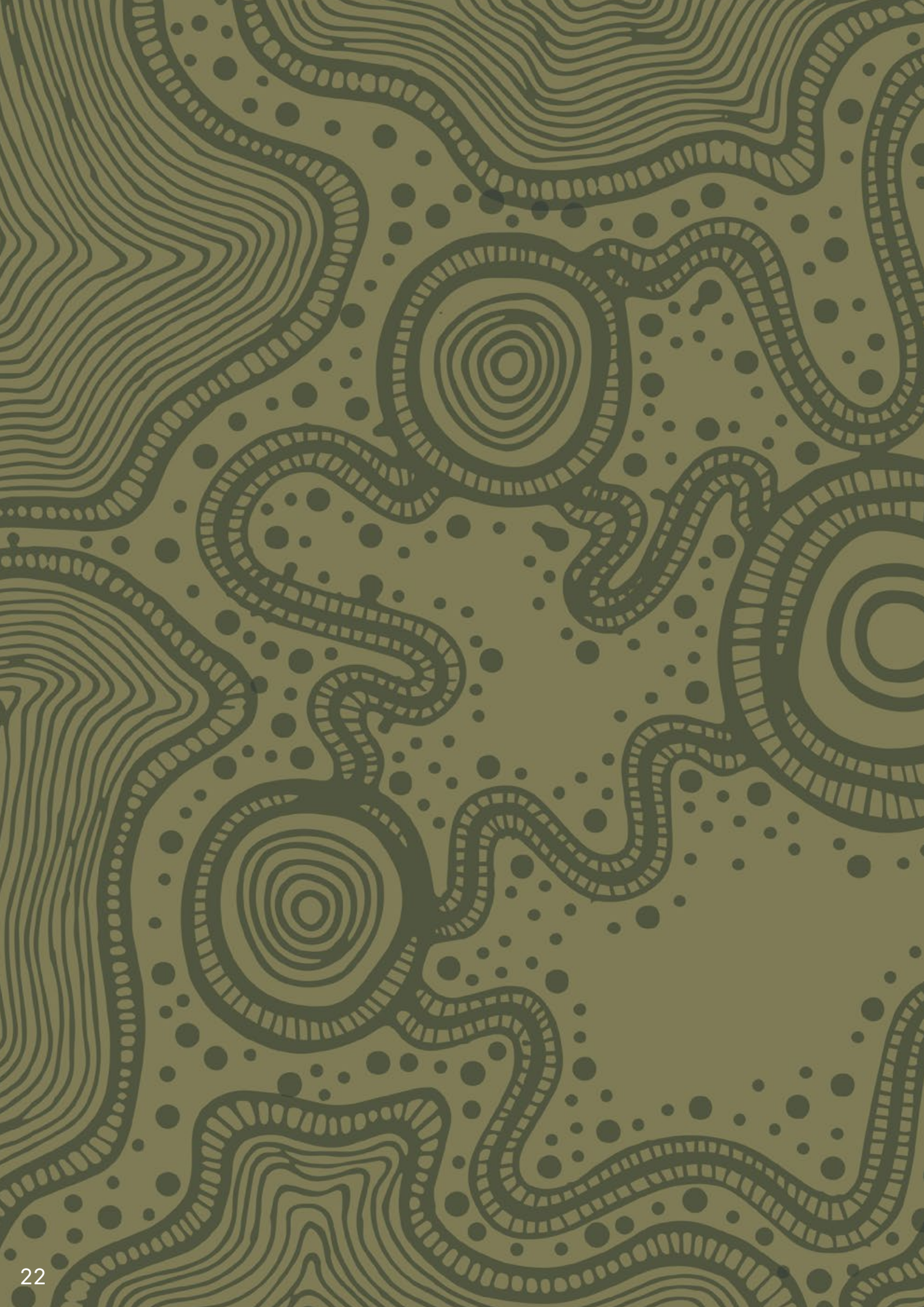
In Kununurra, an ACCO consortium (Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation, MG Corporation and Wunan) is developing the Kununurra Youth Night Space, a 2025 State Government election commitment. Co-design and community consultation and engagement workshops have taken place to shape the service ensuring decisions reflect local aspirations. Alongside the ACCO consortium, three community representatives were appointed and will ensure lived experience and local knowledge are central to the design. Implementation is anticipated in late 2026.

Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Regional Plan

The Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Regional Plan was developed in response to the need for culturally secure, Aboriginal-led approaches to suicide prevention. This need was identified during development of the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025 and reaffirmed through the consultation processes for the new Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 (Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031) that is currently in development.

The Mental Health Commission established the Community Liaison Officer program in 2021, to support the implementation of Regional Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Plans across Western Australia. Through this program, the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service developed and delivers the Community Initiative Sponsorship Program (Sponsorship Program). The Sponsorship Program provides funding for community-led and place-based suicide prevention initiatives for Aboriginal people across the Kimberley. In 2024 and 2025 the program funded projects that focused on culture, healing and community connection.

The 2021-2025 Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Regional Plan was developed by building on extensive work undertaken through the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial and comprehensive community consultation, supported by the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group. It includes key principles, recommendations and activities.



Update on the Five Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Initiatives

> Since the release of the Commitment, the State Government have continued to deliver key programs and initiatives that support the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people. This section provides an update on five key initiatives that have been funded to support the Commitment since the previous Progress Report.

Kimberley Empowered Youth Network

The Kimberley Empowered Youth Network program (KEYN), delivered by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, was established in 2021 with funding from the Department of Communities. KEYN aims to strengthen the cultural identity and leadership of Aboriginal young people across the Kimberley by supporting the Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation through capacity building and training, and participation in governance and decision making.

The Department of Communities provided $426,238 in funding to support KEYN in both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years. Funding was continued in the 2025-26 financial year through a co-funding arrangement between the Mental Health Commission and Department of Communities.

During 2024 and 2025, the KEYN delivered culturally secure, youth-led engagement and leadership development opportunities through the Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation. The program provided youth perspectives in regional governance forums, including the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group and the KAYWSC and supported the Corporation's Annual General Meeting and Kimberley based Local Youth Advisory Councils, ensuring Aboriginal young peoples' voices are heard across the Kimberley.

In late 2025, the Department of Communities, the Mental Health Commission, and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services continued collaborative design work to shape the future program scope and structure of KEYN with engagement from Empowered Young Leaders. The work is ongoing and focuses on aligning KEYN with regional priorities while ensuring the program remains Aboriginal-led, culturally secure and delivers clear, achievable outcomes.

Connecting to Country Grants Program

The Connecting to Country Grants Program is delivered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport. It supports Western Australian Aboriginal people and organisations to undertake cultural activities on Country. The program receives ongoing funding of $500,000 each year.

The Connecting to Country Grants Program aims to:

- facilitate the sharing of cultural knowledge and skills between generations, including the preservation of language, stories, and dance;
- recognise and strengthen cultural leadership within Aboriginal communities, including leadership development in young people;
- contribute to stronger community mental health and wellbeing; and,
- strengthen and protect traditional ways of maintaining cultural knowledge.

Connecting to Country Program grant applications are assessed by Aboriginal peer assessment panels with expertise across arts, culture, heritage, and community development.

In 2024 and 2025, the program completed two grant rounds, supporting 40 projects with total funding of $962,166. Of these, 19 projects had a specific focus on youth engagement, including three targeting at-risk young people. Projects were delivered across metropolitan and regional areas, including Perth, Midwest, Wheatbelt, Gascoyne, Kimberley, Pilbara, Great Southern, South West and Goldfields-Esperance regions.

Funded projects included:

- Aboriginal-led initiatives engaging young people to build cultural knowledge and reconnect with Country;
- On-Country trips supporting young people to document cultural knowledge through photography, film, and audio; and
- opportunities for young people to learn language and stories from Elders, particularly in relation to significant places.

The program continues to contribute to long-term wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities and has strong and consistent demand, with approximately 70 percent of applications in 2024 and 2025 being funded.

Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Project

The Mental Health Commission coordinates a suite of strategies that aim to prevent FASD. The Preventing FASD Project aims to:

- increase awareness of the risks of alcohol use during pregnancy;
- support communities and environments that help women abstain from alcohol when pregnant or planning pregnancy; and
- decrease alcohol use during pregnancy.

The Mental Health Commission receives recurrent funding for the Preventing FASD Project to deliver statewide public education campaigns and provide FASD prevention training to health workers and other frontline staff.

Key milestones and achievements in 2024 and 2025 include:

- Development and implementation of a statewide FASD Prevention in Communities training program, that equips participants with the knowledge and tools to support the delivery of FASD prevention activities in their communities. During this reporting period, 118 participants attended 12 events across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.
- Delivery of a grants program, that awarded $57,000 to six regional FASD prevention activities across the Wheatbelt, Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields, including Beautiful Bumps and Moorditj Yorgas, supporting local organisations to facilitate cultural workshops and provide FASD awareness and support through education and resources.
- A two-day FASD Prevention Symposium in September 2025, attended by over 100 participants from across Western Australia. Experts presented on a wide range of topics including community-led prevention, treatment approaches, alcohol policy and liquor licensing. The symposium strengthened collaboration across sectors and highlighted emerging evidence and best practice.
- Launch of the “Amazing” campaign in March 2025 under the Alcohol. Think Again program. The campaign aims to increase awareness that there is no safe amount or time to drink alcohol when pregnant or planning a pregnancy.

The Mental Health Commission will continue delivering FASD workshops throughout Western Australia in 2026 through the Preventing FASD Project. Building on the momentum of the 2025 symposium, the Mental Health Commission will also launch the FASD Prevention Network in 2026 to provide opportunities for members to hear from subject matter experts, share learnings and strengthen coordination of FASD prevention activities across the state.

East Kimberley Clinical Health Services

The WA Country Health Service received $611,974 in the 2024-25 financial year and $647,958 in 2025-26 to support the employment of a full-time Psychiatrist Consultant and a Nurse Educator in the Kimberley region. This investment aims to strengthen access to culturally responsive mental health services, improve service delivery and achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal young people and their families.

During 2024-25 and 2025-26, the East Kimberley Consultant Psychiatrist role was consistently filled through in-person locum coverage, except for a four-week period where services were partially delivered via telehealth (three days per week). The role was filled permanently in February 2026. Between July 2024 and June 2025, 188 Aboriginal young people across the East Kimberley were referred for services, and 197 received at least one mental health contact in Kununurra and Halls Creek.

Since 2024, the Nurse Educator role has contributed to workforce capability and service quality through supporting nurse graduates and student placements, developing staff orientation schedules, coordinating peer education and in-service training, delivering mental health education to Derby and Fitzroy Crossing hospital staff and monitoring compliance with mandatory staff training requirements.

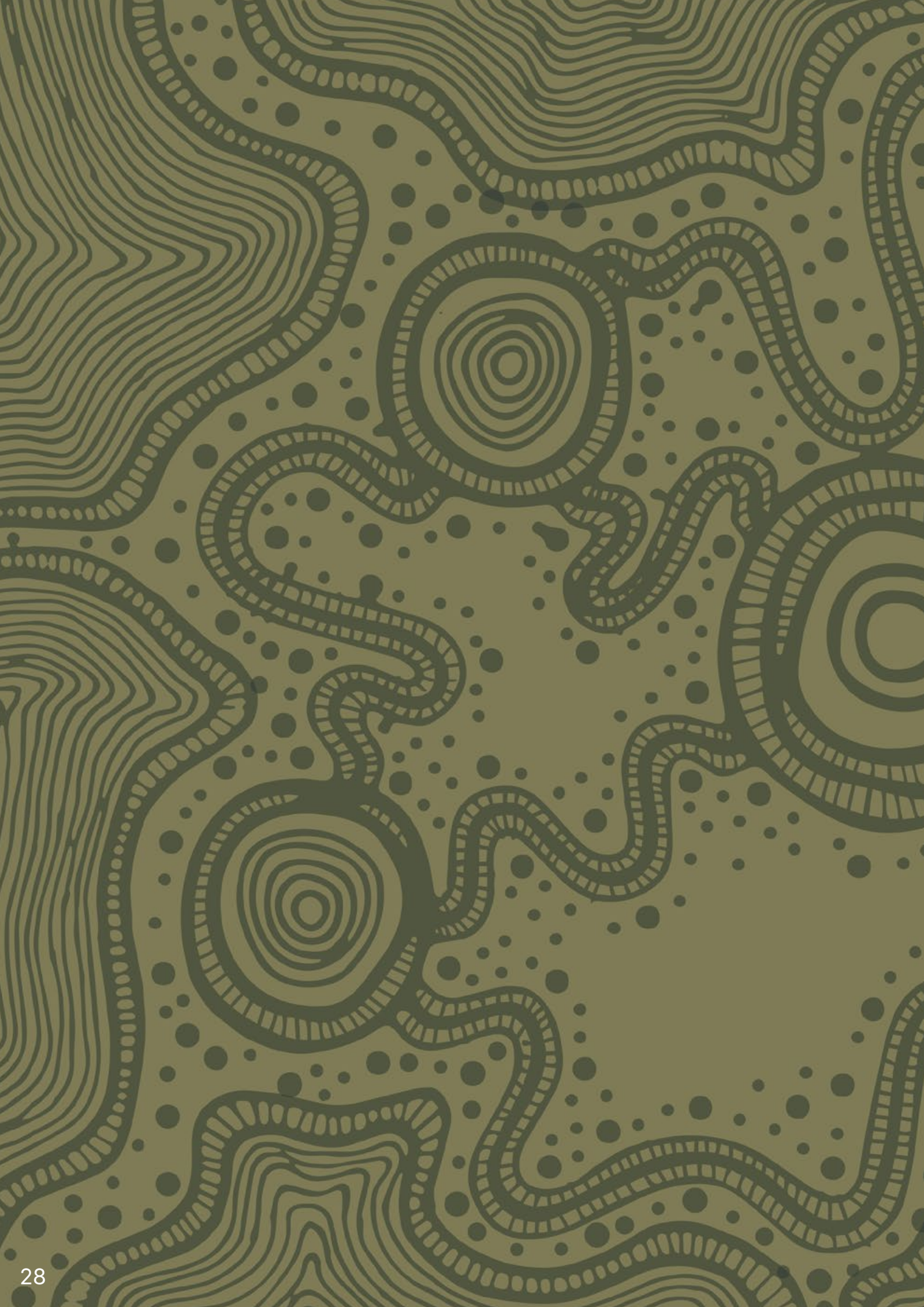
Aboriginal Girls Engagement Programs

Since commencing in 2022, the Aboriginal Girls Engagement Programs (Engagement Programs) has provided Western Australian public schools with the opportunity to engage service providers to deliver culturally safe, place-based and flexible support tailored to the individual needs of Aboriginal girls and young women in grades 7 to 12. These programs respond to the individual needs of students while recognising the importance of cultural identity, community connection and holistic wellbeing.

The Engagement Programs aim to enhance cultural safety, wellbeing, engagement, and educational outcomes, with the overarching goal of supporting Aboriginal girls and young women to achieve their full learning potential, shape their own futures, and embrace their cultures, languages, and identities.

Schools are able to select from 14 programs aligned with the needs of their students and local community. Since the inception of Engagement Programs, the number of participating schools has continued to grow. In Semester One of 2024, an estimated 3,323 Aboriginal female students participated across 66 schools. This was followed by an estimated 2,944 students across 67 schools in Semester One of 2025.

The Department of Education continues to explore opportunities to expand the Engagement Programs across Western Australia.



Key Activities

> This section showcases additional programs and initiatives delivered during 2024 and 2025 that support the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people.

WA Police Force Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers

The WA Police Force Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) program supports positive engagement and collaboration between the WA Police Force and Aboriginal communities across Western Australia. The CLOs play an important role in supporting their local communities and assisting frontline policing in a culturally respectful and non-confrontational way. This includes contributing to crime prevention strategies, strengthening understanding of community and family relationships, and engaging young Aboriginal people to build trust and positive relationships with the WA Police Force. There are CLOs located across several Western Australian Police Districts including the Goldfields, Kimberley, Midwest, Pilbara, South West, and Wheatbelt.

In the 2024-25 financial year, the State Government provided $6.2 million in funding for an additional 10 CLO positions across regional Western Australia. This investment aims to strengthen trust and rapport between police and Aboriginal communities, ensuring Aboriginal young people, their families, and communities are better supported.

Subject to future funding, further expansion of the program for an additional 50 CLOs across metropolitan and regional districts, will be sought to further enhance culturally responsive community engagement in policing and support pathways for Aboriginal young people across Western Australia.

Whole-of-Government Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy for Community Services to Aboriginal People

Released in 2024, the Whole-of-Government Aboriginal Community-Controlled Strategy (ACCO Strategy) provides a framework to implement Closing the Gap and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy. The ACCO Strategy sets the policy direction for service commissioning, with a focus on strengthening place-based, community-led, and culturally secure services that are planned, designed and delivered by ACCOs across Western Australia.

As part of this work, the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia joined the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia as the State's second member of the Coalition of Peaks under Closing the Gap. The Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia now represents and supports 56 ACCO member organisations across all sectors, advocating at both the state and national levels on Closing the Gap priorities.

The ACCO Strategy includes targeted investment to strengthen the ACCO sector including:

- $5.7 million to the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia to support representation of ACCOs across service sectors.
- $3.4 million in ACCO sector strengthening grants awarded in June 2023 to 16 Western Australian-based ACCOs.

The Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia works with State Government agencies to provide advice, advocacy and sector support across priority reform areas including youth justice, out-of-home care, family and domestic violence, tertiary qualifications, housing, and ACCO commissioning.

The State Government continues to work with the Council of Aboriginal Services of Western Australia and Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia to transition towards a service commissioning system that supports strong, sustainable ACCOs and improves outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

Expanding the Teaching of Aboriginal Languages in Kimberley Schools

The Department of Education has delivered Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training since 1998, equipping educators with the knowledge and skills to teach Aboriginal languages in schools. In September 2025, a new cohort of Aboriginal participants commenced training, making it the program's 25th intake.

Teaching Aboriginal languages in public schools supports culturally responsive classrooms and enables Aboriginal students to see their identities, cultures and languages reflected in the curriculum. This contributes to stronger cultural connection, identity, self-esteem, and wellbeing.

To strengthen the training pathway, the Department of Education invested in the development of a qualification aligned to the Australian Qualification Framework. This has enabled the program to transition to the nationally accredited Certificate III in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, providing graduates with a recognised credential. It also creates a pathway into Certificate IV training, supporting graduates to teach language in schools. Together, these qualifications contribute to the revitalisation and long-term sustainability of Aboriginal languages across Western Australia.

Recent progress includes:

- Finalising the Certificate III in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, which commenced delivery in September 2025.
- Expanding opportunities to increase the Aboriginal languages workforce through training program intakes and accredited training pathways.
- Commencing development of Certificate IV in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, with delivery planned for 2027.

Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth Project

The Mental Health Commission received $9.27 million to deliver the statewide Strong Spirit Strong Mind Youth Project across a four-year period, from July 2021 to June 2025. The project aimed to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal young people aged 12 to 25 across Western Australia and prevent alcohol and other drug related harms.

The project focused on three key areas:

1. Developing and delivering public education campaigns for Aboriginal youth.
2. Establishing a culturally secure metropolitan youth outreach model of service.
3. Introduction of a Community Grants Program for initiatives that strengthen social and emotional wellbeing and prevent or delay the uptake of alcohol and other drugs among young people.

Key achievements in 2024 and 2025 include:

- Completion of the evaluation of the Stay Strong, Look After You and Your Mob campaign.
- Launch of the Stronger You Stronger Mob public education campaign in February 2024, developed by Aboriginal young people for Aboriginal young people.
- Delivery of the Community Grants Program, providing grants up to $30,000 to ACCOs and Aboriginal non-for-profit organisations. In the 2024-25 financial year, ten organisations received funding to deliver culturally secure social and emotional wellbeing initiatives for Aboriginal young people.
- Completion of community consultation to inform a Perth metropolitan area-based Aboriginal Youth Community Outreach Program Model of Service, focused on culturally secure prevention and early intervention strategies. The Mental Health Commission are currently finalising engagement with Koya Aboriginal Corporation to deliver the Aboriginal Youth Community Outreach Program in the Perth metropolitan area.

Ngurra Buru (Broome Night Space)

Ngurra Buru (Broome Night Space) is a late-night safe space initiative established under the Department of Justice KJJS. The co-design of the initiative was led by ACCOs, community members, government agencies and Empowered Young Leaders, to address a gap in responses to youth crime and support wellbeing of Aboriginal young people.

Operating between 10:00pm and 5:00am, Ngurra Buru provides a safe place for young people during peak risk hours. In addition to immediate safety and supervision, the service provides meals, family engagement, assessment, advocacy and service coordination to strengthen support pathways and address underlying needs.

The service commenced in May 2024 and is funded until 30 June 2026, with $5.2 million committed by the State Government to support co-design and operations.

Key achievements in 2024 and 2025 include:

- Completion of first full year of operations in May 2025, delivering continuous late-night support.
- More than 6,800 interactions with young people and over 6,000 meals provided.
- A 34 percent decrease in burglaries across three Broome suburbs and a 42 percent decrease in the suburb of Broome during the first financial year of operation (2024-25).
- Implementation partner Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation received the 2025 Community Services Excellence Award for Exceptional Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation.
- Shortlisted for the 2024 Institute of Public Administration Australia Achievement Awards for Best Practice in Collaboration between State Government and any other Organisation.

The Department of Justice will continue to strengthen cross-agency collaboration and apply lessons from Ngurra Buru to support the development of similar youth night space models in regional communities including Halls Creek and Kununurra.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Social and Emotional Wellbeing Model of Service Pilot Program

Developed by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia in consultation with its member services, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) Social and Emotional Wellbeing Model of Service[1] (ACCHS SEWB Model of Service) outlines a culturally secure, multidisciplinary social and emotional wellbeing service aligned to four pillars: prevention and community development; psychosocial support; targeted interventions; and supported and coordinated care.

In the 2021-22 State Budget, the State Government committed $17.6 million to pilot the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service. In June 2022, the Mental Health Commission engaged the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia to implement the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program, and the University of Western Australia to undertake an independent evaluation.

The ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program aims to improve holistic health outcomes for Aboriginal people, with sites across the Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields and South West regions.

Key achievements in 2024 and 2025 include:

- Continued delivery of place-based social and emotional wellbeing services across five regions since the pilot commenced in June 2022.
- Completion of the Evaluation of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia's ACCHS SEWB Service Model: Final Evaluation Report (December 2022 to July 2025). Findings confirmed the pilot as the first ACCHS sector-led translation of the social and emotional wellbeing concept into structured service delivery at scale.
- Presentation of implementation and evaluation findings by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia and the University of Western Australia at sector forums and conferences, contributing to state and national policy and practice discussions.

The Mental Health Commission received recurrent funding in the 2026-27 State Budget for the continuation of SEWB Services, including the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Program. The Mental Health Commission will continue to work with the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, pilot sites and the University of Western Australia to translate learnings from the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program Evaluation, informing future social and emotional wellbeing policy, program and service design.

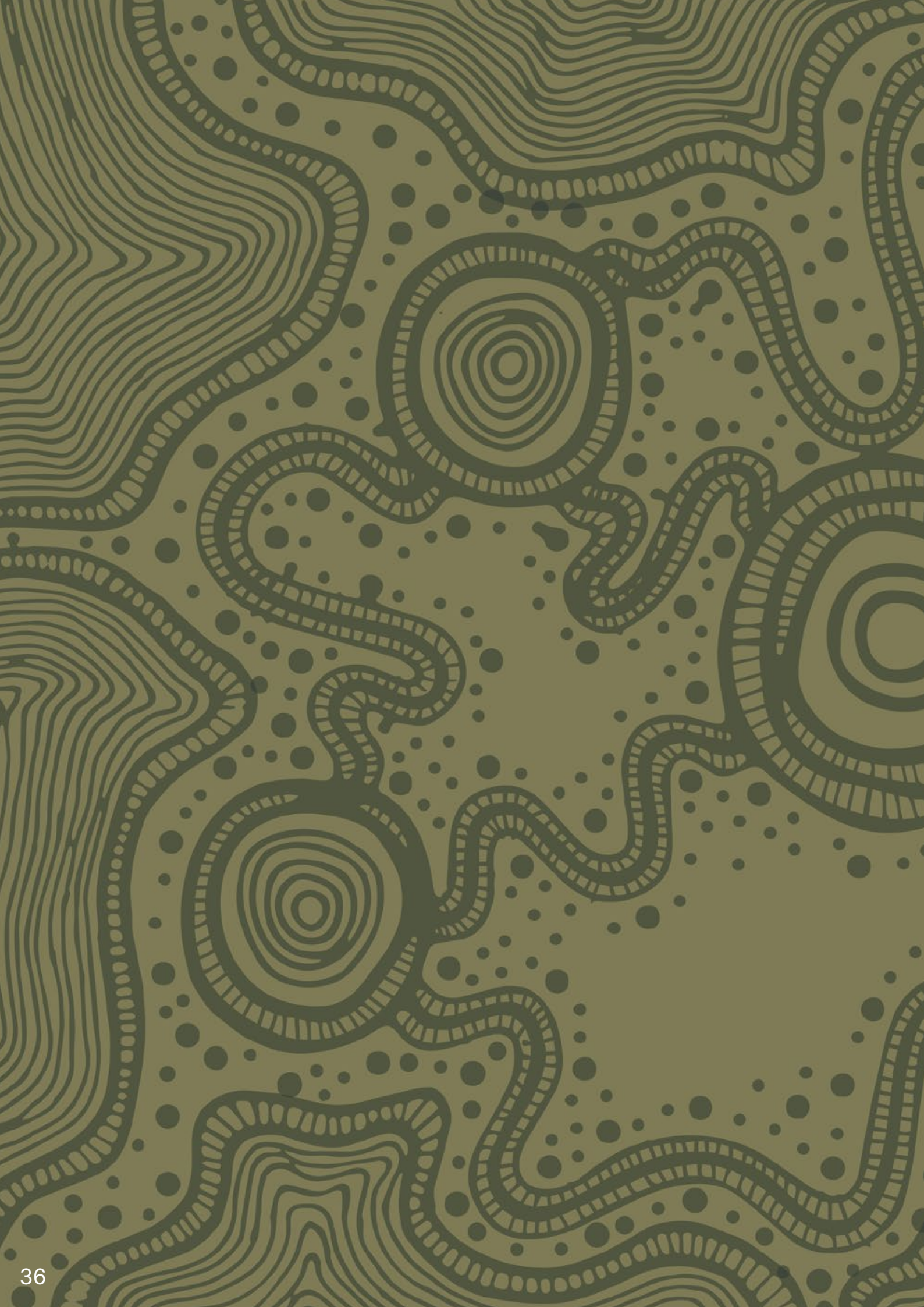
1 Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia: ACCHS Social and Emotional Wellbeing Service Model ahcwa.org.au/wpcontent/uploads/2022/05/ACCHS-Social-_-Emotional-Wellbeing-Service-Model.pdf

Employment and Educational Housing Program in West and East Kimberley

The Employment and Education Housing Program is a Department of Housing and Works initiative designed to support Aboriginal people to access education, training and employment opportunities by providing affordable accommodation and culturally appropriate support.

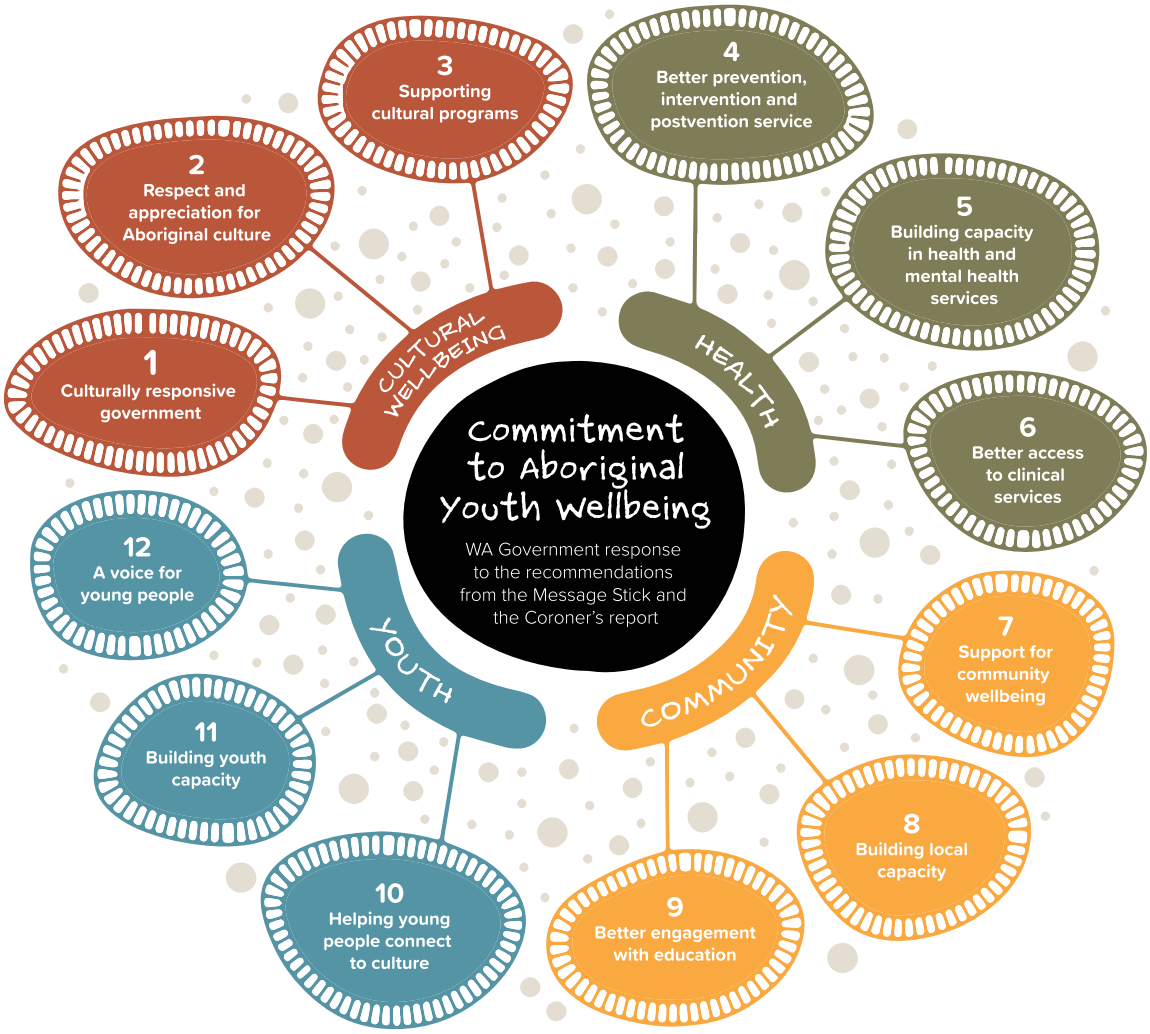
Funded through Royalties for Regions and delivered by ACCOs, the program operates in:

- Halls Creek; where it was established in 2011 through $496,045 of funding, supporting singles, couples and families through Burraluba Yura Ngurra;
- Broome; commencing in 2012, receiving funding of $613,802, and supporting young people 16 to 25 years of age through the Aboriginal Youth Housing Service; and
- South Hedland; where it was established in 2014, with $1.284 million in funding, supporting singles through Mirnutharntu Maya.



Progress Update of the 12 Commitments

> This section provides an update on progress against the 12 Commitments.



Cultural Wellbeing

Commitment 1: Culturally responsive government

The Western Australian Government will put the right structures, policies and staff in place to ensure provision of more culturally appropriate services to Aboriginal people. This will include:

- ensuring the right consultation and engagement processes are in place and adhered to
- embracing the principles of co-design
- making sure Aboriginal people are actively listened to
- maintaining the cultural competency of agency staff
- ensuring that consideration of Aboriginal culture, particularly through Aboriginal cultural frameworks, is a key factor in proposed policies, programs or services.

Commitment 1 arises from the State Coroner's recommendations 19 and 42, and Message Stick recommendations 7, 12, 13, 14 and 40.

The State Government continues to progress actions that support culturally responsive and culturally safe services for Aboriginal young people, their families and communities.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- Development of the Whole-of-Government ACCO Strategy, designed to strengthen partnerships with ACCOs and give effect to commitments under Closing the Gap and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.
- Development of the Trauma-Informed Approach: Guidance for Western Australian State Government, which supports agencies to engage with individuals and communities in ways that promote empathy, safety and understanding, contributing to healing from trauma while minimising further harm.
- Delivery of the Kimberley Cultural Induction Program by the Department of Communities, which is mandatory for all Kimberley regional staff and encouraged for all staff who regularly travel to the region. The training supports staff to better understand local cultural contexts and deliver more culturally appropriate services.
- Establishment of the Child and Adolescent Health Services Aboriginal Consumer Engagement Coordinator role, which strengthens engagement with Aboriginal young people and communities, supports youth networks, and has led initiatives including the Cultural Security Audit and the development of an Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan 2026-2028.
- Commencement of Police Aboriginal Advisory Groups, operating under a co-leadership model that enables Elders and community leaders to guide culturally informed policing responses, in alignment with Closing the Gap Priority Reform Three.
- Establishment of an Aboriginal Policy and Cultural Governance team, who are responsible for key strategic Aboriginal policy initiatives as well as the development and monitoring of cultural governance for the Mental Health Commission. The team work to elevate Aboriginal leadership, social and emotional wellbeing and the voices, experiences and perspectives of Aboriginal communities across Western Australia.

Commitment 2: Respect and appreciation for Aboriginal culture

The Western Australian Government will ensure that acknowledgement of, and respect and appreciation for Aboriginal culture is a key consideration in the way we work. Strategies for developing and promoting respect and appreciation for Aboriginal culture will include:

- working with and alongside Aboriginal cultural governance structures;
- acknowledging Aboriginal people as the foremost experts on matters that directly affect them;
- promoting Aboriginal culture and addressing racism; and
- focusing on strengths, rather than deficits.

Commitment 2 arises from the State Coroner's recommendation 42 and Message Stick recommendations 11, 12 and 40.

The State Government continues to support initiatives that acknowledge, respect and celebrate Aboriginal culture within the public sector and across the broader community.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- Support to the Kimberley Language Resource Centre through a $200,000 investment from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport in 2022. In December 2024, the Kimberley Language Resource Centre released its State of Language Continuation in the Kimberley report, a key initiative supporting the continuation and strengthening of Aboriginal languages in the region.
- Partnership with Reconciliation WA, supported by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, recognising Reconciliation WA as the peak body for reconciliation in Western Australia.
- Participation by State Government agencies in the Reconciliation Action Plan Reconciliation Industry Network Group, which provides opportunities for collaboration, learning and connection between organisations, including masterclasses and shared initiatives to improve outcomes in Aboriginal employment, procurement, and the celebration of Aboriginal culture.

Commitment 3: Supporting cultural programs

Culture is at the heart of Aboriginal communities, and a key protective factor against suicide. The Western Australian Government will work with, and support, Aboriginal people to develop and implement ways of using culture as a foundation for healing, resilience and social and emotional wellbeing. Strategies and approaches for supporting cultural programs will include:

- the forthcoming Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy;
- the State Suicide Prevention Action Plan;
- the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy;
- aboriginal cultural and arts program funding; and
- cultural wellbeing and healing programs.

Commitment 3 reflects State Coroner's recommendations 16, 25, 39 and 42, and Message Stick recommendations 7, 8, and 30

The State Government continues to progress actions that foster healing and safety, ensuring the long term social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- A 12-month trial of Traditional Healing at Derby Hospital, delivered through a partnership between WA Country Health Service Kimberley, the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre, Jalngangurru Healers and Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation.
- The Department of Justice KJJS, supports community-led, place-based initiatives that strengthen Aboriginal youth wellbeing, improve community safety and address the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system. Initiatives supported through the strategy include:
  - The continuation of the Yiriman Project, delivered by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre, which provides culturally secure On-Country camps in Fitzroy Crossing, and across the Kimberley, that enable young people to reconnect with culture, Elders, and Country.
  - Ngurra Buru (Broome Night Space), a community co-designed safe night space that opened in May 2024, providing meals, outreach services and a safe place for young people in Broome.
  - The Youth Connection Night Space in Fitzroy Crossing, launched in September 2024, providing a culturally appropriate and trauma-informed space where young people can feel safe and engage with services that support their social and emotional wellbeing.
- The Sports and Recreation Inclusive Participation Program, delivered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, which provides funding to organisations to create inclusive, safe and welcoming opportunities for participation in sport and recreation for groups with low participation rates. Between the 2022-23 and 2025-26 financial years, $2.5 million has been distributed to six projects that focus on Aboriginal participation.
- The Connecting to Country program, delivered by the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, provided $962,166 in funding in 2024 and 2025, to support On-Country activities which encourage and foster the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge, preservation of culture and strengthening of communities.

Health

Commitment 4: Better prevention, intervention and postvention services

Innovative approaches to supporting the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal young people is crucial, along with targeted, safe and accessible clinical services. The Western Australian Government will evaluate and improve the effectiveness of current and ongoing programs and commit to developing new approaches according to best practice, in consultation with Aboriginal community. Improved prevention, intervention and postvention services will be developed through evaluation of current programs, and exploration of new strategies, programs and initiatives, especially in connection with:

- the current State suicide prevention strategy (Suicide Prevention 2020: together we can save lives);
- the draft State Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021-2025;
- enhanced investment in early years intervention and increased focus on vulnerable cohorts such as young mothers;
- improved coordination and cooperation between State and Commonwealth services;
- the Commonwealth-funded Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial; and
- education in suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drug issues.

Commitment 4 arises from State Coroner's recommendations 12, 17 and 24 and Message Stick recommendations 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 23, 24, 34 and 37.

The State Government continues to invest in initiatives that strengthen service delivery and respond to community-identified needs.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- The development of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Model, led by the Mental Health Commission in partnership with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group. The Mental Health Commission engaged Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation in 2025 to lead and coordinate community consultations across the Kimberley region. These consultations included the review and reprioritisation of findings and recommendations of the 2020 Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Report. Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation presented the final Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Report in December 2025.
- The implementation and evaluation of the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program. The Mental Health Commission engaged University of Western Australia to lead the evaluation of the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program. The final evaluation was completed in 2025, assessing service delivery systems implementation, and service impact and outcomes. The evaluation highlighted a range of positive outcomes for clients, including strengthened wellbeing, empowerment, healing, and a stronger connection to family, culture, and community.

Commitment 5: Building capacity in health and mental health services

The Western Australian Government will improve the capacity of agencies, service providers and community organisations to deliver services to Aboriginal people that are flexible, responsive and culturally safe. Increasing the proportion of Aboriginal employees in the health and mental health fields will be a high priority, especially in remote areas. Key approaches to building capacity in health and mental health services will include:

- strategies to attract, employ and support Aboriginal people in the health and mental health sector;
- development of Aboriginal leadership in key organisations;
- quality, targeted training initiatives;
- improved coordination and cooperation between State and Commonwealth services, and increased involvement of community organisations;
- development of co-designed models for delivering culturally safe services to Aboriginal people; and
- induction and ongoing training of staff in cultural competency and trauma-informed care.

Commitment 5 addresses the State Coroner's recommendations 12, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27 and 42, and Message Stick recommendations 6, 9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 39 and 44.

The State Government continues to invest in initiatives that improve the capacity to deliver services to Aboriginal people and communities.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- The Mental Health Commission's Suicide Prevention Community Grants Program, provided $1 million to support locally led initiatives addressing the impacts of suicide across Western Australian communities. Funded initiatives included Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training in the Kimberley, co-designed radio campaigns to increase awareness of suicide prevention services, and delivery of the Deadly Maaman Mooditj Kaat program for Aboriginal men and male youth across the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, South West, and Metropolitan regions to build mental health literacy, reduce stigma, and strengthen resilience.
- Building capacity of the ACCHS workforce through an Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia led project that coordinates delivery of training across Western Australia (i.e. Indigenous Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). This project, funded by the Mental Health Commission, builds the capabilities of the Aboriginal workforce to understand, respond, and prevent suicide, while strengthening social and emotional wellbeing.
- The continued support of the KEYN program, jointly funded by the Department of Communities and the Mental Health Commission. Delivered by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services, the KEYN program supports Aboriginal young people across the Kimberley to participate in governance, influence decision making, and strengthen cultural identity and leadership through Empowered Young Leaders.

Commitment 6: Better access to clinical services

Aboriginal young people and their families in remote areas and communities are experiencing difficulties in accessing the services and follow-up they need. The Western Australian Government will work to address these issues, balancing the needs of the community with the challenges posed by regional and remote Western Australia. A range of strategies, programs and approaches will be developed to deliver better access to clinical services, including:

- expanded access to clinical care through 24/7 telehealth access across the state
- exploring innovations in remote service delivery
- identifying opportunities for better coordination of State and Commonwealth services, and increased involvement of the community sector
- investigating options for additional health and rehabilitation facilities in the Kimberley; and
- Initial actions for FASD, including:
  - exploring options for a FASD screening tool, which is a critical first step towards broader screening of children in Western Australia; and
  - investigating how Children's Court-ordered assessment reports of young people suspected of having FASD can be made available to families and other government agencies (including State and Commonwealth health and disability agencies) as needed to improve treatment of, and support for, children with FASD and other cognitive impairments.

Commitment 6 addresses the State Coroner's recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 27, 28, 29, 31 and 34, and Message Stick recommendations 26, 32, 38, 39 and 43.

The State Government recognises the importance of accessible, wrap around support and continues to invest in initiatives that strengthen service availability, continuity of care, and alternative pathways into support.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- Continuation of the Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service, which provides care to young people and families, including during the perinatal period. The service supports referrals to the Western Australian Perinatal Mental Health Unit, where required, with Midwives, allied health nurses and mental health staff undertaking appropriate assessments, including the Edinburgh Perinatal Depression Scale.
- Implementation of the Aftercare Services Program, under the Western Australian Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, which provides support to individuals after a suicide attempt. The program includes a pilot to expand referral pathways for people who do not present through hospital settings. In 2025, Neami National, Oseca and the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance in partnership with Anglicare WA, were the successful applicants to deliver Aftercare services across multiple metropolitan and regional hospital sites, including Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital, Busselton Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus and Hedland Health Campus.
- Continuation of the 24/7 Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Emergency Telehealth Service to improve access to specialist support across regional Western Australia through the WA Country Health Service. This is complemented by Commonwealth funded programs such as StandBy Support After Suicide and Thirrili Postvention Response Service, which provide 24/7 mental health and suicide prevention services.
- The Bigiswun Youth Social and Emotional Wellbeing proof-of-concept developed by Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre, funded by the Mental Health Commission, delivers a community-led, culturally grounded support for young people aged 17 to 23 years in Fitzroy Valley. Developed in response to local priorities, it addresses a critical gap by providing holistic social and emotional wellbeing support. An independent evaluation has been completed, and while its recommendations are specific to the program, the Mental Health Commission will apply the learnings to strengthen systems and processes of future SEWB and youth SEWB initiatives.

Community

Commitment 7: Support for community wellbeing

Supporting community wellbeing is about having the right structures, programs and processes in place, and ensuring that we work together to help construct safe, happy and prosperous communities. The Western Australian Government will work to strengthen communities with ongoing investment and support, and by developing strong working partnerships with Commonwealth and local governments, businesses, the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, and Aboriginal people. We will support and strengthen community wellbeing through a range of strategies and initiatives, including:

- the forthcoming Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy;
- the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy;
- strategies for addressing alcohol and drug abuse, including:
  - the Western Australian Methamphetamine Action Plan;
  - Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025;
  - Western Australian Alcohol and Drug Interagency Strategy; and
  - initial actions for FASD;
- All Paths Lead to a Home - Western Australia's 10-Year Strategy on Homelessness 2020-2030;
- coordinated regional and local programs and initiatives;
- increased recognition and support for community leaders and volunteers;
- cooperation between agencies, particularly through District Leadership Groups;
- the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council; and
- continuing to explore options for economic development and employment in regional and remote areas.

Commitment 7 addresses the State Coroner's recommendations 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 30, 32, 33 and 42.

The State Government continues to invest in infrastructure and programs that support the wellbeing of young people, including:

- Community-led FASD prevention initiatives, led by the Mental Health Commission, which deliver localised messaging across the Kimberley. In 2024-25, 54 Reasons (formally 'Save the Children') in Kununurra delivered youth workshops bringing together music artists, language specialists and FASD workers. This resulted in a locally produced music video celebrating Miriwoong Country and promoting positive choices for health and wellbeing, which is widely shared across the Kimberley.
- The Aboriginal Community Connectors Program, led by the Department of Communities, which provides on-the-ground support including safe transport, outreach, informal wellbeing support, de-escalation and referrals for individuals at risk. The program operates in 13 locations across the Kimberley (Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Kununurra, and Wyndham), Midwest (Geraldton, Meekatharra, Carnarvon), Goldfields (Laverton and Kalgoorlie), Pilbara (Hedland and Roebourne) and Metropolitan regions.
- Place-based youth engagement programs, supported by Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport, including school holiday and out-of-school programs in Derby and remote communities. Travel subsidies enable participation in events such as the Broome Junior Basketball carnival.
- Youth night spaces delivered under the KJJS, providing safe, culturally appropriate environments for young people. These include Ngurra Buru (Broome) and Youth Connection Night Space (Fitzroy Crossing). Youth night spaces for the Kununurra and Halls Creek communities are currently in the co-design or early implementation stages.

Commitment 8: Building local capacity

Supporting Aboriginal people to develop and drive economic and social projects in their own communities is essential to the empowerment process. The Western Australian Government will work with Aboriginal people, the Commonwealth, local governments, business, and community organisations to help develop and broaden the base of skills, capabilities, and structures at the regional and local levels. We will help build local capacity through:

- long-term, strategic support for remote Aboriginal communities;
- empowering Aboriginal communities to design, lead and deliver effective local approaches, under the guidance of the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council;
- continuing to explore options for providing training and other opportunities at the local level, especially for young people; and
- increased commissioning opportunities for local providers to deliver social services to the community.

Commitment 8 arises from the State Coroner's recommendations 12, 16, 17, 21, 33, 41 and 42, and Message Stick recommendations 12, 13, 16 and 39.

The State Government continues to support initiatives that create meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for Aboriginal people, acknowledging the importance of Aboriginal leadership and participation in economic development.

Key initiatives supporting this commitment include:

- Employment and development pathways for Aboriginal people through several key initiatives led by the Public Sector Commission. For example, the Solid Futures Traineeship Program provides structured training and employment opportunities, supporting public sector agencies to recruit and develop trainees while offering mentoring and ongoing support throughout their placement. In addition, the A Place of Opportunity program (that promotes public sector graduate, undergraduate and cadetship programs) includes five early career opportunities specifically created for Aboriginal university students. A Place of Opportunity works closely with universities to connect with students via bespoke events including some developed specifically for Aboriginal students.
- The Cultural Governance Framework (the Framework) developed by the WA Country Health Service. Development of the Framework was informed by extensive consultation and key implementation priorities include expanding Aboriginal career pathways, addressing systemic racism and unconscious bias, delivering an Aboriginal Mentorship Program, and embedding commitments to workplaces within the WA Country Health Service Strategic Plan 2025-2030.

Commitment 9: Better engagement with education

Education is crucial to equipping Aboriginal young people to embrace the challenges of adulthood. The Western Australian Government will work towards improving the engagement of Aboriginal children and young people in education in the Kimberley and across Western Australia. Approaches to education in regional and remote areas will continue to be evaluated and explored, including a range of options for maximising the engagement of Aboriginal children and young people in the education system. This will include:

- approaches for supporting engagement in education;
- engaging or re-engaging children and young people currently outside the system, including working with families and exploring alternative education pathways;
- supporting early education programs;
- exploring culturally secure residential options for students in the Kimberley; and
- scoping the expansion of cultural and language programs, including in schools.

Commitment 9 aligns with State Coroner's recommendations 35, 36, 38, 39 and 40, and Message Stick recommendation 36.

The Department of Education leads a range of initiatives that continue to explore and develop approaches to education in regional and remote areas to ensure engagement of Aboriginal children and young people in the education system, including:

- Delivery of the KindiLink program, a free play-and-learn initiative for Aboriginal children. The program encourages families to participate actively in their child's learning, strengthens early childhood development and supports a positive transition into formal schooling. KindiLink currently operates in 38 public schools across Western Australia.
- Providing all Western Australian public secondary schools access to a panel of providers delivering engagement programs that support Aboriginal girls and young women to achieve their full learning potential, shape their own futures and embrace their cultures, languages and identities.
- 22 Aboriginal languages being taught in 103 public schools across Western Australia in 2025.
- Development and delivery of the accredited 52897WA Certificate III in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages from September 2025. Development of accredited 52898WA Certificate IV in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages projected to be finalised for delivery in 2027.
- Planning for two school Yiriman Project trial sites at La Grange Remote Community School and Fitzroy Valley District High School.
- Working with the Wangkatjungka community on a model to support students to maintain connection to their community as they undertake secondary schooling.

Youth

Commitment 10: Helping young people connect to culture

Connection to culture promotes social and emotional wellbeing and provides a protective factor against suicide and self-harm. The Western Australian Government and Aboriginal communities will work together to develop strategies and programs to facilitate intergenerational and On-Country learning of culture and culture-inspired life skills. A range of strategies, programs and approaches will be developed to help connect young Aboriginal people to culture, including:

- the forthcoming Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy;
- Aboriginal-specific strategies under the State Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2021-25;
- teaching Aboriginal languages and cultures in a variety of contexts; and
- supporting cultural programs.

Commitment 10 arises from the State Coroner's recommendations 16, 17, 25, 38, 39 and 42, and Message Stick recommendations 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 16.

The State Government continues to deliver a range of programs that are guided by the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy that identifies culture at the heart of a secure foundation for life, providing the landscape in which futures are imagined, chosen and pursued.

Cultural knowledge is recognised as a protective factor in the Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 (in development) and the previous Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025. The Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 identifies cultural security, which includes cultural knowledge and connection, as a principle to guide planning, design and implementation of suicide prevention strategies and actions.

Initiatives that support this commitment include:

- The Yiriman Project, an intergenerational, On-Country cultural program that provides culturally secure On-Country camps for young people in Fitzroy Crossing and surrounding communities. These camps offer a safe environment where young people can step away from harmful influences and reconnect with Culture, Elders, and Country. The program supports improved health and wellbeing, strengthens cultural identity, and creates pathways into education, training, and community engagement.
- A range of place-based activities, such as cultural healing and bush camps delivered through the Mental Health Commission's Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program.
- A Traditional Healing trial at Derby Hospital. This initiative recognises the importance of Aboriginal healing practices and provides culturally appropriate support alongside mainstream health services.
- Training a school-based staff member to teach Aboriginal language/s in schools, at the request of the school and in consultation with the local Aboriginal communities.
- The Connecting to Country program funded 40 projects that support On-Country activities which encourage and foster the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, preservation of culture and strengthening of communities.
- The Wirnan Cultural Engagement and Learning Project in the Kimberley that promotes intergenerational learning, cultural engagement, and capacity building, connecting young people with traditional owners and artists. Activities include On-Country trips, arts development workshops and cultural practice and community activities.

Commitment 11: Building youth capacity

The Western Australian Government will work with the Commonwealth, local government, businesses and the community sector to help build the capacity of Aboriginal young people to develop the skills, knowledge and experience required to live healthy, confident and independent lives. Aboriginal young people need better access to training and employment opportunities, and outlets for self-expression through sport, recreation and social interaction. A range of strategies, programs and approaches will be considered to help build youth capacity, including:

- a range of opportunities to engage in vocational education and training;
- exploring options for economic development and employment in regional and remote areas;
- enhancing access to sport and recreation;
- upgrading sporting and recreational facilities; and
- exploring opportunities to increase young people's involvement in community life.

Commitment 11 arises from the State Coroner's recommendations 21, 30 and 37, and Message Stick recommendations 17, 19, 20 and 39.

The State Government continues to support opportunities to build youth capacity and identify and engage in vocational education and training, including:

- Supporting capacity building, training, and empowerment of young people through the KEYN program, to encourage a strong generation of skilled young leaders.
- Aboriginal Cadetship Program and Aboriginal Student Placements, including Aboriginal Graduate Nurses within Child and Adolescent Health Service, and establishing an Aboriginal Graduate Program within Child and Adolescent Health Service.
- Regional Workforce Coordinator positions established in all regions to provide region-specific advice on the delivery of vocational education and training in schools and develop industry partnerships to support access to training and pathway opportunities.
- The School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) supervisor course, developed to enable local people to be trained in student and classroom management and potentially employed as SIDE Supervisor roles to supervise SIDE classrooms in a culturally safe learning environment for Aboriginal students. In addition, SIDE Registered Training Organisation can support schools who wish to deliver vocational education and training as part of re-engagement programs within schools.
- Accredited new Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training course, the first cohort of students commenced in September 2025.
- Investment in cultural learning and tailored professional development to support Aboriginal staff to participate in Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute programs to support career opportunities.

In addition to building the capacity of young people through training and education, safe and functional recreation facilities and providing structured and enjoyable activities are essential to the everyday wellbeing of children and young people. A range of funding programs to enhance access to, and upgrade sporting and recreational facilities to create opportunities to increase young people's involvement in the community include:

- The Community Sport and Recreation Facility Fund which aims to increase participation in sport and recreation by providing financial assistance to community groups and local government authorities to develop basic infrastructure for sport and recreation.
- The Community Place Based Grants Program which provides support to organisations to develop and deliver co-designed, community-led, place-based structured sport and out-of-school recreation activity programs in regional locations in Western Australia.
- The North West Travel Subsidy which aims to assist young athletes living in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne regions with travel costs to encourage participation in identified sport and active recreation activities.
- The Active Regional Communities Grants Program which aims to increase the opportunities for regional people to participate in sport and active recreation activities in regional Western Australia and is tailored to meet the ever-changing demands and challenges of sport and active recreation groups.
- KJJS which supports a range of community-led place-based initiatives across the Kimberley to engage Aboriginal young people in culturally safe activities to prevent contact with the criminal justice system.

Commitment 12: A voice for young people

Building youth voice is about identifying, recognising and supporting young people and their right to have a say about decisions that affect them. Aboriginal young people should be empowered to speak up and contribute to decision making, and to become leaders of change on behalf of their own, and future generations. A range of strategies, programs and approaches will be developed to help build a voice for young Aboriginal people, including:

- supporting the establishment of a network of empowered young leaders in the Kimberley;
- supporting the development of local youth representation structures;
- ensuring young people have a seat at the table for key decisions that directly affect them; and
- identifying and nurturing young leaders in the Aboriginal community through a range of supports and opportunities.

Commitment 12 arises from the State Coroner's recommendation 42, and Message Stick recommendations 12 and 17.

The perspectives, expertise and voices of young people is an essential part of meaningful discussion and informed decision making regarding youth wellbeing. The State Government continues to ensure youth voices are recognised and embedded through governance structures that promote self-determination and represent and include young people. The State Government continues to support the KEYN program to maintain its core function of supporting Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal young people across the Kimberley.

Looking Ahead

> The Commitment has provided a foundation for meaningful, long-term, systemic change. Since its release, there has been significant progress towards whole-of-government activity, coordination and collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders and communities to address the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people across Western Australia.

Moving forward

It remains the responsibility of State Government agencies to continue progressing initiatives that address the recommendations underpinning the Commitment, and work alongside Aboriginal communities to design and deliver initiatives that provide equitable access to culturally appropriate supports, programs and system reforms, now and into the future. The State Government will continue to support community-led solutions that strengthen wellbeing and support Aboriginal young people to reach their potential. This includes continued investment in approaches that address the social determinants of health, strengthening service coordination, and building the capacity of ACCOs and local leaders.

Enhancing the wellbeing of Aboriginal young people remains a priority as we continue to build on existing work, in an effort to continuously improve and transform the way that the State Government and Aboriginal people genuinely work together to deliver lasting change.



Appendix 1:

Full reconciliation of recommendations

The following section provides an update on the progress of the recommendations from the Coroner's Inquest and Message Stick reports. The recommendations have been grouped under the 12 Commitments, in alignment with the body of the report. This structure is intended to make it easier to connect individual recommendations with the broader reform areas outlined in the progress of the 12 Commitments section.

It is noted that many recommendations intersect or contribute to multiple commitments. As a result, some recommendations may not include detailed information where this has already been addressed elsewhere.

Responses include recommendations that:

- Have been closed for the purpose of reporting.
- Have progressed to 'Actioned' from the previous annual report.
- Are in progress.
- Have not yet commenced.

Four recommendations (MS22, MS35, MS41 and MS42) from the Message Stick report have been superseded. One recommendation (CR12) from the Coroner's Report is led by the Commonwealth Government, therefore progress status is reported as N/A as the reporting of this recommendation is not the responsibility of the State Government.

The State Government recognises that significant long-term change will take time, and that while a

significant portion of recommendations are reported to be "in progress", many of these represent ongoing activity for State Government that will contribute to change and positive outcomes for Aboriginal people over time.

Definitions

These State Government positions and definitions are as per the Statement of Intent on Aboriginal youth suicide.

State Government Position on Recommendations	
"Accepted"	The State Government agrees with the recommendation and will endeavour to implement it.
"Accepted in principle"	The State Government agrees with the intent of the recommendation but may endeavour to implement it in a different way, or details of the Government's response may vary.
"Further discussion required"	The recommendation requires further consideration in terms of its implications, applications, or impacts; generally, some form of impact study, consultation, or review of the evidence may be required.
"Superseded"	The recommendation is no longer relevant due to events that have taken place since the recommendation was made.
"Not Accepted"	The State Government does not agree with the recommendation and will not endeavour to implement it in the proposed format.

Status of Recommendation	
"Closed"	The recommendation has been "Actioned" and no further update is required for the purpose of reporting.
"Actioned"	The State Government has comprehensively actioned the recommendation.
"In progress"	There has been some progress to address this recommendation, but it is not comprehensive to the point when the recommendation is considered fully actioned.
"Not yet commenced"	There has been no progress to address this recommendation.
"Superseded"	The recommendation is no longer relevant due to events that have taken place since the recommendation was made.
"N/A"	The recommendation relates to the Commonwealth Government.

Snapshot update 2024 and 2025

Status	Recommendations	Total Number
Closed	Coronial Inquest: 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 42 Message Stick: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 29, 40, 41, 43, 44	57
Actioned	Coronial Inquest: 6, 14, 15, 16, 26, 27, 29, 37, 38, 40 Message Stick: 13, 17, 30, 37	14
In Progress	Coronial Inquest: 1, 2, 3, 4, 25, 28, 34, 39 Message Stick: 36	9
Not yet commenced	Coronial Inquest: 41	1
N/A	Coronial Inquest: 12	1
Superseded	Message Stick: 22, 35, 41 and 42	4

Contributing Agencies

- Department of Communities
- Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport *(previously Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries)*
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing and Works *(previously Department of Finance and housing functions from the Department of Communities)*
- Department of Justice
- Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety *(previously Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and parts of the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety)*
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Department of Treasury and Finance *(previously Department of Treasury and Department of Finance)*
- Mental Health Commission
- Public Sector Commission
- WA Country Health Service
- Western Australia Police Force

It is acknowledged that progressing initiatives in response to recommendations requires cross-government collaboration and coordination, and there may be activity that includes other State Government agencies not listed above. Where a recommendation has an identified lead State Government agency, it is the responsibility of that agency to lead progress and provide updates against the recommendation.

Recommendations Progress Update

Commitment 1: Culturally responsive government

Recommendation: CR19

That cultural competency training given to service providers who interact with Aboriginal persons is co-designed with Aboriginal persons and delivered in a culturally relevant manner with emphasis on the effect of intergenerational trauma and FASD, and on the importance of cultural wellbeing, and that all service providers be required to be trained and that it be funded.

Further, wherever possible, that cultural competency training be delivered by involving local Aboriginal people.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	All	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

All State Government agencies are responsible for providing cultural training for staff and service providers who engage with Aboriginal people. Examples of activities undertaken in 2024 and 2025 to support this recommendation include:

- Development of the Western Australian Whole of Government Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) Strategy for community services to Aboriginal People (ACCO Strategy) to give effect to State Government commitments under Closing the Gap and Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy 2021-2029, recognising that ACCOs are uniquely positioned to deliver culturally responsive and secure services to Aboriginal people.
- The Mental Health Commission continued to deliver face-to-face training across the Western Australia to build capacity for FASD prevention activities. In 2024 and 2025, 118 participants attended 12 events across metropolitan and regional Western Australia.
- The Mental Health Commission worked with State Government agencies to develop the Trauma-Informed Approach: Guidance for Western Australian State Government anticipated for release in 2026. This guidance seeks to equip State Government agencies to engage with empathy, safety and understanding to protect, support and contribute to a person's healing from trauma and to actively minimise further harm and re-traumatisation, recognising the impact of the historic, collective and ongoing trauma experienced by Aboriginal people, families and communities.
- The Department of Education completed its Agency Commissioning Plan for 2025, which recognises the need to increase the proportion of all services currently being delivered to Aboriginal students by ACCOs. Under the plan, the Department's commissioning process for Chaplaincy and Student Wellbeing, Child and Parent Centres and Aboriginal Engagement Programs will prioritise an increase in the number of ACCOs delivering services to students in public schools in Western Australia and designing accessible, culturally responsive services that create the conditions for Aboriginal students to experience cultural safety.
- The Department of Communities continued to deliver the Kimberley Cultural Induction Program training, which is mandatory for all Department of Communities Kimberley Region staff and encouraged for staff who regularly travel to the region. Other service providers, including the Kimberley Joint Response Team, WA Police Force (who are co-located with Department of Communities staff) and Residential Care Workers (both through Department of Communities and external service providers) have also completed the Kimberley Cultural Indication Program training.

- The WA Police Force revised its in-person cultural awareness training delivered at the Police Academy to strengthen understanding of intergenerational trauma. The training was developed and is delivered by Aboriginal people and includes oral case studies, enhanced visual content and multimedia storytelling.
- The Department of Health, WA Country Health Service and Child and Adolescent Health Service continued to mandate system-wide Aboriginal Cultural eLearning and monitor compliance.
- The Department of Justice's Aboriginal Cultural Capability Training Strategy (ACCTS) was officially launched in 2025. This foundational program seeks to create a common language and skill set among staff that addresses the Department's complex and unique Aboriginal cultural competency needs. The Department engaged a Pilbara based Aboriginal consulting firm to lead the development of ACCTS.
- Child and Adolescent Health Service continued to deliver the Aboriginal Health Champions program to provide training to staff around appropriate ways to communicate and engage with Aboriginal families during 2024 and 2025.
- WA Country Health Service launched an Aboriginal Health Champions Program in 2025, providing continuous cultural learning through formal and informal settings and completed consultation to inform the development of a new Cultural Governance Framework. This Framework aims to outline staged actions including (but not limited to) reviewing existing localised face-to-face cultural training models, developing a consistent framework for Aboriginal-informed localised training, improving monitoring of training participation and capability uplift and progressing mandatory face-to-face cultural learning.
- The Department of Housing and Works provide all staff with access to the Public Sector Commission's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training resource Cultural Competency Training Program and require all staff to complete the online Aboriginal Cultural Appreciation Training within their first 90 days of employment. Additionally, all frontline Department of Housing and Works staff are required to complete specified core cultural capability training within their first 90 days of employment.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development continued to deliver Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training to all managers, with sessions delivered in-person and online to support regional attendance. The training was co-designed and delivered in partnership with Kambarang Services to ensure the training is culturally relevant.

State Government agencies are to ensure appropriate cultural training is continuously embedded in workforce practice. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR42

I recommend that:

- The principles of self-determination and empowerment be given emphasis in initiatives, policies and programs relating to Aboriginal people in Western Australia and that the Western Australian Government introduce measures to enable Aboriginal people and organisations to be involved in setting and formulating policy that affects their communities;
- That in developing such measures, consideration be given to negotiating mutually agreed outcomes, with service delivery responsibilities as between the Western Australian Government and Aboriginal people and organisations; and
- The Western Australian Government develop a state-wide Aboriginal cultural policy that recognises the importance of cultural continuity and cultural security to the wellbeing of Aboriginal people in this State.

Initial Response:	**Lead Agency:**	**Status:**
Accepted	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The State Government continues to direct its efforts towards a future in which all Aboriginal people, families and communities are empowered to live good lives and choose their own futures from a secure foundation through the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.

Developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia, the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy also sets out the State's approach to meeting its commitments under Closing the Gap.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet continue to lead the development of Implementation Plans for Closing the Gap, setting the approach for working with Aboriginal people towards empowerment and better outcomes.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS7		
That Western Australian Government agencies recognise the importance of cultural knowledge as a protective factor preventing Aboriginal youth suicide.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The previous Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2021-2025 and the Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 (in development) both recognise the importance of cultural knowledge as a protective factor to prevent suicide for Aboriginal youth. The Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 describes ways to embed and reflect social and emotional wellbeing approaches, as well as a broad approach to suicide prevention that is culturally safe and responsive for Aboriginal people and communities in Western Australia. Cultural security is identified in the Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 as a principle to guide the planning, design and implementation of suicide prevention strategies and actions. This principle describes the importance of support that promotes the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people and communities, including cultural knowledge and connection.

Further, opportunities for action are identified in the Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031 which describe practical suicide prevention strategies and actions to strengthen cultural knowledge and connection to reduce and prevent suicide, including some specific actions related to strengthening cultural pride, identity and belonging for Aboriginal children and young people.

A number of place-based, community led, and holistic approaches which recognise the importance of cultural knowledge as a protective factor against youth suicide have or are being delivered, including:

- Over 30 locally run Aboriginal suicide prevention trainings such as Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Youth Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Deadly Thinking, Deadly Thinking Youth and Red Dust Healing.
- Delivery of Youth social and emotional wellbeing education sessions.
- Commenced development of a culturally secure Gatekeeper training.
- Delivery of over 40 cultural initiatives, such as NAIDOC events, bush camps, local campaign launches and Elders grief and loss groups.
- Implementation of Community Planning Forums and Community Action Plans.
- Delivery of locally developed media campaigns (emotional regulation, lived experience stories, what keeps me well, how to check on a mate) and promotion of statewide campaigns (Stronger You, Stronger Mob and Stay Strong Look After You and Your Mob).
- Delivery of postvention initiatives in partnership with local Aboriginal Medical Services and Thirrilli.

The Mental Health Commission and State Government acknowledge and continue to recognise cultural knowledge in policy development, strategic planning, and operational practices within suicide prevention initiatives. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS12		
That the Western Australian Government places increased emphasis on empowering Aboriginal communities in developing and actioning all strategies, programs and services which are relevant to Aboriginal people.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** All	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Since the signing of Closing the Gap in 2020, Western Australia has released three Closing the Gap Implementation Plans in consultation with the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia and Coalition of Peaks jurisdictional partners including the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia and the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia. These implementation plans align closely with the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy, which sets the State Government's approach for working with Aboriginal people and communities towards empowerment and improved outcomes.

Some examples of changes State Government Departments have made to commissioning and funding approaches to empower Aboriginal people and communities include:

- The ACCO Strategy, released in 2024, sets a clear direction to prioritise place-based, community-led and culturally secure services delivered by strong and sustainable ACCOs.
- Continued delivery of the State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services – Implementation Plan 2024-2026, which requires services for Aboriginal people to prioritise ACCOs as providers, and support commissioning line agencies to employ more flexible and targeted commissioning approaches to increase ACCO service delivery.
- Commitment to implement the Productivity Commission Review of Closing the Gap recommendations, including updating commissioning practices that are accountable to Closing the Gap Priority Reforms, and embedding the Priority Reforms into the Department of Treasury and Finance State Budget process.
- Release of the second Western Australian State Government Aboriginal Expenditure Review in 2025 by the Department of Treasury and Finance. The review mapped State spending on Aboriginal programs, and supports agencies to identify opportunities to reprioritise funding towards ACCOs. This data is currently being updated and another review will be released in the 2026-27 financial year.

Some ways in which State Government agencies have embedded Aboriginal leadership, governance and co-design include:

- The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport continued to represent the State Government on the National Closing the Gap Languages Policy Partnership to progress Closing the Gap Outcome 16, which aims to ensure Aboriginal cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing. In 2024 and 2025, over $370,000 was provided to support establishment of Aboriginal Languages WA, a collaborative network of Aboriginal language centres across the State. A formal Western Australian partnership model, with Aboriginal Languages WA as the lead community organisation, will strengthen community control over language revitalisation and meet the recommendation by the Languages Policy Partnership, to establish state-level peak bodies.
- The Department of Education's 2025 Agency Commissioning Plan alignment with the ACCO Strategy, the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and Closing the Gap, reinforcing partnership-based service delivery.
- The Department of Communities launched an internal Aboriginal Engagement Framework in 2025, to strengthen culturally grounded engagement; developed an ACCO Commissioning Framework in consultation with senior ACCO representatives to support the expansion of ACCO service delivery to Aboriginal children, families and communities; and undertook an ACCO strengths and opportunities desktop analysis, and engaged with representatives from approximately 40 ACCOs funded by the Department of Communities, to inform the implementation of these frameworks.

- The Department of Health revised the mandatory Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration Policy in August 2025, expanding the scope and strengthening cultural governance. The policy supports Western Australian health entities to identify the needs of Aboriginal people through engagement and embedding cultural safety in the development, review, amendment or discontinuation of a policy document, health program or strategy. It mandates cultural governance for policy, program and strategy decisions that may impact Aboriginal people.
- Child and Adolescent Health Service established an Aboriginal Consumer Engagement Coordinator role to connect and empower communities through engagement with established youth networks, undertook a Cultural Security Audit and developed a Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan 2026-2028 to increase Aboriginal recruitment, retention and advancement of Aboriginal staff to achieve the Aboriginal employment targets set by Department of Health and the Public Services Commission.
- WA Country Health Service delivered the Cultural Governance Framework Implementation Project, which established a co-designed, whole-of-organisation approach to cultural governance and actions to establish Aboriginal governance groups at a district level and strengthen the coordination, accountability and consistency of cultural governance across the organisation.
- The Department of Justice developed their Reconciliation Action Plan 2025–2027, embedding the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and strengthening shared decision making. The Department of Justice also continued to engage with local communities to support and co-design initiatives under the KJJS. Each unique initiative is delivered by ACCOs and is designed to meet local need.
- WA Police Force commenced establishing the Police Aboriginal Advisory Groups, a co-leadership model enabling Elders and community leaders to guide culturally informed policing responses. A statewide rollout is planned for 2026 in alignment with Closing the Gap Priority Reform 3.
- The Department of Housing and Works continued to deliver the State Government's Remote Communities Fund investment in new and refurbished housing in Aboriginal communities, many of which are in the Kimberley region. This investment supports young people to have access to fit-for-purpose housing that provides a safe and healthy environment, which supports them to thrive. All investment in housing in Aboriginal communities is delivered in partnership with local people and residents to place Aboriginal voices at the heart of decision making about their communities. The first new homes in Kimberley Aboriginal Communities are due for completion in 2026.
- The Mental Health Commission established an Aboriginal Policy and Cultural Governance team in 2025 to strengthen cultural security, promote Aboriginal leadership and self-determination of Aboriginal people and communities. The team are responsible for key strategic Aboriginal policy initiatives, the development and monitoring of cultural governance and work to elevate Aboriginal leadership, social and emotional wellbeing and the voices, experiences and perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Western Australia.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development established a dedicated Aboriginal Outcomes Task (AOT) team in 2024 to strengthen cultural capability by embedding culturally safe and responsive practices into leadership, policies, systems and everyday work. The AOT team ensures genuine partnerships with Aboriginal people and provides governance on how the department delivers, embeds and accounts for Aboriginal outcomes.

State Government agencies have established resources and measures to continuously improve government systems, funding models and service delivery in alignment with the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms and the Western Australian Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS13

That the Western Australian Government shifts its focus from government owned and run programs and services for Aboriginal people to Aboriginal owned and run programs. The Committee acknowledges that this will be a gradual process; however, it can begin immediately by designing strategies, services and programs with the aim of empowering Aboriginal communities.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	All	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Western Australian ACCO Strategy was developed to give effect to the State Government commitments under Closing the Gap and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy. The vision of the ACCO Strategy is for Aboriginal people in Western Australia to be able to access place-based, Aboriginal community-led, culturally responsive and secure community services that are planned, designed and delivered by strong and sustainable ACCOs.

Examples of activity include:

- The launch of the WA Country Health Service Strategic Plan 2025-2030, which focuses on collaboration, partnership and community connection and aims to embed Aboriginal influence across health service design, decision making and cultural governance.
- The Police Community Services Fund provided almost $2 million to 14 ACCOs to deliver 17 programs that included supporting youth engagement and diversion, facilitating family and domestic violence support and addressing community safety.
- The Mental Health Commission has invested in the implementation and evaluation of the community led and developed Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia's ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program. Developed by the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service provides a practical framework to guide and support social and emotional wellbeing service delivery within ACCHS, ensuring care is both clinically sound and culturally grounded. It supports a holistic, culturally safe, community-led approach that reflects the priorities and strengths of local communities.
- The Mental Health Commission engaged Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation to coordinate community consultations in the Kimberley region to assess and prioritise findings from the 2020 Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Service Model report within the current Kimberley context and develop a contemporary service model for youth alcohol and other drug services. In late 2025, Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation submitted A Responsive and Sustainable Alcohol and Other Drug Service for Youth in the Kimberley Report (Milliya Rumurra Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Report), including a Consultation Summary Report, to inform the development, implementation and delivery of a Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service for consideration. The Mental Health Commission will continue to collaborate with the Kimberley Aboriginal Regional Governance Group in the delivery approach of the Kimberley service.
- Child and Adolescent Health Service has a Memorandum of Understanding with Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation for Koorliny Moort to deliver paediatric outreach clinics at Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation clinics, partnered with Yokai Healing Foundation to provide a screening of the film Genocide in the Wildflower State and provided stronger recognition of significant Aboriginal events through engagement with external Aboriginal organisations and businesses. Child and Adolescent Health Service achieved the target set in the Aboriginal Procurement Policy for 4 percent of contracts over $50,000, awarded in that financial year to be with Registered Aboriginal Businesses.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development enables stronger Aboriginal economic outcomes by supporting Aboriginal employment, procurement, business development and participation across DPIRD's portfolios and service delivery.

State Government agencies continue to action work in this area and embed policy, governance and plans to identify opportunities to reprioritise funding to Aboriginal organisations, particularly ACCOS, to support Aboriginal people and communities to produce local solutions to local issues.

Recommendation: MS14		
That the Western Australian Government implement minimum standards of engagement with Aboriginal people when developing, actioning, and funding strategies, programs and services which affect Aboriginal people.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** All	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS40		
That the Western Australia Police and the Department for Child Protection and Family Support report to the Parliament on the scope for local cultural authority to be incorporated into the services provided at multi-functional police facilities.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** WA Police Force	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023.

Police and Community Youth Centres (PCYC) safeSPACE Programs have been funded in Kalgoorlie, Kununurra and Roebourne for 2025-26 and Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Geraldton and Gosnells for 2025-26 and 2026-27. safeSPACE Programs are delivered from regional PCYC locations based on community need and with initiatives led by local community members. PCYC centres are trusted, neutral spaces within these communities, offering safety from conflict and feuding, and are strongly supported by Aboriginal communities. safeSPACE Programs provide young people with a consistent, welcoming environment and a space where they feel valued, included, and safe during the critical after-school period. For many, this type of environment is not available at home or in the broader community. safeSPACE delivers diversionary programs that play a vital role in addressing youth crime by focusing on prevention and rehabilitation rather than punitive measures and aims to tackle the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to offending, such as family instability, lack of education and employment opportunities, and limited access to positive activities.

The Western Australian Police Force continues to provide culturally appropriate, community-led initiatives that engage young people in constructive pathways, diversionary programs help reduce reoffending, strengthen community safety, and support long-term wellbeing. They are particularly important in regional areas where systemic disadvantage and limited services can exacerbate cycles of crime.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Commitment 2: Respect and appreciation for Aboriginal culture

Recommendation: MS11

The Western Australian Government should foster strategies and programs which contribute to the greater appreciation of Aboriginal culture, including placing a greater emphasis on reconciliation action plans, and providing funding for cultural events attended by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport / Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet supports Reconciliation WA, the peak body for reconciliation in Western Australia, through a grant agreement. It also supports Reconciliation WA's engagement with other state government agencies, regardless of whether they have active Reconciliation Action Plans. State government agencies engage through Reconciliation WA's Reconciliation Action Plan Industry Network Groups (RAP RINGs). These groups offer masterclasses and create opportunities for organisations to connect and collaborate, improving outcomes in employment, procurement, and the celebration of Aboriginal culture. RAP RINGs support learning, build partnerships, and help drive progress across the reconciliation movement.

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport supports the Wirnan Cultural Engagement and Learning Project by providing funding of $258,000 per annum over four years ($1.032 million) from 2024 to 2027. Led by Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, the Wirnan Cultural Engagement and Learning Project connects six local Aboriginal Art Centres across the Kimberley to fund activities that support next-generation cultural engagement and learning, particularly learning that enriches and inspires arts practice while demonstrating the benefits of individual and community well-being. Activities include arts development workshops (photography, painting, printmaking, and textiles printing), schools' learning sessions, artist exhibition attendance, On-Country trips, school learning sessions and a strong commitment to cultural knowledge transfer to next generations. In 2024, 449 young people (0 to 26 years) were engaged in the program, which included 313 children (under 15 years). In 2025, 643 young people (0 to 26 years) were engaged in the program, which included 516 children (under 15 years).

In December 2024, the Kimberley Language Resource Centre released the State of Language Continuation in the Kimberley report, which received $200,000 in 2022 from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport to support its development and completion. The report is a key initiative to keep Aboriginal languages strong, mapping which languages are thriving, which are "sleeping," and what support is needed for revitalisation. A team of Elders and language officers travelled to 23 communities across the Kimberley and spoke to more than 300 people from 27 language groups. The report found that: all Kimberley Aboriginal languages are at risk, with most Aboriginal languages having less than 50 speakers; elders are struggling to pass on languages to the next generation; and there is an urgent need for new resources and support for language revival and continuation.

The Department of Creative, Industries, Tourism and Sport also completed the Business Case and Project Definition Plan for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre, and the project has moved into the Concept Design Phase. The project is being developed with guidance from, and in partnership with, Aboriginal representatives from across the state and based on principles of Aboriginal empowerment and leadership.

State Government agencies are responsible in developing and implementing agency specific reconciliation action plans, supporting a range of strategies that acknowledge, respect and value Aboriginal culture within the workplace and the broader community. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Commitment 3: Supporting cultural programs

Recommendation: CR16

That the Yiriman Project or a model akin to the Yiriman Project be extended across the Kimberley, and that consideration be given to the following matters in connection with the extension:

a. That the Western Australian government through its various health and justice branches should explore opportunities for the implementation of models akin to the Yiriman Project in other remote parts of Western Australia with priority given to those areas with high rates of Aboriginal youth suicide.
b. That funding providers for the Yiriman Project and other programs akin to the Yiriman Project should acknowledge the need for key performance indicators that are flexible and reflect the difficulty such organisations have in providing quantitative and qualitative data on the success of individual interventions with at-risk clients.
c. That the Western Australian government should consider guaranteed funding for the Yiriman Project on a longer-term basis, whether through funding provided by the Department for Corrective Services for diversionary programs, through ATSIPEP funding, or through funding co-ordinated through the Mental Health Commission.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Justice	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Justice continued to lead the KJJS to support a range of community-led, placed-based initiatives across the Kimberley that improve Aboriginal youth wellbeing and community safety and address the over-representation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system. All KJJS initiatives are community-led and implemented in partnership with ACCOs to develop integrated solutions to engage at-risk young people.

Through the KJJS, the Department of Justice continued to fund the Yiriman Project run by the Kimberley Law and Cultural Centre, providing culturally secure On-Country camps for young people to reconnect with their Culture, Elders and Country in Fitzroy Crossing. Funding for the Yiriman Project has been allocated until 30 June 2030, with further funding to be considered as part of future State Budget process.

Further work to be guided by the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee, is required to assess and inform an extension of the Yiriman Project.

Recommendation: CR25

That there be funding by Government for the development of cultural healing projects in the Kimberley Region, such as the one being developed by the Nyamba Buru Yawuru Centre in Broome.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	In progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

Funding was secured to deliver a 12-month trial of Traditional Healing at Derby Hospital. WA Country Health Service Kimberley partnered with the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre, Jalngangurru Healers and Emama Nguda Aboriginal Corporation to deliver healing services to Community Mental Health clients and Derby hospital in patients via referral system. Healing clinics commenced operation in September 2025 with fortnightly sessions delivered by male healers (to both male/female clients), and female healers to join every three months. WA Country Health Service staff are also encouraged to participate in sessions.

Recommendation: CR39		
That the Yiriman Project or a model akin to the Yiriman Project be linked to schools within the Kimberley Region.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of Education	**Status:** In progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Education is working with the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre Board and Coordinator to initiate planning on two school Yiriman Project trial sites in Fitzroy Crossing and Bidyadanga. Fitzroy Valley District High School is partnering with Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre in implementing the Yiriman Project with disengaged students one day a week in 2026. La Grange Remote Community School is in conversations with the Yiriman Coordinator to develop a model of support to be implemented in 2026.

Recommendation: MS8		
That the Western Australian Government set aside an appropriate portion of grant expenditure to fund more culture-embedded programs for Aboriginal young people across the state.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport provides financial support to organisations to create inclusive, accessible, safe and welcoming environments, operations and participation opportunities in sport and recreation for people from low participation groups through the Sport and Recreation Inclusive Participation Program. From 2022-23 to 2025-26 financial years, six projects for Aboriginal people were funded with a total investment of over $2.5 million.

One program was the Surfing WA Indigenous Leadership Program delivered in eight locations across Western Australia (six of which are regional). The Surfing WA Indigenous Leadership Program combines surfing skills and cultural experiences promoting an Indigenous surfing pathway. It is supported by Fair Game, who provide sport and active recreation opportunities in remote Aboriginal communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley and facilitate training culturally aware volunteers to continue activities beyond their visits.

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport also delivered two funding rounds of the Connecting to Country Grants Program in 2024 and 2025, to support On-Country activities that encourage and foster the intergenerational transfer of cultural knowledge, preservation of culture and strengthening of communities.

A total of 40 applications were funded across both rounds, with funding totalling $962,166, following assessment by Peer Assessment Panels. Each panel comprised four Aboriginal members and an Aboriginal Chair. Projects were funded across all nine regions, and included camps on Country for young people, men's and women's business, language revival and storytelling.

The State Government continues to provide funding and support for programs that support Aboriginal young people to strengthen their connection to culture. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS30

That the Western Australian Government improve collaboration and co-ordination between agencies that develop strategies for, and deliver programs and services to, Aboriginal people in remote areas.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The State Government continues to drive an integrated and coordinated interagency approach to implementing Closing the Gap to progress outcomes for Aboriginal people across Western Australia, including in remote areas and communities.

Through the Closing the Gap 2026-28 Implementation Plan, initiatives to support this will include:

- Establishing an Alliance of Aboriginal partners (Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia, the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia and Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia).
- Establishing an ACCO Transition Pipeline to strengthen ACCO commissioning.
- Creating a Community-led Data Connection Project to strengthen data sharing.
- Undertaking a Western Australian Anti-Racism Project to address racism against Aboriginal people.
- Developing Closing the Gap Regional Implementation Plans to drive delivery of place-based solutions.

Commitment 4: Better prevention, intervention and postvention services

Recommendation: CR12

That there be the appointment of Local Area Co-ordinators or local Family Advocates in the Kimberley Region who can assist families in need of accessing service providers and that all efforts be made to have such roles filled by an Aboriginal person.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in principle	N/A (Commonwealth)	N/A

2024 and 2025 Update:

As part of the Kimberley Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Trial, the WA Primary Health Alliance funds Community Liaison Officer positions in Broome, Halls Creek, and Kununurra. These officers engage with community members through camps, forums, community events, outreach, and On Country activities.

The WA Primary Health Alliance also funds the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre to deliver the Yiriman Project, based in Fitzroy Crossing. The Yiriman Project employs Aboriginal Local Area Coordinators who have established strong working relationships with the local school supporting young people to participate in cultural activities and with local law enforcement. These partnerships have enabled the early identification of disengaged youth, who are then invited to take part in culturally grounded activities.

Recommendation: CR17
That the Government and its service providers continue to ensure that the strategies for addressing Aboriginal suicide be implemented in consultation with appropriate representatives from the Aboriginal community, that the representatives which are appropriate to consult are identified on an ongoing basis, and that such representatives be provided with an opportunity for involvement in the co-design of such strategies.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in principle	Mental Health Commissiont	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission funded the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia to facilitate community consultation and feedback to ensure the voices, knowledge, and priorities of Aboriginal people are embedded throughout the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Framework 2026 – 2031. Consultation provided opportunity for Aboriginal communities, individuals and service providers to share their lived experiences, cultural knowledge, and local insights into how suicide prevention is understood and should be addressed.

The Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Training program is a two-day suicide prevention training designed to upskill workers who have contact with those at risk of suicide. The program is being adapted to be more relevant to workers in the Kimberley region. In 2025, a working group was established with local workers from across the region to ensure the updated content would best meet the needs of the Kimberley workforce. To ensure the content of the training is relevant for local Aboriginal workforce and communities, local Aboriginal workers will be further engaged through regional workshops across Western Australia to inform region specific Gatekeeper program content.

The Mental Health Commission Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program delivered place-based activities as guided by Regional Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Plans across Western Australia. The delivery of suicide prevention for Aboriginal people through the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer program ensures a community-led approach that includes identified risk factors for individual community needs. Examples of activities delivered in 2024 and 2025 through the Community Liaison Officer program included:

- sports carnivals and activities
- cultural healing camps
- grief and loss groups
- training events and workshops, such as Deadly Thinking Workshop and Safe Talk Workshops
- community-based wellbeing events.

In addition, the Mental Health Commission funds Suicide Prevention Coordinators across Western Australia who work with the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers and local Aboriginal run organisations, to ensure local suicide prevention initiatives are developed in collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

The State Government have established policies and procedures to enable genuine engagement with relevant stakeholders, to support and ensure local activity and strategies are guided by community. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR24

That mental health treatment plans for Aboriginal persons offer the option of the inclusion of traditional cultural healing, and where that option is accepted, that all efforts be made to work collaboratively for the benefit of the patient.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Department of Health	Actioned in 2021. Closed in 2023.

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

The *Mental Health Act 2014* includes provision for traditional healing for Aboriginal clients and collaboration with Elders. In all mental health assessments, Cultural/Traditional Healer is an option as part of care plans if requested by the consumer/family.

Recommendation: MS6

That the Mental Health Commission broadens its scope of suicide prevention for Aboriginal people to encompass all identified risk factors.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Mental Health Commission	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Suicide Prevention Framework 2026–2031, (in development) will provide guidance for Western Australian stakeholders regarding implementation of social and emotional wellbeing actions and strategies to reduce suicide for Aboriginal individuals and communities. It recognises the range of risk factors of suicide for all people, including Aboriginal people, identifying individual factors (e.g. life events, personal circumstances, culture, and physical and mental health) that interact with known determinants of suicide and the social, economic, environmental, political, cultural and structural conditions of someone's life. Factors disproportionately impacting Aboriginal people in Western Australian, such as housing, education, and exposure to discrimination, as well as cultural systems of knowledge, law and practices, impacts of government policies, and unresolved issues of land, control of resources, and the rights of self-determination and sovereignty, are also highlighted throughout the Suicide Prevention Framework 2026-2031.

The Mental Health Commission continues to acknowledge and support the role and leadership of ACCOs in delivering suicide prevention and family wellbeing services. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS10

That Western Australian Government agencies use the assessment tools and evaluation framework created by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Mental Health Commission	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Evaluation of Western Australia's suicide prevention approach continues to be informed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project, alongside work being carried out in Western Australia to measure social and emotional wellbeing outcomes, applying the principles of strengths-based reporting and Aboriginal data governance and sovereignty.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS15		
That the Mental Health Commission involves Aboriginal people in the ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of the *Suicide Prevention 2020: Together we can save lives* strategy.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS16		
That the Mental Health Commission provide and fund programs and strategies which emphasise developing the capacity of community members to help youth at risk of suicide.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

In 2025, the Mental Health Commission funded the Western Australian Suicide Prevention Community Grants Program. The program provided $1 million for local initiatives to address the impact of suicide in Western Australian communities. Programs funded include:

- Aboriginal mental health first aid for Kimberley community members.
- Co-designed radio segments to increase community awareness of suicide prevention services across the State.
- Delivery of the Deadly Maaman Mooditj Kaat to Aboriginal men and male youth to increase mental health literacy, reduce stigma and build resilience in the Wheatbelt, Great Southern, South West and Metropolitan regions.

The Mental Health Commission also funded the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia to deliver a project to improve the capacity and capability of the Western Australia Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services through the coordination of training in response to identified workforce needs. This project also aims to build the capability of Aboriginal people and communities across Western Australia to understand, respond to, and prevent suicide, while strengthening social and emotional wellbeing.

The Mental Health Commission continues to support initiatives and programs that strengthen and enhance community capacity and ability to respond to suicide risk. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS23		
That the Mental Health Commission should evaluate the success of Suicide Prevention 2020: Together we can save lives, and report on the outcomes of its evaluations at least annually, including how progress is being measured and what changes in approach have been made based on evaluation findings.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS24		
That the Evaluation Reference Group should include at least one Aboriginal member and should engage with Aboriginal communities as part of its ongoing evaluative role.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS34		
That the Western Australian Government should collaborate with Commonwealth agencies and non-government organisations to strengthen the evidence base to determine the effective ways to prevent Aboriginal youth suicide.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Suicide Prevention Coordinators were supported by WA Primary Health Alliance Targeted Regional Initiatives for Suicide Prevention Program funding, to provide locally run Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Youth Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Deadly Thinking, Deadly Thinking Youth and Red Dust Healing trainings to their communities.

In 2024 and 2025, the Mental Health Commission continued to work in partnership with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group on the introduction of a Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Service (see MS13 for additional detail). The Mental Health Commission will continue to work with, and seek guidance from, the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group, on the implementation of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service, informed by the Milliya Rumurra Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service Report.

The Mental Health Commission continued to fund the University of Western Australia to undertake an independent evaluation of the ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program. The ACCHS SEWB Model of Service Pilot Program was implemented across five regions in Western Australia (Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields, and South West). The evaluation assessed implementation processes, service impacts, and outcomes across all pilot sites, providing insight into effective, culturally appropriate models of care. The Evaluation Report of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia's ACCHS SEWB Model: Final Evaluation Report 2025 was completed in 2025 and is publicly available.

In 2023, the Mental Health Commission funded Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre to pilot the Bigiswun Youth SEWB proof-of-concept program, developed in response to identified community need in the Fitzroy Valley. The program provides culturally grounded, holistic support to Aboriginal young people aged 17 to 25, and is shown to have a positive impact on local community. An independent evaluation of the program released in September 2025 further builds the evidence base for effective ways of working with and for Aboriginal young people and communities.

The Mental Health Commission now have established mechanisms to engage and collaborate with Commonwealth and State Government agencies and non-government organisations, and will continue to seek collaborative opportunities to further develop and strengthen evidence base approaches to Aboriginal youth suicide. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS37

That the Mental Health Commission implement the postvention recommendations in the Solutions that Work: What the Evidence and Our People Tell Us, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project report and the forthcoming University of Western Australia Critical Response Project report into its dedicated suicide prevention strategy Aboriginal Implementation Plan.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Mental Health Commission	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission funds and supports the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program, which supports the implementation of grass roots and community-led activities identified through Regional Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Plans. These plans were developed through culturally secure community engagement across Western Australia and reflect the emerging needs and priorities identified by individual communities. The Plans guide and inform the activities delivered by the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program across Western Australia, including place-based postvention activities.

Further work is required to best utilise and implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Evaluation Project postvention recommendations into future delivery of dedication suicide prevention initiatives relating to Aboriginal people and communities.

Commitment 5: Building capacity in health and mental health services

Recommendation: CR20

That Department of Communities' child protection workers and school teaching staff (in the public and private sectors) who have regular contact with Aboriginal children receive appropriate training in suicide intervention and prevention, and that such training be provided at appropriately regular intervals.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	Department of Communities / Department of Education	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Compassionate Foundations (a suicide prevention eLearning program) has been integrated into the Learning Management System and is available for all Department of Communities staff to complete. Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention training is also scheduled throughout the year for Department of Communities staff to attend.

The Department of Education provides a range of professional learning and supports for staff and students in public schools and within Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) and Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) schools as aligned to their Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Commission to deliver the Response to Suicide and Self-Harm in Schools Program (Schools Response Program).

The Schools Response Program facilitates professional learning, development and oversight of the School Response and Planning Guidelines for Students with Suicidal Behaviour and Non-suicidal Self-injury (the Guidelines) and Postvention support when required for schools across Western Australia.

In 2025, the Department of Education undertook a review and update of the Guidelines. The update substantially enhanced the guidelines to improve cultural responsiveness, supporting school staff to engage more effectively and respectfully with Aboriginal students and communities.

Additional specialised training provided includes:

- Gatekeeper Suicide Prevention Professional Learning available to all staff in public, CEWA and AISWA schools.
- Public School staff can access Youth Mental Health First Aid Training to increase their knowledge of youth mental health issues.
- Teen Mental Health First Aid Training also offered to all public, CEWA and AISWA schools for students in Year 10 to 12 to gain practical skills to support their peers who may be experiencing mental health challenges.

A range of training and professional learning and support continues to be embedded within standard workforce practice. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR21		
That efforts continue to be made to employ Aboriginal persons in health (including mental health), education, child protection and police and, where necessary or desirable, that consideration be given to introducing bridging courses and cadet programs and/or locally accessible training courses to assist prospective employees to obtain the necessary qualifications.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Public Sector Commission / Mental Health Commission / Department of Health	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: CR26
That care or treatment provided by service providers to Aboriginal children and young people in the Kimberley operate in a trauma-informed model, and that service providers account for the need for trauma-specific care where possible.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Health recognises the importance of consistent, trauma-informed models of care and continued to explore and support evidence-based models across services. In 2024 and 2025, some examples included:

- Delivery of Yirra Dandjoo, with dedicated Aboriginal Mental Health Workers, Aboriginal Case Workers and Aboriginal Mentors to support trauma informed and culturally safe care within the integrated Child and Adolescent Forensic Service and Neurodevelopmental and Mental Health Service.
- Mabu Liyan in Broome commenced implementation of the Safewards Program, an evidence-based model of care that focuses on improving staff-patient relationships, to reduce conflict and containment in mental health units, emergency departments, and other clinical settings.
- WA Country Health Service Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs continued striving to work in a trauma informed way, guided by the WA Country Health Service Aboriginal Mental Health Model of Care, which identifies trauma informed care as a key principle that underpins all work clinicians undertake.
- North Metro Eating Disorder Specialist Service integration of trauma-informed care principles across inpatient and community service settings through its models of care, policies and practice frameworks, ensuring care is delivered in a safe, respectful and recovery-oriented manner.
- Community Adult Mental Health Services continued to support the delivery of trauma-informed care through a range of workforce, service and partnership initiatives, such as the Wungen Kartup Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Service to provide culturally responsive and trauma-informed mental health and alcohol and other drug services that recognise the impact of trauma and support culturally appropriate recovery pathways.
- Staff access to Cross Cultural Communication: Working with Aboriginal People training, to further enhance their ability to deliver culturally responsive services and build effective therapeutic relationships with Aboriginal consumers and communities.

The Department of Health will continue to strengthen workforce capability in trauma-informed practice through a range of training and professional development opportunities across services, and strengthen clinicians' understanding and application of trauma-informed care principles in everyday practice. In addition, culturally responsive assessment and care planning processes are incorporated into service delivery to support person-centred care that is sensitive to the diverse backgrounds, experiences and needs of consumers.

Recommendation: CR27

That all health service clinicians in the Kimberley Region have the necessary skills to screen for and facilitate care for patients with alcohol, drugs and mental health issues; Further, that all health service clinicians in the Kimberley Region have access to training in the assessment and management of alcohol, drugs and mental health issues.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

WA Country Health Service Mental Health Services and Community Drug and Alcohol Services have access to a range of mental health and alcohol and other dugs screening tools:

- Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)
- Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT)
- Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)
- Health of the National Outcomes Scales (HoNOS)
- Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents (HoNOSCA)
- Life Skills Profile (LSP-16)
- Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10)
- Risk Assessment and Management Plan
- Children's Global Assessment Scale (CGAS)
- Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).

Child and Adolescent mental health staff utilise the Westerman Aboriginal Symptom Checklist for Youth (WASC-Y) (for under 18-year-olds). This tool is used for screening Aboriginal people at risk of depression, suicidal behaviours, alcohol and other drug, impulsivity and anxiety. Aboriginal mental health workers utilise the WA Country Health Service Cultural Gathering Tool to collate information and input into the client's care.

Within these services, it is mandatory to use at least one of these screening tools with consumers where clinically and culturally appropriate.

A clinical review of the three available alcohol and other drug screening tools was conducted by senior WA Country Health Service clinicians and the WA Country Health Service Addictions Specialist and based on the available clinical advice, it was agreed that the AUDIT and the DUDIT would be the preferred screening tools for WA Country Health Service Mental Health Services and Community Drug and Alcohol Services.

Community Adult Mental Health Services also provided a range of supports for the screening, assessment and management of consumers experiencing alcohol and other drug concerns. Specialist teams, including the Active Recovery Team, National Disability Insurance Scheme team and Intensive Clinical Outreach Team, provide support for consumers with complex care needs. Community Adult Mental Health Services also worked closely with a range of partner organisations to strengthen care pathways and improve service integration.

The Department of Health continues to build workforce capability through staff training and professional development in mental health and alcohol and other drug assessment and management, supporting clinicians to respond effectively to co-occurring presentations and ensuring that assessment, care planning and treatment approaches are tailored to individual needs.

Recommendation: MS9
That non-Aboriginal employees of government agencies who are involved in developing strategies for, or delivering programs and services to, Aboriginal people should attend a locally-relevant cultural competency course run by suitably qualified providers.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	All	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

All State Government agencies provide cultural competency training for staff as part of standard workforce practice, with additional cultural training available on an ongoing basis as required.

In addition to actions in response to CR19 to ensure appropriate cultural training is available, other initiatives include:

- The Mental Health Commission's forthcoming Aboriginal Mental Health Workers Guidelines highlights the requirement for non-Aboriginal workers in public mental health settings to receive ongoing training in culturally appropriate ways of working with Aboriginal people and communities.
- The Mental Health Commission's Ways of Working with Aboriginal people training, offered to internal and external workers in the mental health, alcohol and other drug and wider community services sector. Part 1 of this training provides culturally secure information to strengthen participants knowledge and capacity to work effectively with Aboriginal people and communities.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet engaged Christine Ross Consultancy to deliver an in-person training to all new starters to support greater understanding of contemporary workplace ways of working and considerations when working with Aboriginal people.
- The Public Sector Commission continued to monitor compliance of Commissioner's Instruction 29: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness Training whereby organisations must ensure employees and board members complete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training, so they are better able to work in culturally informed ways. A training resource is available for use by all public sector employees to satisfy the requirements of Commissioner's Instructions 29. In March 2025, all employees covered by the instruction had completed the training.
- Through the Senior Executive Services (SES) Development series, the Public Sector Commission continued to offer the two-day Walking in 2 Worlds Together training, assisting SES members to foster a leadership approach and workplace environment that are inclusive of First Nations' cultures, traditions and beliefs.
- The Department of Justice's mandatory Online Foundation Program as a part of the Aboriginal Cultural Capability Training Strategy (ACCTS), equips staff with essential cultural capability and trauma-informed knowledge to support culturally responsive practice and strengthen outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. Following the Foundation Program, the ACCTS encourages delivery of localised learning tailored to regional Aboriginal communities and contexts.
- Mandatory Cultural Awareness Training for all WA Police Force employees that is delivered through both face-to-face sessions and online learning modules. Each police station also provides an Aboriginal Cultural Induction package to support incoming staff as they commence their duties. All training was co-designed in consultation with Aboriginal people, often including community representatives and endorsed by local Elders.
- WA Country Health Service continued to make progress in strengthening culturally responsive governance, workforce capability and clinical practice. This included broader implementation of the WA Country Health Service Mental Health Cultural Information Gathering Tool MR23 into general health settings across WA Country Health Service. The tool is supported by an eLearning package that promotes consistent use and provides guidance to inform culturally responsive care, leading to improved health outcomes. WA Country Health Service also continued to support implementation through training and access to the tool in metropolitan based health services.

- Actions under the WA Country Health Service Cultural Governance Framework include auditing and reviewing current initiatives related to traditional Aboriginal medicine and healers. This includes developing a policy or position statement that outlines commitment to access traditional healers and medicines, and educating staff on their roles and practices.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development continued to ensure all employees completed the Public Sector Commission's Cultural Awareness Training.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023 and is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS18		
That the Public Sector Commission mandate higher Aboriginal employment targets for Western Australian Government agencies.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Public Sector Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Whilst this recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023, the Public Sector Commission have continued to increase opportunities and employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the public sector. Initiatives include:

- Development of new recruitment rules (that will come into effect 1 July 2026) to make it easier for agencies to connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers. Agencies will be able to use limited search approaches where appropriate, enabling direct engagement with Aboriginal community networks, employment services, referrals and applicant-initiated approaches, rather than relying solely on open advertising.
- Announced in 2025, The Skills Academy is a new whole-of-sector learning platform delivering tailored development for public service employees. The Skills Academy will significantly strengthen cultural awareness and understanding across the public sector, supporting more informed and respectful work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.
- Introduced in 2024, the Walking in 2 Worlds Together assists senior leaders in the public sector to foster leadership approach and workplace environments that are inclusive of First Nations' cultures, traditions, values and beliefs.
- Provided a range of resources, including practical guidance and tools to support employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, such as a guide to creating culturally respectful and inclusive recruitment processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Cultural Considerations in the Workplace.
- Continued monitoring and reporting of workforce data to support more informed, evidence-based decision making at both agency and sector level.

This recommendation aligns with Recommendation 21 of the Coroner's report (CR21).

Since release of the Workforce Diversification and Inclusion Strategy for WA Public Sector Employment in 2020, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are working in the WA Public Sector than ever before. They are increasingly represented at higher levels within agencies. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS19		
That Western Australian Government agencies should recruit greater numbers of Aboriginal people, relying on section 51 of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* if necessary. These positions should not be limited to Aboriginal liaison or cultural advisory positions but should be generally spread across all positions at all levels in all agencies.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Public Sector Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Since March 2020, the public sector workforce has increased by 878 employees who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This includes an increase of 357 over the 2024 to 2025 reporting period.

In 2025, the Public Sector Commission published the Hiring Manager's Toolkit: Guide to hiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to help agencies create culturally respectful and inclusive recruitment processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including how to use the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* provisions with confidence.

All State Government agencies are responsible for ensuring ongoing compliance with the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* and to continue promoting and upholding its principles. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS39		
That the Western Australian Government collaborates with the Commonwealth Government to train and employ local community members to fill positions in remote areas.		
Initial Response: Further discussion required	**Lead Agency:** All	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation remains ongoing, and is supported through workforce development initiatives.
Some examples include:

- The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, through the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia, continued working with the National Indigenous Australians Agency to advance opportunities in the regions through the Remote Aboriginal Employment Service and the Remote Jobs and Economic Development program.
- The Mental Health Commission:
  - Launched the Western Australian Mental Health Workforces Capability Framework in December 2025, that defines 17 sets of occupation-specific capabilities, including Aboriginal mental health.
  - Developed and delivered three training programs to build capability and upskill the Aboriginal workforce, under the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Aboriginal Program.
  - Finalised the Western Australian Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Guidelines (to be launched in 2026) to support health service providers in effectively engaging,

- The Department of Education:
  - The Regional Education Strategy was released in November 2025 to support regional leadership and encourage community members to pursue careers in education.
  - Introduced a District Allowance under the School Education Act Employees' (Teachers and Administrators) General Agreement 2023 to support the attraction and retention of the workforce.
  - Extended the Regional Attraction and Retention Incentive to 2026, to support more than 60 regional and remote schools in attracting and retaining teachers, school administrators, school psychologists and lead school psychologists.
- The Department of Communities continued working with all partners to assist in attraction, retention and training of remote staff, including Aboriginal employees across the state who are invited to be part of a locally-led peer support network, the Aboriginal Employee Network, which meets regularly at a regional and state-wide level.
- The Department of Housing and Works continued strengthening career pathways for Aboriginal employees through their Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- WA Country Health Service:
  - Continued collaboration with ACCHO's sector in the delivery of training and capacity building of mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention to local staff and community members.
  - Released the WA Country Health Service Strategic Plan 2025-2030, prioritising local workforce development and flexible employment pathways.
  - Continued to support section 50(d) and 51 positions for Aboriginal recruitment opportunities.
  - Continued the delivery of the Aboriginal Health Practitioner pilot project, creating structured Aboriginal employment pathways in clinical roles.
  - Commenced plans to become a Registered Training Organisation, with intention to strengthen cultural governance principles across all aspects of operational delivery to allow for culturally grounded processes to occur in the development of training programs, recruitment and engagement with key Aboriginal stakeholders.
- WA Police Force have:
  - Created 19 fulltime positions for local community members within regional Western Australia as Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers.
  - Established an Aboriginal Employee Network with statewide delegates to provide mentorship, cultural guidance, recruitment and career participation.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development launched its inaugural DPIRD Aboriginal Workforce Strategy 2025–29, which aims to increase Aboriginal representation in the workforce as part of the wider commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people across the state. The strategy will take a consistent and sustained approach to building cultural safety and cultural competence within the department, prepare Aboriginal people for, and support them throughout, their employment and career journey and build and strengthen Aboriginal voices and leadership across the department.

Strategies and actions have been embedded into standard workforce practices to support training and employment pathways that align with the needs of local remote communities. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS44		
That the Minister for Health report to the Parliament on measures to address the acknowledged gap in teaching and training staff about mental health issues and Aboriginal youth suicide.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The education and training of staff in State Government agencies with primary responsibility for the wellbeing of Aboriginal people continued to be a significant component of the State Government's approach to suicide prevention in Aboriginal communities.

The Mental Health Commission continued to provide three Strong Spirit Strong Mind (SSSM) training programs for Aboriginal workers within the alcohol and other drug, mental health and wider community services sector as follows:

- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Youth.

Culturally secure resources were utilised throughout the training programs to complement learning and ensure better outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

In 2024 and 2025, Suicide Prevention Coordinators facilitated over 30 locally run Aboriginal suicide prevention trainings (Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Youth Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Deadly Thinking, Deadly Thinking Youth and Red Dust Healing) across the state. This training was available to both community and organisations.

The Mental Health Commission continues its key role in the development of knowledge and skills within the alcohol and other drug, mental health, and broader community services sector, to work in culturally secure ways through ongoing workforce development initiatives, and to contribute to a skilled Aboriginal workforce for Western Australia. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Commitment 6: Better access to clinical services

Recommendation: CR1

a. That there be universal screening for FASD at the following points: during infant health assessments and upon a child entering into the child protection system or justice system for the first time;
b. That all children identified as at risk of neurodevelopmental impairment on the basis of antenatal exposure to alcohol or early life trauma be assessed by a paediatrician for developmental and behavioural impairments at the age of one year and in the year prior to school entry;
c. In respect of a child entering the child protection system for the first time in addition to FASD universal screening:

   i. that preliminary assessments and screening be undertaken by Department of Communities' district psychologists
   ii. that referrals be made for comprehensive IQ and functional capacity assessments where and when required by presentation and behaviours; and
   iii. that there be referrals to other treatment and therapy services for trauma-related develop-mental and behavioural issues, including mental health issues, impulsivity, and harmful sexual behaviours, that may or may not include cognitive impairments and neuro-disabilities such as FASD.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Justice / Department of Health / Department of Communities	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Justice continued to progress recommendation 8.4 of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability: Final Report, to ensure timely screening and expert assessment for young people with cognitive disability who are involved in the criminal justice system and that they receive appropriate responses, including therapeutic and other interventions.

Aboriginal young people are significantly over-represented in the justice system and the intersect between criminal behaviour and disability is complex and requires specialised case management to address criminogenic risks and needs, starting with screening and assessment.

The Department of Health's State Forensic Mental Health Services (SFMHS) neurodevelopmental and mental health service in collaboration with the Department of Justice, have developed a model of service for screening young people upon admission to custody. This model of service outlines the framework for delivery of assessments and interventions for young people with neurodevelopmental, communication, or cognitive disabilities and mental health disorders and is in the final stages of endorsement and approval. In parallel to this process, the SFMHS have finalised their referral pathways to support screening and assessment of young people who may benefit from further assessment. This will be implemented across the Western Australian detention centres.

The Department of Justice continued to work in collaboration with the Department of Health, Department of Communities and the Mental Health Commission to develop a service delivery model that provides for systematic screening and assessment of young people in each Youth Justice Services centre to access diagnosis and appropriate community support. Ongoing implementation requires an inter-agency approach for the assessment and diagnostic services to assess young people with disabilities.

The Department of Communities and Department of Health continued to work collaboratively to support children in care being prioritised in the public health system and improved diagnostic pathways. The Health Navigator Pilot Program (HNPP), which integrates and coordinates access to health services for children in care, received funding to continue until 30 June 2026. Children and young people new to care continued to be supported through the HNPP to access health assessments and specialist services via Community Health or Aboriginal Medical Services.

Recommendation: CR2

a. That neurodevelopmental impairment (an umbrella term which includes behavioural, developmental and cognitive impairments) incorporating the criteria defined in the Australian Guide to the diagnosis of FASD be recognised as a disability within the National Disability Insurance Scheme ("the NDIS");
b. That where FASD has actually been diagnosed at the appropriate level of severity, it is separately recognised as a disability within the NDIS.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

No further information is available following the previous report.

Recommendation: CR3
That consideration be given to whether appropriate Medicare Benefits Scheme item numbers ought to be allocated for FASD.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

No further information is available following the previous report.

Recommendation: CR4
That consideration be given to additional funding for primary care services in areas with a high burden of neurodevelopmental impairment to increase diagnostic capacity for complex conditions including FASD, and to respond to the diagnosis by way of therapeutic services for children and young people diagnosed with FASD.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service is in the early stages of exploring partnerships to provide neuropsychology services to adults and children in the West Kimberley.

Recommendation: CR28

That a facility be built in the East Kimberley Region which incorporates the co-morbid treatment of mental health, alcohol and drug abuse problems, or alternatively that a feasibility study be undertaken with a view to considering the need for, and impact of, such a facility.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Further discussion required	Mental Health Commission	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission continued to work in partnership with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group on the development of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service in the Kimberley Region.

Refer to MS13 and CR34 for additional information.

Recommendation: CR29

That perinatal and infant care by health service providers in the Kimberley Region incorporates the treatment of mental health issues and that those clinicians be made aware of the role and resources developed by the WA Perinatal Mental Health Unit.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Health	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Service continued to provide care to young people in the perinatal period and connect young people to the Western Australia Perinatal Mental Health Unit as clients required support. Midwives, allied health nurses and mental health staff within the Kimberley Health Service undertook the appropriate assessments (e.g. Edinburgh Perinatal Depression Scale) for women and babies in the perinatal period.

Two Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service clinicians have undertaken specialist infant mental health training and have commenced providing an infant mental health services to adult mental health clients in the West Kimberly.

Information on screening options for Aboriginal parents, including the Kimberley Mum's Mood Scale (KMMS) and Baby Coming – You Ready? (BCYR), was incorporated into all education and training resources, alongside information on intergenerational trauma and its impact on Aboriginal families.

Training will continue to be delivered across remote and rural areas, including education on trauma during the perinatal period.

Recommendation: CR31		
That there be a mental health clinician permanently based in Halls Creek, or alternatively, that there be an increase in the visiting capacity of mental health clinicians for Halls Creek.		
Initial Response: Further discussion required	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission / WA Country Health Service	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: CR34		
That facilities be developed and funded in the Kimberley Region that specifically cater for the rehabilitation of children and young persons with addiction to drugs and/or alcohol, with step down processes. The development of these facilities should be informed by the principles of self-determination, cultural continuity and empowerment.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission continued to work in partnership with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group on the development of a Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service (See MS34 and MS13 additional detail). The Milliya Rumurra Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Service Report, finalised in December 2025, proposes a place-based consortium approach to service delivery with West, Central, and East Kimberley hubs. The model aims to support young people by ensuring essential elements of social and emotional wellbeing are fostered to respond and reduce the impact of alcohol and other drug-related harm on young people, their families and communities across the Kimberley Region.

To ensure a genuine collaborative and co-designed approach, the Mental Health Commission will continue to work in partnership with the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group on the implementation and procurement approach of the Kimberley Youth Alcohol and Other Drug Service.

Recommendation: MS26		
That the Mental Health Commission, as a matter of priority, works with the WA Primary Health Alliance and other stakeholders to establish clear roles and responsibilities for approaching Aboriginal suicide prevention in Western Australia.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission continued to work in partnership with the WA Primary Health Alliance to ensure collaborative and coordinated approaches to the planning of mental health, suicide prevention, and alcohol and other drugs services in Western Australia. This included a dedicated officer level working group which focused on collaborative, coordinated and complementary approaches to suicide prevention.

Under the Western Australia Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, the Mental Health Commission worked with WA Primary Health Alliance to develop, commission and implement the Aftercare Services Program. The Model of Service developed with participation from Western Australian Aboriginal stakeholders, provides services to support those who have been discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt, as well as implementing a pilot to expand referral and entry pathways for people who do not present through the hospital system.

The Aftercare Model of Service recognises the parallel development and implementation of the Commonwealth Government–funded program, Culture, Care, Connect, which complements the Aftercare Services Program.

In 2025, the WA Primary Health Alliance contracted Neami National, Oseca, and the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance, partnering with Anglicare WA, to deliver Aftercare services across multiple metropolitan and regional hospital sites. These include Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital, Busselton Health Campus, Karratha Health Campus, and Hedland Health Campus.

The Pilbara contract supports the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance to strengthen its existing role delivery Culture Care Connect as a National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

In collaboration with Mental Health Commission and its funded services, the WA Primary Health Alliance also provided funding to expand suicide prevention accredited training activities across Western Australia, such as Red Dust Healing and Mental Health First Aid, and various train the trainer opportunities.

The Mental Health Commission has established governance and engagement mechanisms with WA Primary Health Alliance and will coordinate and collaborate in the delivery suicide prevention activity. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS32

That the Department of the Premier and Cabinet co-ordinates and collaborates with the Mental Health Commission and WA Primary Health Alliance to integrate the Mental Health Atlas with the map of local or regional Aboriginal youth services.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Actioned in 2021. Closed 2023.

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS38

That the Western Australian Government collaborates with the Commonwealth Government to provide accessible 24-hour mental health and suicide prevention services in remote areas.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Department of Health	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The WA Country Health Services 24/7 Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service continues to be expanded across regional and remote areas servicing over 100 telehealth enabled sites. Other programs are also available that provide 24/7 mental health and suicide prevention services such as the StandBy Support After Suicide and Thirrili Postvention Response Service.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS43		
That the Premier and the Minister for Mental Health report to the Parliament on the establishment of wraparound services in remote communities.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission / Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The State Government Progress Reports against the Commitment captures whole-of-government activity across Western Australia and in remote communities. These Progress Reports are progressed through to Parliament.

The State Government is continuing to undertake a coordinated approach to supporting the implementation of services and supports for young people, including through the Youth Action Plan 2024-2027, At Risk Youth Strategy 2022-2027 and the Family and Domestic Violence - System Reform Plan 2024-2029.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023 and is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Commitment 7: Support for community wellbeing

Recommendation: CR5		
That there be Government funding to extend to other regional centres in the Kimberley the "Making FASD History" project that ran in the Fitzroy Valley, adapted as appropriate to the prevailing circumstances of those communities.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Mental Health Commission has received funding for the ongoing continuation of the Preventing FASD Project, delivering statewide public education campaigns and providing ongoing FASD prevention training to health workers and other frontline staff across Western Australia.

The Mental Health Commission also continued to support community led projects to deliver localised messages across the Kimberley. For example, in 2024-25 financial year, the Kununurra office of 54 Reasons (formerly Save the Children) received $10,000 through the Mental Health Commission's Preventing FASD Project and $25,400 from the Department of Justice to deliver a series of youth workshops. The program brought together musicians, a language specialist and FASD officers to work with local young people to produce a music video celebrating Miriwoong Country, exploring what it means to be strong and how the choices people make can shape their health, wellbeing and future. The video was widely shared throughout the East Kimberley.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting. Refer to page 26 for further detail on this project.

Recommendation: CR8

That there be restrictions on the purchase of take away alcohol across the entire Kimberley Region, but that such restrictions be formulated after there has been consultation with key stakeholders, including affected local Aboriginal communities.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

As the regulator of the sale and supply of alcohol, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety has an ongoing role in monitoring and addressing alcohol-related harm, including through the introduction of liquor restrictions and legislative reforms.

In 2024-25 financial year, Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety has introduced strict liquor restrictions in Kimberley towns, expanded the Banned Drinkers Register, and progressed reforms to the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.

Significant restrictions on the sale, supply and consumption of packaged liquor were imposed in Broome and Derby in July 2024 following an inquiry conducted by the Director of Liquor Licensing under section 64 of the *Liquor Control Act 1988* in direct response to Recommendation 8 of the Coroner's Report. This inquiry has now been finalised.

The Director of Liquor Licensing continues to monitor harm levels across these regions to assess the effectiveness of implemented measures and to inform any future regulatory action aimed at minimising alcohol-related harm in Western Australia.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR9		
That the Western Australian Government considers and/or assesses the feasibility of a Banned Drinker Register that is modelled on therapeutic support for those who are placed on it. If the matter progresses to an assessment, that consideration be given to community consultation.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Following a period of strong advocacy from local governments for liquor restrictions in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Goldfields and Carnarvon, and the Coroner's Inquest, the State Government implemented a range of strategies with the aim of reducing alcohol-related harm in these regions.

These strategies included the introduction of a voluntary Banned Drinkers Register, modelled on liquor-restriction measures in accordance with the harm minimisation objective of the *Liquor Control Act 1988*.

The voluntary Banned Drinkers Register operated across the Pilbara, Kimberley and Goldfields regions from December 2020 to 2022 and was subsequently introduced on a mandatory basis in Carnarvon and Gascoyne Junction from May 2023 under liquor restrictions imposed by the Director of Liquor Licensing.

Following legislative reforms in 2023, the trial of a mandatory Banned Drinkers Register commenced on 14 December 2023 for a two-year period.

Following stakeholder consultation and legislative reforms, the Banned Drinkers Register was established in December 2025 as a permanent and ongoing program operating in accordance with the *Liquor Control Act 1988* and other relevant laws.

The Banned Drinkers Register now operates in prescribed Banned Drinker Areas, including the Pilbara, Kimberley and Goldfields regions, and the towns of Carnarvon and Gascoyne Junction.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR10		
That in light of the passage of the *Liquor Control Amendment Act 2018* relating to the proscription on "sly grogging", that police be properly resourced to enforce it.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** WA Police Force	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:
This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: CR11		
That there be recurrent, or more long-term funding to the various town-based patrols in the Kimberley for the provision of diversionary services to those who are abusing alcohol.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Communities / Department of Justice	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021, with the State Government approving funding of $31.1 million over four years from 2023-24 to 2026-27 to deliver the Connectors Program services (refer to page 44 for additional information).

Through the KJJS, the Department of Justice also funded and supported town-based patrols, diversionary services and safe-space responses across the Kimberley, such as the Youth Connection Night Space in Fitzroy Crossing and Ngurra Buru in Broome with a youth focus.

The Department of Justice continues to provide funding for the provision of community-led youth diversion and after-hours safety responses. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR13		
That there be consideration of the funding for, and assessment of the feasibility of, the construction of culturally appropriate short term accommodation in Kununurra for Aboriginal persons visiting the East Kimberley Region.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Housing and Works	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021.

On 14 January 2026, the State Government announced $20 million in funding to build the Kununurra Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation project would be reallocated to deliver a significant boost to social housing in Kununurra and Wyndham (Kununurra Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation).

The Kununurra Short Stay project faced significant challenges, including a lack of suitable vacant land or existing facilities for repurposing, and as a result, the development was no longer feasible within the approved budget. Redirecting this funding will boost the supply of social housing by up to 32 homes over the next two years, providing a pipeline of work to local builders and offering opportunities for Aboriginal employment, training and apprenticeships.

The Department of Housing and Works is engaging with small and medium businesses to refurbish and return existing social housing stock to the system. This includes businesses that may not have benefited from a project on the scale of a short stay.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR14		
That the Transitional Housing Project be continued in Broome, Derby, Halls Creek and Kununurra and be extended to other town sites in the Kimberley.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Housing and Works	**Status:** Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Housing and Works continues to run the Transitional Housing Program assisting eligible Aboriginal people to move from social housing to private housing by providing secure, affordable housing and culturally appropriate, person-centered support. From 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, 11 Aboriginal households purchased their home through the Transitional Housing Program including six in Broome, one in Derby, and four in Kununurra.

The North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund also provided an additional 50 dwellings to the existing East Kimberley Transitional Housing Program and 40 transitional housing dwellings to the Hedland Aboriginal Housing Ownership Program. As of 25 February 2026 there was an overall occupancy of 81 percent, including affordable rental and homeowners.

While the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund does not have specific programs for Aboriginal youth, Aboriginal youth wellbeing is indirectly supported through the family/guardian participation in the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund funded transitional housing programs.

The North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund will continue to support transitional housing outcomes and fund projects and contractual commitments up to 2030.

Recommendation: CR15		
That Aboriginal persons living in the Kimberley Region in public and/or transitional housing are not disadvantaged regarding accommodation in the event of their household exceeding the income threshold for eligibility.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Housing and Works	**Status:** Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Housing and Works implemented a process to support the management of tenants living above the 26th parallel where their income exceeds the household eligibility limit. Tenants were supported to identify suitable alternative housing options that were affordable and provided with up to two years to transition from public housing. Should the tenant/s income drop below the threshold during this transition period, the tenant/s are able to remain in their public housing property.

The Department of Housing and Works has established public housing income eligibility policies that are regularly reviewed to ensure households whose primary source of income is from Commonwealth statutory benefit payments are not adversely affected by indexation. Specific threshold arrangements are also in place for residents of the North West and remote regions, as well as people with disability.

Recommendation: CR18

That measures be introduced aimed at increasing the prospects of complaints of domestic violence being reported and maintained; and as part of such measures, that the State Government consider introducing legislation allowing for visually recorded statements taken from victims of domestic violence to be admitted as evidence-in-chief at a court hearing.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	Department of Justice	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The *Evidence Act 2025* received Royal Assent on 25 September 2025 and contains a new Division which permits the use of visually recorded statements from domestic violence complainants as the complainant's evidence in chief at a court hearing. The reforms allow police-recorded statements from body-worn cameras or smartphones to be admitted as a victim's evidence-in-chief in family and domestic violence cases and introduce broader protections for vulnerable witnesses, including special witness status, support persons or animals, pre-recording of evidence, remote testimony, witness intermediaries, and restrictions on harassing or humiliating questioning. It also provides that complainants in family violence offence proceedings in superior courts must be treated as special witnesses, providing expanded access to other witness assistance measures which may improve their experience of giving evidence. The *Evidence Act 2025* will come into operation on 18 September 2027.

Work also continued in the development of alternative reporting pathways which will allow victims to report family and domestic violence without needing to call Western Australian police.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR22

That consideration be given to extending an offer of a voluntary cashless debit card program to include the entire Kimberley Region.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Further discussion required	Department of Communities	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The voluntary cashless debit card program ended on 6 March 2023.

The Enhanced Income Management program (EIM) continues to be available across the Kimberley Region, through voluntary registration, participation or referral by the Department of Communities Child Protection Authority. EIM is managed and coordinated through the Australian Government's Services Australia.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR30		
That the development or refurbishment of facilities for young persons to meet and engage in activities be undertaken in the Kimberley Region, in consultation with local Aboriginal communities.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport / Department of Justice	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021, with ongoing funding available to continue support initiatives for young people to meet and engage in activities in the community.

A number of initiatives have sought to improve facilities for young people in the Kimberley in 2024 and 2025 including:

Election Commitments:

- Fitzroy Crossing Youth Zone and Town Oval Precinct Fencing Project - expected completion 2026.
- Warmun Community Sporting Infrastructure Upgrades – expected completion 2026.
- Construction of new change rooms at Mowanjum Community – expected completion 2026.

Community Sport and Recreation Facility Fund Projects:

- Track extension and installation of a Dirt Kart Track and ablution blocks at Broome Motocross Precinct – commenced October 2025.
- Resurfacing of Kiwirrkurra Community Basketball Court and installation of shade structure – expected completion 2026.
- Club Night Lights Program to upgrade lighting at Capricorn, Boomarang and Kangaroo Ovals in Newman – completed August 2025.
- Wyndham Football Oval Lighting and Changerooms – completed November 2024.
- Shire of Halls Creek Town Sports Field upgrade with scheduled completion for 2026 football season – expected completion June 2026.
- Yungngora Community (Noonkanbah) Oval Upgrade with continued community consultation to redefine scope and consider additional funding – commenced February 2024.
- Looma Community Football Oval changerooms and lighting upgrades with continued community consultation to redefine scope – expected completion 2026.
- Ardyaloon Community rebuild of two basketball courts and lighting install – completed July 2024.

Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport Community Place Based Grants:

- The Night Ballers in Fitzroy Crossing is a community-led program operated by Marra Worra Worra that runs basketball sessions to engage local youth and provide meals.
- Holiday programs in Derby support at-risk children and youth by providing engaging, safe and culturally relevant activities during the school holiday periods. The primary objective of the programs is to offer diversionary activities that provide positive engagement alternatives, foster a sense of belonging and purpose among young people and reduce youth street presence and crime.

- Out of school programs by the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation foster long-term sporting pathways while strengthening community connections through structured sports programs, cultural integration and leadership development. This includes delivery of a Lands Roadshow initiative designed to enhance sporting engagement for vulnerable children and young people in remote Aboriginal communities.
- The Gnowangerup Community Youth Engagement Program introduces children to new and exciting opportunities, helping them feel a sense of belonging within the community while keeping them active and healthy. It also builds the community's capacity to continue to deliver programs after the funding has ended, including through contracting local facilitators to deliver the activities.
- Garnduwa School Holiday Youth Engagement program that aims to provide structured, culturally safe and community-led sport and recreation activities during school holidays for Aboriginal youth in remote Kimberley communities.
- The Hedland Nightlights Program is a free program for young people in Hedland to enjoy activities, sports and games on various nights.
- The Carnarvon School Holiday Program includes sport and recreation activities for vulnerable children and young people in Carnarvon.

North West Travel Subsidy:

- Funded two Junior Warmun Aboriginal Community basketball teams to compete in the Broome Junior Basketball Carnival, providing valuable opportunity for Warmun youth to engage in structured competition, promoting both skill development and community representation.

Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy (KJJS):

- Ngurra Buru (Night Space) in Broome delivered with Kullarri Regional Communities Indigenous Corporation opened in May 2024, providing a safe space, meals and outreach services for young people in Broome.
- Youth Connection Night Place in Fitzroy Crossing delivered with Marra Worra Worra Aboriginal Corporation, launched in September 2024, providing a culturally secure, trauma-informed place where young people can feel safe and engage with services to improve their social and emotional wellbeing.
- Halls Creek Youth Wellbeing and Justice Program delivered with Jungarni Jutiya Indigenous Corporation, launched in October 2025, providing night patrol, Elder's yarning circles and education re-engagement support. Planning for a physical night space addition to the program is currently underway.
- Kununurra Youth Night Space in the co-design and pre-implementation phase from August 2025 with expected operation in 2026.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR32
That police stations in the Kimberley Region consider undertaking activities similar to the "Adopt-A-Cop" program in Halls Creek, ensuring these programs are developed in consultation with senior members of the Aboriginal community and that those police efforts be supported.

Initial Response:	**Lead Agency:**	**Status:**
Accepted	WA Police Force	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: CR33		
That the Elders Reference Group presently in operation in Halls Creek be extended to other Kimberley town sites and that this work be CDP recognised, and that current police efforts continue and be supported.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** WA Police Force	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Elders Reference Groups have been established across the Kimberley and utilised to assist police in responding to critical and sensitive issues.

Further to the Elders Reference Groups, in 2025 Police Aboriginal Advisory Groups were established in Broome, Derby and Kunnunurra, to strengthen engagement with Aboriginal communities. Meetings have been held in each area and were well attended by community members ranging in both gender and age.

Police Aboriginal Advisory Groups meet regularly in accordance with their needs and terms of reference and provide a formal platform for Elders and community leaders to guide police on culturally informed responses and build trust at the local level. Elders play an important part in the decision making and are highly recognised for being knowledge holders within each community.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Commitment 8: Building local capacity

Recommendation: CR41		
That a policy be introduced that ensures those who appropriately act as CEOs of their Aboriginal communities are either remunerated for their efforts or, at the very least, reimbursed for expenses incurred in executing that role.		
Initial Response: Further discussion required	**Lead Agency:** Department of Communities	**Status:** Not Yet Commenced

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Communities continues to fund or part-fund 21 Chief Executive Officer and/or Community Coordinator positions within program funding for municipal services in remote Aboriginal Communities. This commitment predates the Coroner's Report and Message Stick report.

Commitment 9: Better engagement with education

Recommendation: CR35

That early education programs such as Kindilink be maintained for the Kimberley Region, with consideration for funding beyond the period of the pilot, and that programs be developed in consultation with the local Aboriginal communities.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Department of Education	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

There are 24 KindiLink programs in operation across 18 school sites in the Kimberley. Of these, 16 KindiLink programs were funded under Kimberley Schools Project (KSP) in 2024 and 2025. It is anticipated that the 16 KSP KindiLink programs will continue to operate in 2026, as the number of age-eligible children is unlikely to increase. The Department of Education remains in contact with the communities and can move to online delivery for families who return short-term or reinstate programs if families return long-term.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021, with Kindilink continuing in the Kimberley region. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR36

That schools within the Kimberley Region be encouraged and resourced to introduce re-engagement classrooms at a primary school level.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Education	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Public schools in Western Australia make local decisions regarding programs and projects to strengthen cultural safety, wellbeing and engagement of Aboriginal students, selecting those that best meet the needs of their students and school contexts.

In addition, schools have access to a panel of providers for engagement programs to support Aboriginal students to achieve their full learning potential, shape their own futures and embrace their cultures, languages and identities. The schools resourcing model allows schools to establish engagement classrooms, which have been implemented in Broome Primary School and East Kimberley College.

This recommendation has previously been reported as actioned in 2022-2023, and schools continue to be encouraged to introduce re-engagement classrooms at primary school level. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: CR38		
That the Department of Education introduce or continue to expand the teaching of Aboriginal languages in its Kimberley schools, in consultation with the local Aboriginal communities.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Department of Education	**Status:** Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

In 2025, there were 22 Aboriginal languages taught in 103 public schools across Western Australia. Within these schools, over 16,000 students from Kindergarten to Year 12 studied an Aboriginal language. Across the Kimberley, 13 Aboriginal languages were taught in 13 schools to 3,404 Kindergarten to Year 12 students.

In September 2025, the Department of Education, through the School of Isolated and Distance Education (SIDE) Registered Training Organisation, commenced delivery of the accredited 52897WA Certificate III in Teaching and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages, based on the Department of Education's Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training course. The accredited 52898WA Certificate IV in Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages is projected to commence delivery in 2027.

Recommendation: CR40		
That consideration be given to residential facilities being built for school aged students in the Kimberley Region, after consultation with local Aboriginal communities, and that any such colleges be co-designed and informed by the principles of self-determination, cultural continuity and empowerment. Further that admission is voluntary, with the consent of the parents and/or caregivers, and the consent of the child.		
Initial Response: Accepted in principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of Education	**Status:** Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

Consultation with community found that the Wangkatjungka community expressed their preference for students to remain in Wangkatjungka and maintain their connection to community as they undertake secondary schooling. As such, the Department of Education worked with the community on a culturally appropriate secondary education model, which allowed Years 7, 8 and 9 students to remain in Wangkatjungka Remote Community School and students from Year 10 onwards to attend Fitzroy Valley District High School via daily School Bus Services. The model also allowed for all students in Years 7 to 9 to travel one day per week with Wangkatjungka staff to attend Fitzroy Valley District High School.

Students in Years 7 and 8 can also continue at Bayulu Remote Community School, and travel with Bayulu Remote Community School staff to Fitzroy Valley District High School each Wednesday to access specialist programs.

Recommendation: MS36

That the Minister for Education increase the number of Child and Parent Centres operating in remote areas.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Further discussion required	Department of Education	In Progress

2024 and 2025 Update:

Child and Parent Centres are being considered in the context of Foundational Supports (delivered through Thriving Kids), which are general or targeted supports that will be made available outside the National Disability Insurance Scheme to help people with disability, and their families and carers. With children and families engaging in programs and services at Child and Parent Centres, these sites may be suitable for the delivery of foundational support.

Commitment 10: Helping young people connect to culture

The response to Coroner's recommendations 16, 17, 25, 38, 39, 42 and Message Stick recommendations 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 16 can be found above.

Commitment 11: Building youth capacity

Recommendation: CR37

That high schools in the Kimberley Region be provided with facilities that enable non-academic female and male students to engage in vocational programs.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Education	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

In 2025, Regional Workforce Coordinator positions were established in all eight education regions to provide region-specific advice on the delivery of vocational education and training in schools and develop industry partnerships to support access to training and pathway opportunities.

To further support access to training and pathway opportunities, SIDE has developed a course to train and potentially employ local people to supervise classrooms in a culturally safe learning environment.

The SIDE Registered Training Organisation continued to support schools in delivering programs aimed at engaging or re-engaging students within schools, with the new Aboriginal Languages Teacher Training course being successfully accredited. The first cohort of students commenced in September 2025.

SIDE enables schools to adapt course content for local relevance and, in partnership with a remote school, is trialling a course and delivery model that formally recognises students' achievements in two-way science, On-Country learning, and Junior Ranger programs.

Recommendation: MS17
That the Western Australian Government support the development of future Aboriginal leaders, by providing support and funding to existing leadership development organisations, funding scholarships and connecting future leaders with secondment opportunities to gain specific skills, and assisting with the early identification of leaders through school based programs.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of Communities	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Communities continued to fund the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services to deliver the KEYN program. The KEYN program was joint funded with the Mental Health Commission during 2025-26 to ensure service continuity while future planning and redesign work progressed.

In 2024 and 2025 the KEYN program continued to maintain its core function of supporting Aboriginal young people across the Kimberley to participate in governance, influence decision making, and strengthen cultural identity and leadership. KEYN program continued to provide culturally secure, youth led engagement and leadership development opportunities through the Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation and support the Annual General Meeting of the Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation and Kimberley based Local Youth Advisory Council's to ensure the voices of Aboriginal young people are captured and heard across the Kimberley.

The Empowered Young Leaders Aboriginal Corporation continued to participate in regional governance forums, including the Aboriginal Regional Governance Group and the Kimberley Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Steering Committee, ensuring direct youth input into policy and program design (refer to page 20 for additional information).

Recommendation: MS20
That the Western Australian Government establish clear and more attractive career paths for Aboriginal employees.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	All	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

State Government agencies continued to implement a range of actions to establish clear and attractive career pathways for Aboriginal people including:

- The Mental Health Commission continued to finalise the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Guidelines for public sector health services in Western Australia, for anticipated release in 2026. The Guidelines will clearly define career pathways including opportunities for progression to leadership and tertiary qualified roles.
- The Department of Education broadened the career pathway for Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers to include:
  - Advanced Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers applies an in-depth understanding of cultural connections to strengthen the wellbeing of both staff and students.
  - Aboriginal and Islander Cultural Advisors - a strategic role with a focus on systemic capacity building, partnership development and providing cultural expertise to create culturally responsive and safe schools.

- The WA Police Force launched its first Aboriginal Recruitment Campaign, featuring Aboriginal symbol art highlighting the message that Aboriginal people can lead positive change within their communities. This initiative works hand in hand with the WA Police Force 'Aboriginal Employee Network' to ensure cultural considerations are adhered to.
- The Department of Communities launched its Aboriginal Workforce Strategy 2025-2030 and its First Action Plan 2025-2027, outlining 13 foundational actions to retain, attract and grow a strong and supported Aboriginal workforce. The Strategy and Action Plan reflects Aboriginal employee priorities for pathways to leadership, support for cultural safety and wellbeing, and mechanisms that support cultural responsibilities.
- The Department of Communities Aboriginal employees across the Kimberley were invited to be part of a locally led peer support network, the Aboriginal Employee Network, which meets regularly at a regional and statewide level.
- Child and Adolescent Health Service continued to provide a number of pathways for Aboriginal people including an Aboriginal Cadetship Program; Aboriginal Student Placements; Aboriginal Graduate Nurses and is in the process of establishing an Aboriginal Graduate Program. Additionally, Child and Adolescent Health Service hosts an annual Aboriginal Workforce Forum that provides an opportunity for networking and aims to support retention of Aboriginal staff and opportunities to discuss career pathways.
- The Department of Justice Aboriginal Workforce Development team established the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Careers Opportunities Register and Employee Talent pool to streamline recruitment of Aboriginal people into and within the Department.
- The Public Sector Commission continued to provide training and employment pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Solid Futures Traineeship Program. The Public Sector Commission supported public sector agencies to implement the program and provided mentoring and support to trainees.
- WA Country Health Service completed consultation to inform the development of a new WA Country Health Service Cultural Governance Framework, with priorities for implementation including broadening Aboriginal career pathways; addressing systemic racism and unconscious bias; implementing the Aboriginal Mentorship Program; and embedding commitments to Aboriginal workforce growth and culturally safe workplaces in the WA Country Health Service Strategic Plan 2025-2030.
- The Department of Housing and Works continued to strengthen pathways for Aboriginal employees with its current Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and actively used the Public Sector Commission's Recruiting and Developing Diverse Talent resources (CI 39 and Equal Employment Opportunity exceptions) to increase representation across all levels of the agency. As of September 2025, 4.4 percent of the Department of Housing and Works workforce identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
- The Department of Housing and Works continued to invest in cultural learning and tailored professional development, including supporting Aboriginal staff to participate in Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute programs to help create clearer, more attractive and culturally safe career pathways.
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development launched its Aboriginal Workforce Strategy 2025–29 that will provide a clear set of strategic objectives and initiatives to unlock equitable access to jobs, training and career development for Aboriginal people. This includes:
    - an Aboriginal staff network that supports connection and development opportunities for Aboriginal employees
    - an Aboriginal skills and employment program
    - a professional development program for Aboriginal staff
    - an Aboriginal school-based traineeship program.

State Government agencies are responsible for continuing to implement and maintain policies and initiative, ensuring delivery and monitoring is embedded as standard practice. This recommendation is closed for the purposes of reporting.

Commitment 12: A voice for young people

The response to Coroner's recommendation 42 and Message Stick recommendations 12 and 17 can be found above.

Recommendations related to Government Structures and Accountability

Recommendation: CR6

That education campaigns be conducted in all secondary schools in Western Australia to alert students to:
i. the dangers of consuming alcohol during pregnancy ; and
ii. the prevalence of FASD (with a culturally relevant education campaign for Aboriginal children).

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted	Department of Health	Actioned

2024 and 2025 Update:

The Department of Education provided the following resources to all public, independent and Catholic schools:

- A four-part professional learning module for teachers which examines how FASD impacts learning.
- A FASD awareness education teacher resource aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum: Health and Physical Education learning area.

In 2024 and 2025, 3,775 public school staff completed the 'About FASD' professional learning resource to build their capacity to support students with complex needs.

In 2025, videos were made available to public schools to support educators working with neurodivergent students, including those with FASD. The videos promote evidence informed and strength-based strategies to enhance inclusive teaching practices.

Recommendation: CR7

That the State Government appoints a person who is a Special Advisor on matters concerning Aboriginal children and young persons or considers appointing an additional Commissioner for Aboriginal children and young persons.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Further Discussion Required	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported closed in 2023.

Recommendation: CR23		
That the use of videoconferencing for mental health assessments be expanded throughout the Kimberley Region, including an after-hours service.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of Health	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS1		
That Western Australian Government agencies revisit reports listed in Appendix Six and outline their actions of how the intention and recommendations of these reports will be implemented.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS2		
That the Premier co-ordinates and provides a response to the recommendations of this Inquiry which have not been directed to a specific agency or Minister.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS3

That the Premier and each Minister to whom recommendations are directed should report to Parliament at six monthly intervals for no fewer than five years after the tabling of this report on the progress of implementing recommendations made in this report.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

The State Government committed to annual progress reports on the Commitment for the first five years of implementation, which were to be tabled in Parliament and made publicly available. The Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Progress Report 2021 and Commitment to Aboriginal Youth Wellbeing Progress Report 2022 and 2023 have been published. The 2024 and 2025 Progress Report is the final State Government Progress Report against the Commitment, fulfilling State Government obligation of five years of reporting since the release of the Commitment.

Annual Reports on State Government implementation of Closing the Gap commitments continue to compliment these reports, in providing updates on State Government led work to improve the wellbeing of Aboriginal across Western Australia.

Recommendation: MS4

That the Department of the Premier and Cabinet create a centralised database of inquiry recommendations made to Western Australian Government agencies. Further:

- the Department of the Premier and Cabinet retains overall responsibility for maintenance of the database and ensuring government agencies update the database in a timely fashion
- the database should include the government's initial response to recommendations and be updated at six monthly intervals to advise of progress made in implementing supported recommendations contained in the database. This advice should include detailed information of specific actions taken in response to particular recommendations, and not just whether actions are 'in progress' or 'complete'.
- information in the database should continue to be updated until implementation of a recommendation is 'complete' or superseded, in which case the reasons why the recommendation is no longer being implemented should be stated.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted in Principle	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS5		
That Western Australia be mindful of its obligations under international human rights agreements and take all possible measures to ensure these obligations are met.		
Initial Response: Accepted	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS21		
That the Western Australian Parliament explores the option of employing an Aboriginal liaison officer based on the Queensland Parliament's experience.		
Initial Response: Further Discussion Required	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS25		
That the Western Australian Government urge the Commonwealth Government to now release the funds for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Mental Health Commission	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

In December 2024, the 2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy was superseded by the updated National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025–2035. The new strategy was developed in partnership with Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy 2025–2035 has received funding from the Federal Government. This recommendation is considered closed with no further update to be provided.

This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS27		
That the Premier, in conjunction with Cabinet, create or designate a government agency or authority to lead the Western Australian Government's actions in responding to issues affecting Aboriginal wellbeing.		
Initial Response: Accepted in Principle	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS28		
That the designated government agency responsible for Aboriginal wellbeing is fully resourced and provided with sufficient authority to fulfil its leadership role and cause other government agencies to take action in accordance with its directions.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS29		
That the Western Australian Government redesign its agency structure to achieve an integrated whole-of-government approach to addressing issues facing Aboriginal people in remote areas. The redesign should be led by senior public servants from within each agency which provides services to Aboriginal people in remote areas.		
Initial Response: Accepted (being implemented)	**Lead Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet	**Status:** Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

Across 2024 and 2025, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet has taken a more active role in coordinating and aligning approaches across State Government agencies to drive progress against Closing the Gap Targets 9a and 9b, which seek to secure appropriate housing and essential services for those living in remote communities.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and is closed for the purpose of reporting.

Recommendation: MS31

That the Department for Child Protection and Family Support in conjunction with the Public Sector Commission prepare a circular outlining the operation of the information sharing provisions under the *Children and Community Services Act 2004* to be circulated to all government agencies.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Accepted (being implemented)	Department of the Premier and Cabinet / Public Sector Commission	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2021 and closed in 2023.

Recommendation: MS33

That the Department of the Premier and Cabinet amend the Aboriginal Youth Investment Priority and Principles to allow funding amounts of less than $300,000 to be granted to Aboriginal organisations.

Initial Response:	Lead Agency:	Status:
Further Discussion Required	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Closed

2024 and 2025 Update:

The State Government continues to be committed to improving outcomes for young Aboriginal people and increasing the effectiveness of the State Government expenditure remain key priorities. The whole-of-government ACCO Strategy published in 2024, sets the policy direction to support ACCOs to take on delivery of services for Aboriginal people and empower Aboriginal people in Western Australia to be able to access place-based, community-led and culturally secure services that are planned, designed and delivered by strong and sustainable ACCOs.

This recommendation has been previously reported as actioned in 2022-2023, with the Premier's Circular concerning Aboriginal Youth Services Investment Reforms being rescinded on 4 November 2021. As a result, the expenditure minimum of $300,000 for the awarding of grants associated with this policy has been removed. This recommendation is closed for the purpose of reporting.





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