

# Aboriginal Advisory Body Communiqué 5

Meeting 5, 21 November 2024

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The Aboriginal Advisory Body (AAB) met for its final meeting of 2024 on 21 November. This meeting was held in the Kimberley where the Department's Kimberley Education Regional Office were able to showcase how they are strengthening and empowering Aboriginal people; the work they are doing towards Aboriginal students succeeding in a culturally response school environment; and their engagement in shared decision-making with Aboriginal staff, families and communities.

## Kimberley Region Insights

Insights from the Kimberley region include that 14 traditional Aboriginal languages are taught in Kimberley schools and 2,589 students in the Kimberley are learning an Aboriginal language. The Ngaparrtji Ngaparrtji Two-way science program is an approach to teaching and learning that connects the Western Australian Curriculum: Science to Aboriginal knowledges. The program aims to build respect for Aboriginal histories, cultures, people, knowledges and experiences amongst school staff and students; and strengthen Aboriginal Student wellbeing, engagement and achievement.

## Aboriginal Teaching and Learning

The Director, Aboriginal Teaching and Learning shared information with the Aboriginal Advisory Body on the culturally response school leadership program focusing on strengthening cultural responsiveness and capability to lead system change. The program challenges participants' personal beliefs, values and attitudes and behaviours through critical self-reflection and a commitment to anti-racism and equity. Since 2023, 52 principals have engaged in the program.

## Diversity Targets and Closing the Gap

The Executive Director, Workforce delivered a presentation on staff diversity numbers. This data will be further interrogated to provide a detailed breakdown of the teacher workforce.

## Full Service Schools

The Executive Director, System Response and Transformation shared that the Department is working on a design to trial place-based approaches to delivering a full service schools model in at least 4 public schools commencing in 2026. The benefits of full service school models include improved student attendance and engagement and improved health and wellbeing outcomes. There will be a focus on partnerships and shared design approaches to meet the needs of Aboriginal students and families.

## For the next meeting

Members will next meet on 15 April 2025.