

# Aboriginal Advisory Body

## Communiqué 6

Meeting 6, 25 June 2025

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The Aboriginal Advisory Body (AAB) held its first meeting of 2025 on 25 June. The AAB continues to prioritise the empowerment of Aboriginal people; the success of Aboriginal students in culturally responsive school environments and shared decision-making with Aboriginal staff, families and communities.

The meeting highlighted insights and discussions into key areas including:

### Full Service Schools

The Executive Director, Enterprise Governance and Partnerships, presented an overview of the Full Service Schools model, which will be trialled in four public schools commencing in 2026.

AAB members discussed the selection process for the four schools, the model's design and the importance of Aboriginal leadership in ensuring the trial is culturally responsive.

### Strategic Plan

The Director, Strategic Policy, provided an update on the development of the Department's new Strategic Plan. The presentation covered the plan's purpose, current status, the consultation phase and next steps. The AAB reinforced the importance of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders to ensure priorities are captured. The AAB will be consulted further at the next meeting in August.

### Workforce Planning and On Country Teacher Education (OCTE) program

The Executive Director, People Services, shared updated workforce diversity data and led a discussion on strengthening Aboriginal career pathways across the Department. An update was provided on the OCTE program.

### Diversity Targets

The Department reported that 30,508 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in public schools in 2025. There has also been an increase in the number of Kindergarten to Year 12 students learning an Aboriginal language in public schools, rising to 15,988 students in a total of 102 schools in 2024.

A presentation was delivered on the Culturally Responsive School Leadership (CRSL) program which supports school leaders through an immersive learning experience grounded in Aboriginal ways of knowing, thinking and being.

The program fosters understanding of cultural safety, social and emotional wellbeing and anti-racism. A fourth cohort of 22 principals will commence in August.

### **Culture at the Heart Forum**

AAB members were invited to attend the Culture at the Heart Forum hosted by the Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia (AACWA) on the 26 and 27 June 2025.

The forum provided an opportunity for all Aboriginal Advisory Groups to collaborate on important initiatives aligned with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy.

### **For the next meeting**

Members will next meet on 21 August 2025.