



# Aboriginal Advisory Body Communique 2

Meeting 2, 8 February 2024

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The Aboriginal Advisory Body (AAB) met for the second meeting on 8 February 2024. This meeting provided an opportunity for discussion with the Department's Corporate Executives regarding the *Reconciliation Statement and Implementation Plan* posing the question, 'Is reconciliation the right term to use?'. This discussion offered much valued insights and honest conversations leading the AAB to request for an opportunity for a facilitated workshop with Corporate Executives to work collaboratively in shaping the document to reflect shared ownership.

The meeting was enriched by a number of presentations by Departmental senior executives and the Chair School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) Board, Ms Pauline White and the Acting Executive Director, SCSA, Ms Mandy Hudson. AAB members were also able to connect with the eight Directors of Education across all regions including Pilbara, Southwest, Wheatbelt, Kimberley, Midwest, Goldfields, North Metro and South Metro who joined online and introduced themselves to the AAB and shared key successes and challenges in their respective regions regarding Aboriginal student achievement and engagement with communities.

## Key areas of focus

AAB considered the:

- Review of the HASS Curriculum with SCSA – this session generated important discussion with the AAB emphasising the need to reframe history as 'Australian history' and the need to build in the curriculum a strength-based narrative with the voice of young people incorporated.
- Aboriginal Workforce – the proposed Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (AIEO) Career Pathways Structure is being developed by the Department to recognise the cultural nature of roles and responsibilities of an AIEO; and enable opportunities for career progression. The AAB commended this body of work highlighting the benefits in strengthening cultural responsiveness in schools.
- Department's Agency Commissioning Plan – which outlined the ways the Department engages with service providers. AAB's insight highlighted the need for creating partnerships and ways to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) through the process, with a key focus to creating opportunities across school communities.

### **For the next meeting**

- Members will next meet on 30 May 2024.
- AAB agreed to determine key strategic priorities and a set of principles that will govern the Body's undertakings.