

Aboriginal Advisory Body Communiqué 3

Meeting 3, 29 and 30 May 2024



AAB members from left to right: Latoya Bolton-Black, Daniella Borg, Tyronne Garstone, Lisa Rodgers (Director General, Co-Chair), Tamara Murdock (Co-Chair), Shannon McNeair, Gina Hill, Tony Lee, Paul Bridge (Corporate Executive Member)

The Aboriginal Advisory Body (AAB) met for its third meeting on the 29 and 30 May 2024. The meeting on the 29 May included a facilitated workshop with members of the Corporate Executive, representatives from the Department's Aboriginal Education Teaching and Learning team, and members of the Reconciliation Statement Working Group. On 30 May, AAB members had the opportunity to engage with the Minister for Education, Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA and discussed key matters of interest.

29 May 2024

Reconciliation Statement Workshop

- At prior meetings, the AAB conducted an initial review of the document and requested further opportunities to engage with the Department and the Reconciliation Statement Working Group.

- The AAB agreed with the need for a Statement but acknowledged that further work was required to refine the intent, outcomes and impact.
- The workshop provided the AAB members with insight into the journey of the Reconciliation Statement which commenced back in 2019; and acknowledged the important role and contribution of Departmental staff and community members in developing and shaping the Statement.
- The journey included a shift from a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to a Reconciliation Statement to reflect the Department's commitment to a system-level move towards reconciliation.
- Feedback from AAB members will enable the Corporate Executive to reflect on the changing operating environment from pre to post referendum, its impacts and how to support Aboriginal students best moving forward in consultation with the AAB.

30 May 2024

Education Portfolio – Discussion with Minister Buti

- The Minister's session provided an opportunity for a dialogue with AAB members.
- The Minister highlighted the work around the post-secondary pathway enquiry for years 11 and 12; and the review of the School Education Act and invited AAB members to consider ways to contribute to these bodies of work.

Agency Commissioning

- The session provided an opportunity for the Department to discuss with AAB members the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Strengthening Grant Program and avenues to engage more effectively with ACCOs.

Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Tool

- The AAB requested information about the Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Tool. The School of Special Educational Needs: Behaviour and Engagement delivered an information session outlining the effectiveness of the Tool which promotes trauma-informed strategies to support students within the school environments.

AAB Principles and Strategic Priorities

- The AAB identified several draft principles that will guide the development of strategic priorities, these included; safety, transformation, truth-telling, self-determination, voice, accountability, two-way engagement, equity and justice, and evidence-base.
- The work on strategic priorities continues with key areas of focus identified for further discussion including (but not limited to):
 - Aboriginal workforce
 - strengthening and decolonising the school curriculum
 - Aboriginal students succeeding as Aboriginal people
 - student experience and safety.

For the next meeting

- Members will next meet on 27 August 2024.