



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Communique No. 11 – Quarter 1 2024

AJAC Meeting 1 of 2024

Return to Banksia Hill Detention Centre

We first visited Banksia Hill Detention Centre as a committee in June 2022. This was a very challenging time for the facility, the young people within it and our community.

It was clear to us after that visit that the Department had a lot of work ahead of it to ensure that Banksia Hill Detention Centre was operating as it should, and that the young people received appropriate care, education and opportunities to grow.



AJAC Members are welcomed to Banksia Hill Detention Centre by staff and young people.



Will Hayward, Manager of Aboriginal Services at Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

Since that visit, we have been regularly updated on the work the Department is doing and the changes that are being made. We returned to Banksia Hill to see this progress in action and to meet the new staff that have joined the Department to work with young people.

We were welcomed to Banksia Hill by a smoking ceremony held by a group of young people participating in Banksia Hill's Cultural Program. We were

highly impressed with the work the young people had done to prepare a cultural ground for the ceremony.

We were guided through the facility by Will Hayward, Manager of Aboriginal Services. Will leads a team of eight dedicated Aboriginal Youth Support Officers who are delivering enhanced cultural health, welfare and engagement in youth detention.

Banksia Hill's Cultural Program is a key part of Will's work with young people at the centre.

We are happy to see that the environment at the centre has greatly improved, and we are very impressed with what has been achieved by the Department with the help of Will and his team.

New Strategic Priority: The Prevention of Deaths in Custody

We began work on our new strategic priority by hearing from the Department's Suicide Prevention Guidance Unit. We intend to be in regular communication with the Unit to provide advice on how the Department can improve suicide prevention measures in a way that meets the needs and protects Aboriginal people in the care of the Department.

Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia CEO James Christian

The Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia (CASWA) was established in March 2023 to strengthen and increase the capacity of WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations involved in service delivery to Aboriginal people.

Recently appointed CASWA CEO James Christian joined us to provide an overview on CASWA's work Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to date and outline plans for its first Annual General Meeting in May 2024.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Procurement are a key strategic priority for our committee, and we are eager to see the impact of CASWA in building the capacity of ACCOs to better deliver justice services to our communities.

Paid Participation Policy

We held a meeting in February to review and provide advice on the Department's Paid Participation Policy, which operates within the Strategic Reform Division. The Policy remunerates Aboriginal People for their participation and expertise in Strategic Reform assembled stakeholder reference groups.