



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Communique No. 12 – Quarter 2 2024

AJAC Meeting 2 of 2024

Pilbara Regional Meeting – Port Hedland, Roebourne and Karratha

The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) met for our second regional meeting in Port Hedland, Roebourne and Karratha from Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August 2024.

We were honoured to be welcomed to country in Port Hedland by Karriyarra Elder Raylene Button. Thank you, Raylene, for this beautiful and insightful welcome to Kariyarra country.



We decided to visit the Pilbara to better understand the justice issues we regularly discuss from a regional and community perspective. Our understanding has been enhanced by speaking with Elders, community members, Department operational staff and Aboriginal community organisations working in Port Hedland, Roebourne and Karratha to help their mob.

We are grateful to Julyardi Aboriginal Corporation, Hedland Aboriginal Strong Leaders, Youth Involvement Council, Bloodwood Tree Association, Mawarnkarra Medical Services, and PKKP Aboriginal Corporations for meeting with us to share the issues they face as service providers to their community. Their knowledge and insights will greatly inform our recommendations to government regarding reforms to the Department and the justice system.

Roebourne Regional Prison and Work Camp

We were guided through the work camp and prison facility by Tania Woolgrove, Acting Superintendent at Roebourne Regional Prison. We had the opportunity to speak with prison officers and Offender Services staff regarding operations at Roebourne, health and mental health services, and the employment programs that are available.



We were also given the opportunity to speak directly with Aboriginal men and Women in the care of the Department to discuss their experiences in the justice system, particularly regarding legal assistance available in the regions.

AJAC Regular Agenda and Strategic Priorities

While in Karratha we conducted our regular agenda on country. We are currently working towards providing recommendations to the Director General and the Department across our five strategic priority areas:

- Young People
- Safe Housing and Homelessness
- Aboriginal Workforce Development and Employment
- Procurement and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations
- The Prevention of Deaths in Custody.

These recommendations will be the culmination of our work in our first term as a committee. There is much more work to be done, but we look forward to providing our recommendations to the Department and monitoring the Department's response.