



Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

Communique No. 13 – Quarter 3 2024

AJAC Meeting 3 of 2024

Discussion with Director General, Commissioner for Corrective Services and Deputy Commissioner for Young People

It was with heavy hearts that we met with the Director General Kylie Maj, Commissioner for Corrective Services Brad Royce, and Deputy Commissioner for Young People Rick Curtis to receive a briefing on the critical incident at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and the death of a young person in detention. AJAC members were informed of the incident by the Department on the morning of 30 August.



Banksia Hill Detention Centre

As AJAC members we have visited Banksia Hill Detention Centre multiple times. We have seen it during hard times and easier times, seeing improvement over our first term as members. Regardless of the circumstances of the incident, which will be investigated by the State Coroner, to us any loss of life is unacceptable, and this has given us cause for deep reflection. We send our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the young person. Our resolve to work with the Department to effect change and improve circumstances for our young people remains strong.

We appreciate the Director General, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, making time to speak with us about the incident, including the Department's response, as well as answer our questions. We recognise the Department still has a long way to go but we also feel confident the Department, and particularly the Aboriginal Services Team will continue to do what is required to develop Banksia Hill Detention Centre into a high functioning facility, to prevent further incidents.

National Legal Assistance Program

On our recent regional visit to Port Hedland, Roebourne and Karratha, we were made aware of issues regarding legal assistance in the region. At our request, the Department provided a briefing on the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP). We appreciated the additional context this provided to improve our understanding of how service providers

are funded by the NLAP to provide legal assistance in the regions. We look forward to future updates on the issue.

Consultation

Reconciliation Action Plan

We received an update on the status of the Department's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) being developed by the Aboriginal Justice Transformation Directorate. We have been closely involved in the plan's development, including multiple consultations.

We are impressed with the development approach for the RAP, particularly the consultation with Aboriginal staff to define cultural safety and to ensure this definition is reflected in the Department's RAP deliverables.

New Youth Detention Facility

The Deputy Commissioner for Young People Rick Curtis briefed us on the proposed new youth detention facility. The briefing included an overview of planning around the proposed building, Aboriginal community engagement for the project, and the nature of the facilities that will be provided for young people. We appreciate the briefing and the responses to the many questions we had about the proposal. We selected AJAC Member Joslyn Eades-Tass to site on the Project Reference Group which will be established to advise the Department on the project.

AJAC Contact Information

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