

21 August 2018

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Honourable Ben Wyatt MLA
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy; Aboriginal Affairs
Aboriginal Policy Unit
Via email to AboriginalPolicy@dpc.wa.gov.au

Re: An office for advocacy and accountability in Aboriginal affairs in Western Australia – Discussion Paper

Feedback from the City of Belmont's Aboriginal Reference Committee Community Members

1. What do you think of the idea?

- **Does the concept work?**
- **Is there anything missing that should be included?**
- **Is there anything that should not be listed or included?**

- The idea is a great initiative and is very much needed.
- The concept will work if the community are able to be informed of the potential benefits that this new Advocacy/Organisation can produce from the development stage.
- This initiative needs to be a grass roots project/initiative with a grass roots foundation, build upon the community's knowledge and pedagogies.
- Some information which we feel is important that weren't evident in the proposal is;
 - Charter of Rights and Responsibilities for both the Advocate and the community accessing the services. (This should be made public).
 - Legal framework due to executive powers of the Advocate if appointed.
 - Potential staffing requirements.
- To generate interest and publicity for this initiative there needs to be community forums across WA, each district has one from the Kimberley to Metropolitan Perth.
- Suggested forums should be organised by appointed support staff from Mr Wyatt as they will be his representatives in the initiative stage to generate interest. As he is a sitting parliamentarian he needs to be impartial and have individuals that can explain and support his vision to the Aboriginal community.
- The community feel that the Advocate and his/her support staff should be of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander descent and as such claimed and recognised by the community.

2. What should be the name of the new organisation?

- Aboriginal Voices Advocate
- Advocate for Aboriginal Affairs

3. How should Aboriginal people and organisations be involved in the appointment process of the office-holder? Who should be involved?

- Need to hold open forum(s) for all Aboriginal community members to attend.
- The representative/s from Mr Wyatt's office for the forum(s) should facilitate the forum; explain the reason and purpose behind the open forum.

- At the end of the forum(s) community members should be asked if they are in agreement with the initiative to nominate or put an individual forward for the Advocate position providing that an individual accepts candidacy. (This will occur at every forum and then the final forum will be an open debate round discussion table for all nominated individuals to express and explain why they would be best suited to the post of Advocate).
- There would be a private ballot/voting segment to vote one of the nominated persons.
- Organisations that are Aboriginal owned or operated, peak industry Aboriginal organisations and organisations that have a high concentration of Aboriginal foot traffic (whether it be workers or service users) should be asked to take part.
- Aboriginal Faculties at Universities and TAFE should be asked to attend.
- Ideally there should organisational representation from Justice, Health, Education, Land Councils, Aboriginal representatives from local shires and government offices and any other that may arise. **(THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO PRIVILEGE THE ABORIGINAL VOICE AND KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, SELF-DETERMINATION AND GOVERNANCE).**
- **How would the process look like?**
It would look like a business model with an Aboriginal content and context and be navigated by an Aboriginal lens and landscape.
- Stages of Initiative;
 - Pre-planning (Mr Wyatt is putting sensors out there)
 - Planning (If enough interest is generated by community, start preparation to lobby and advocate for role in and out of Parliament).
 - Developing (If approved and all goes ahead start developing and moulding the initiative, start open forums developing candidacy options, generating publicity around this post).
 - Implement (Appoint the successful candidate to the post of Advocate for Aboriginal Affairs and support staff).
 - Monitor (Monitor the Advocates progress as with all positions subject to probation, have an all Aboriginal board that supports the governance of the organisation).
 - Evaluate (Evaluate the progress of the Advocate and if performance management needs to occur let it occur, however at this level of responsibilities if performance management needs to occur the candidate may not be the ideal person to represent the Aboriginal people of Western Australia).
 - Re-Evaluate (Re-Evaluate if necessary board intervention will be required).
 - Finalised/Completion (Advocate has passed probation and has support of board and Aboriginal community).

This discussion paper is still just that, a discussion. This is the opinion of the City of Belmont’s Aboriginal Reference Committee (Community Members).

Aboriginal Reference Community Members

Shirley Voss	Panina Chad	
Jenna-Lee Rodney	Janice McEwan	
Brenda Greenfield	Barbara Stammner-Councillor	

With Regards