

Enquiries: 9272 0608
Our Ref: Karen Quigley

14 September 2018

Ms Michelle Andrews
Director, Aboriginal Policy Unit
Department of Premier and Cabinet
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Andrews

Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability Submission

The City of Bayswater would like to thank the Department of Premier and Cabinet for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 'Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia' discussion paper.

The City of Bayswater wholeheartedly supports the proposed development of a new statutory office, independent from the Government of the day, to strengthen government's accountability to Aboriginal Western Australians and to advocate for Aboriginal people's interests in government policy and performance.

As the Discussion paper points out, "*Aboriginal people in Western Australia have been telling the government for a long time about what the government can do to work better with and for Aboriginal people*" Aboriginal people make up a small proportion of the Western Australian and Australian populations. This we know makes it harder to effectively influence government policy. Having a transparent and dedicated, permanent entity with statutory powers will enhance the priorities and voice of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

When the Department is considering naming the Office for Advocacy and Accountability in Aboriginal Affairs in Western Australia, it should consider a name that is consistent with the Uluru Statement of the Heart made at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, where it addresses Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as *First Nations People*.

The City of Bayswater is passionate about its reconciliation journey with the Aboriginal community. Over the past twelve months, the City has engaged in a number of positive initiatives to support the Aboriginal community and walk the path of reconciliation, including:

- Appointment of an Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Various community engagement and consultation activities to inform the City's draft Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Development of its inaugural Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (work in progress);

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- Support for the Uluru Statement of the Heart including a submission to parliament in support of the Uluru Statement of the Heart (including framing the Statement and placing it close to the entrance of the City's Council Chambers);
 - Welcome to Country/Acknowledgment to Country at civic and community events;
 - Provision of a NAIDOC Week community event in partnership with the Town of Bassendean that acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal culture;
 - Participation in events that support reconciliation with Aboriginal people such as the *Dandjoo Koorliny Reconciliation Walk* and the *Walk for Reconciliation* at Elizabeth Quay, hosted by Reconciliation WA.
 - Staff cultural awareness training and;
 - Partnerships with local Aboriginal groups (e.g. Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company).

The City looks forward to learning about the positive outcomes that are expected to derive from the discussion paper and submissions made in support of it. The City also looks forward to continued communication with the Department of Premier and Cabinet about how it can assist or support the work being done in enhancing Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability into the future.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries regarding this correspondence or require further information.

Yours faithfully



Karen Quigley
Manager Community Development