



12 September 2018

ABORIGINAL ART CENTRE HUB
Western Australia

Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Aboriginal Policy Unit
Dumas House, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth
Western Australia 6005
By email only: AboriginalPolicy@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Hon. Ben Wyatt Minister for Aboriginal Affairs,

RE: Response to proposal to establish a WA Office of Aboriginal Advocacy and Accountability

The Aboriginal Art Centre Hub of WA (AACHWA) is the peak advocacy and resource agency for Aboriginal art centres in Western Australia. AACHWA's primary objective is to support and promote Aboriginal art centres in WA with the aim of encouraging sustainable growth and stability.

AACHWA was incorporated in 2015 and has a majority Aboriginal board of directors that govern the organisation. The directors are drawn from the member art centres of AACHWA and provide strategic direction for the organisation. AACHWA is currently led by an Aboriginal Chief Executive Officer with an arts and native title background. AACHWA currently has eight member art centres but recognises that there are 28 art centres currently in existence in the state that have eligibility to become members. All art centres in the state of WA are eligible to access the services of AACHWA. The current members are Waringarri Aboriginal Arts (Kununurra), Nagula Jarndu Designs (Broome), Martumili Artists (Newman), Walkatjurra Art and Culture Centre (Leonora), Mungart Boodja (Albany), Yamaji Arts (Geraldton), Tjukurba Gallery (Wiluna) and Roebourne Art Group.

The AACHWA office is now based at the Midland Junction Art Centre in a venue that offers several advantages to art centres services and development programs. The AACHWA board will be meeting in late September and again in December and invite Minister Ben Wyatt to attend a meeting to meet our board of directors and to discuss the proposed new office. If you wish to make arrangements, your office can contact our administrative Coordinator Sophie Davidson on (08) 9200 6248 or support@aachwa.com.au

What do you think of the Government's proposal?

AACHWA welcomes the proposal to form a new office for Aboriginal advocacy and accountability. Art centres are some of first nations Australians best examples of self-determination and establishment of enterprises lead by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people. Art centres are social, cultural, economic and community hubs within regional and remote communities. Very often, Art centres are the only consistent organisation that provide

Aboriginal Art Centre Hub of Western Australia Aboriginal Corporation

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Midland Junction Art Centre
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AACHWA is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission | www.aachwa.com.au

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communities with another means to make an income other than welfare and work for the dole schemes. Art centres are places where intergenerational cultural and language exchange between generations occurs between elders and the younger generation.

As the peak body for Aboriginal art centres in WA, AACHWA would like to express interest in being consulted and having further discussion with the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Aboriginal Affairs about the proposal to ensure that our important cultural organisations are being listened to and included in the decision-making processes being proposed.

How should Aboriginal people be involved in choosing the right person?

AACHWA expresses interest in being part of further consultation and seeks that the process involves representatives from WA art centres to ensure this important creative and cultural voice is being heard and represented at the highest levels of government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chad Creighton', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Chad Creighton
Chief Executive Officer