

ABORIGINAL ADVISORY GROUP (AAG)



MEETING NOTES:

Date: Tuesday 4 November 2025
Time: 10am – 12pm
Location: Belmont Hub, Library Entrance, Meeting Room 1
Chair: Gauri Thanasingam (GT)
Note Taker: Shanel De Silva (SD)

Aboriginal Advisory Group Members

Community Members

Angela Ryder (AR) – Community Member
Brenda Greenfield (BG) – Community Member
Keith Truscott (KT) – Community Member
Norma Morrison (NM) – Community Member

Organisation Representatives

Nicola Fremen (NF) – Aboriginal Family Legal Service
Steven Kelly (SK) – Aboriginal Family Legal Service
Donna Kelly (DK) – Belmont City College
Lisa Bell (LB) – Belmont City College – Vice Principal
Dr Melissa Russell (MR) – Consumer of Mental Health WA
Melanie Smith (MS) – Jacaranda Community Services
Hannah Higgins (HH) – Moort Waabiny Playgroup
Michael Wood (MW) – Nyoongar Outreach Services
Hannah Collard (HC) – YMCA – The Base Belmont

City of Belmont Staff

Blythe Digwee-Downey (BDD) – Specialist, Library and Museum Hub
Gauri Thanasingam (GT) – Coordinator, Community & Cultural Engagement
Marzel Norton (MN) – Manager, Economic and Community Development
Shanel De Silva (SD) – Cultural Engagement Officer
Wilmot Loh (WL) – Director, Development & Communities

Guests

Kaarla baabpa Consulting (NK) - Natasha Kickett – Managing Director
Kaarla baabpa Consulting (AG) - Andrew Garlet – Cultural Advisor

Apologies:

Coral Kickett (CK) – Community Member
Phil Moncrieff (PM) – Community Member and Staff, Consumers of Mental Health WA
Sharlene Jetta (SJ) – Community Member and Staff, Jacaranda Community Services
Jemma Smoult (JS) – Senior Arts & Place Officer

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Acknowledgment of Country - BG

2. Welcome & Apologies

3. Introductions - All

4. Notes & Outstanding actions from the last meeting - No outstanding actions.

5. Terms of Reference (ToR) and AAG Focus – GT shared the updates from new Tor's [ECM_6058318_v1_Final Aboriginal Advisory Group Terms of Reference](#)

6. First Nations Strategy Updates

6.1 SD provided an update on the implementation plan – *copy attached*.

6.2 Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country Protocol Review Updates

NK - Natasha Kickett introduced Kaarla Baabpa Consulting and spoke about the process of reviewing the City of Belmont Protocols and opened it up for comment:

- NM – Suggested creating more opportunities for the community to connect in informal settings, such as yarnning groups and Noongar BBQs.
- BG – Asked for a clear definition of what makes someone Whadjuk.
- BG & NM – Requested improved engagement with Council and better communication about what is happening in Belmont.
- LB – Requested that cultural protocols be accessible to the community, would be helpful when welcoming students to school from areas outside Belmont.
- KT – Highlighted the 2029 Swan River Colony Bicentenary of WA and requested a focus on First Nations stories and culture, noting Belmont as the East Gate to the City.

7. Round Table Update as Required

HC – Shared update on successfully receiving the RAC Grant for the Wright Street project Workshops will be part of the Local Makeover Program. for info : [Register your interest for this Local Makeover Program | RAC WA](#)

- HH – Moort Waabiny Playgroup 10-year anniversary celebration on 8 November.
- NF – *17 Days in WA*: AFLS will host an information session on 3 December at Belmont Library Event Space - flyer attached.
- BDG – Number of enquiries in Local History from community members with Aboriginal connections have increased.
- LB – There are new dual named language signs at Belmont City College.
- KT – Moziac Aboriginal Church:
 - Women's Group meets Wednesday, 10am–12pm - All Saints 300 Belgravia st Cloverdale
 - Church Services in Aboriginal languages Sundays, 4pm–6pm.
 - Homework Club – Tuesdays 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Operating for 4 years, school age children, supported by trained School teacher and Ed Assistances, afternoon tea, Perth Alliance Church – Unit 6, 41 Belmont Ave, Belmont 6104.

8. Morning tea and Networking

9. Next Meeting: Tuesday 3 February 2026