

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) provides whole-of-government strategic advice and coordination of Aboriginal Affairs at a local and national level.

Key priorities for the Office of Aboriginal Affairs include: Treaty, renewing the Aboriginal Affairs Strategy, supporting government's commitment to Local Decision Making and ensuring land and sea ownership delivers on economic and social aspirations of Aboriginal people.

- The office sits within the Department of the Chief Minister, with the Aboriginal Affairs agenda a key focus for government. The Chief Minister, Michael Gunner, MLA oversees the portfolio.
- In 2017/18 government has provided \$2 million funding towards grants programs to foster economic development, governance and capacity building in remote communities.
- Government has committed \$1.3 million to commence the Local Decision Making agenda.
- **Aboriginal Affairs Sub-Committee of Cabinet** – chaired by the Chief Minister and Assistant Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs. The Sub-Committee comprises all Aboriginal MLAs, and bush MLAs who have an 80% Aboriginal constituency in their electorate and nine Aboriginal advisors. The Sub-Committee will guide and audit government's approach to Aboriginal Affairs.
- **Local Decision Making** is a 10 year commitment to transfer, where possible, service delivery back to remote communities. It is about government, Aboriginal representative organisations and Aboriginal people working together on: Housing, Local Government, Education and Training, Health, Looking after children, Law and Justice.
- **Aboriginal Affairs Strategy** – work is underway to renew an NT Aboriginal Affairs Strategy to align with a refresh of the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) Closing the Gap Framework.

This will be shaped through working in partnership with Aboriginal people and communities to drive community control and to improve and strengthen cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes.

- **First Circles** Engagement Program continues to support emerging Aboriginal leaders from across remote communities. This program is offered to 16 participants from the southern and northern regions of the NT.

First Circles members meet with Cabinet to discuss solutions and opportunities for government. They work together with their communities to build their skills to be the next generation of community leaders, while undertaking projects within their communities.

The program will support members to tap into existing NT Government grant funding to benefit their community and leadership aspirations.

- **Land and Sea Strategy** - government has a vision to ensure land and sea ownership delivers on the economic and social aspirations of Aboriginal Territorians.

Work is underway to develop an Aboriginal Land and Sea Strategy, including the resolution of outstanding Aboriginal land claims.

The NT Government will work in partnership with land councils and Traditional Owners to drive actions under this Strategy including NT and Commonwealth administrative and legislative improvements.

- **Treaty** - government has committed to progressing discussions around Treaty options.

Work is underway to plan appropriate consultation and engagement with Aboriginal Territorians so that whatever is developed accurately reflects the aspirations of our Aboriginal community.