Communique #3

The Steering Committee for the Our Booris, Our Way review met for the fourth time at the Yurauna Centre of CIT on 7 May 2018. The Steering Committee reviewed the work of the Chairperson for the previous month and noted her communication with a number of stakeholders.

In May the Steering Committee hosted two of Canberra’s prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). Winnunga Nimmityjah (‘Strong Health’) Aboriginal Health and Community Service and Gugan Gulwan (‘Younger Brother, Younger Sister’) Youth Aboriginal Corporation.

Discussion points included:

- Funding allocations and work undertaken by ACCOs
- Early Intervention vs Intensive Family Support
- The need to work with families as a whole
- Delivering Culturally appropriate, Trauma-Informed Care
- Functional Family Therapy
- Justice Reinvestment Programs

The Steering Committee heard about a new Justice Reinvestment Program being run by the Aboriginal Legal Services called Yarrabi Bamirr (‘Walk Tall’). The Program is designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children, where one or more members have had contact with the criminal justice system. Yarrabi Bamirr supports families to prevent further contact with police, court, jails and other systems including child protection.

The Committee also welcomed Senior Managers from Children and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) in the Community Services Directorate of ACT Government.

Discussion points included:

- Reforms made to the CYPS system in 2015 removing duplication
- The role of Case Conferencing
- Domestic Violence training for staff
- Reporting of neglect
- The role of the Cultural Team
- New electronic systems in CYPS for 2018 that will identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families earlier

Next Meeting:

At the next meeting, the Steering Committee has invited The United Ngunnawal Elders Council and the ACT Grandmothers Group to discuss barriers and solutions to keeping our children safe with their own families.

If you wish to reach out and speak with the Committee, please email:

ACTreview@act.gov.au

This email address is monitored only by the review team to keep your information private and confidential.