Our Booris, Our Way

Communique #4

The Steering Committee for the Our Booris, Our Way Review met for the fifth time at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service on 4 June 2018.

The Steering Committee reviewed the work of the Chairperson for the previous month and noted her communication with a number of stakeholders.

In June the Steering Committee hosted a representative from the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC), Aunty Roslyn Brown. Following on from Reconciliation Week and the ACT’s first Reconciliation Day on 28 May 2018, Aunty Roslyn highlighted the ways in which The Review is coloured by enduring issues Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Families face.

Discussion points included:

- The spirit of true reconciliation as genuine and ongoing cultural understanding
- Breaking the cycle of removals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- Challenges to working within the systems

The next phase of approaching and engaging with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community is under consideration. The Steering Committee began drafting materials to meet with Community members at various Organisations. This work will continue in the coming months, look out for the flyers or contact us if you would like to share your experience.

The Steering Committee also met the team of Reviewers at the June meeting as recruitment was finalised in May. The Committee emphasised their support for the Reviewers undertaking the data collection from client files, and noted emerging themes identified by the Reviewers.

The Steering Committee also began workshopping the shape and content of the Interim Report for Our Booris, Our Way. The Committee were unanimous in the need to make recommendations for accelerated implementation ahead of the Final Report in 2019.

The Interim Report seeks to:

- Focus on Community
- Consider the Whole of Family
- Make recommendations that deliver positive outcomes for children and their families
- Consider the following themes: Prevention and Early Intervention, Out of Home Care, Restoration, and Whole of System

Next Meeting:

At the next meeting, the Steering Committee will continue to work on the Interim Report for Our Booris, Our Way, expected to be released late August 2018.

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.