

## Advisory Commission into the Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal Peoples in South Australia

### Progress Update December 2025

#### Address and eliminate racism

##### Recommendation 2

That, in accordance with recommendation 228 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, South Australia Police mandate comprehensive and ongoing training for police officers in the areas of:

- (a) cultural competence and unconscious bias, including systemic and institutional racism and intergenerational disadvantage of Aboriginal people
- (b) interaction between police and Aboriginal people, and
- (c) communication and consultation with Aboriginal communities regarding the de-escalation of youth offending.

Training should be tailored to the region and delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and / or Aboriginal Elders and community leaders.

The SA Police (SAPOL) Executive Leadership Team has participated in face-to-face cultural competency training, and a further education program is currently being developed.

SAPOL has engaged Iwiri Aboriginal Corporation to provide face-to-face training for members policing on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

SAPOL has mandatory online training for all employees. All cadets and Police Security Officers also receive half day face to face training delivered by the History Trust of South Australia on the impact of colonisation on First Nations peoples living in South Australia, from a historical and contemporary perspective with a focus on policing.

While SAPOL does not currently have face-to-face place-based training available to all members, the establishment of an enhanced capability First Nations Unit will consider this as a priority.

In addition to the ongoing training, SAPOL is working with an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCO) to develop face-to-face, Anangu-led place-based training for Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands staff. Once complete, an assessment will be made as to the transferability of the model (not content) to develop training for other areas across the state. Place-based training could then be developed and delivered in partnership with local Aboriginal communities. While this approach will take time to roll out, SAPOL is committed to ensuring face-to-face training is conducted by the right people in the right places and that the training delivers positive outcomes for both communities and police.

#### **Recommendation 4**

That the Department for Education, Catholic Education South Australia, and the Association of Independent Schools South Australia ensure more comprehensive education is provided in schools and kindergarten with respect to Aboriginal history and culture, as well as colonialism. This should include programs where Aboriginal Elders and community leaders educate Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people about Aboriginal culture, belief systems, values, traditions and customs.

The Department for Education (DE) implementation of the Australian Curriculum version 9 through the South Australian curriculum for public education is supporting teachers to include a deeper understanding of Australia's full history and cultural heritage in their teaching and learning practices. Schools began engaging with the adapted Curriculum during 2024 and are implementing it in a phased approach through to full adoption by the end of 2026.

DE is collaborating with South Australian Aboriginal Nations to develop teaching resources that provide rich learning for all students, showcasing Aboriginal knowledges and ways of knowing. Resources include short vignettes offering opportunities to hear from Aboriginal Knowledge Holders, who are sharing their knowledge directly, bringing them into all classrooms and enriching student learning with the endorsement of the relevant Nation Boards.

DE funds ACCOs through the Aboriginal Community Language and Culture Partnerships program to support language revival projects, develop resources, and build capacity for Aboriginal language owners to learn and teach their languages. There continues to be a notable increase in Aboriginal languages learning in South Australian government schools supported by the department's First Language Maintenance and Development program and Aboriginal Languages Programs Initiatives.

## Increase Accountability

### Recommendation 5

That the Government of South Australia identify and remove the systemic barriers that prevent or discourage Aboriginal people from accessing complaint mechanisms in the criminal justice system.

South Australian complaints bodies have been progressing work to ensure their complaints systems are accessible and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal peoples.

The Ombudsman SA Strategic Plan 2024-2026 includes a commitment to employ a First Nations Consultant to review First Nations engagement and identify opportunities to engage with First Nations communities.

To remove some of the systemic barriers which prevent Aboriginal peoples from accessing complaints mechanisms, Ombudsman SA is progressing a number of initiatives, including:

- Ensuring Ombudsman SA is responding robustly to complaints made by Aboriginal people, including by connecting complainants to interpreters, reviewing data and complaints made by Aboriginal complainants, and recognising the systemic issues Aboriginal people face in navigating the public sector when considering whether it is in the public interest to take action on/investigate a complaint.
- Engaging with Aboriginal communities to increase awareness of the services provided by Ombudsman SA, and to improve staff understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal peoples and communities.
- Increasing cultural awareness and understanding held by staff

Victims of Crime SA has engaged an Aboriginal project officer to develop culturally appropriate and accessible resources for Aboriginal victims of crime. Following stakeholder consultations, which highlighted that tailored resources would assist in removing some of the barriers to engagement with the criminal justice system, the project officer began creating tailored resources — including printed materials and a dedicated webpage on the Victims of Crime SA website—covering victims' rights and complaint mechanisms.

### Recommendation 8

That the Government of South Australia fund and establish through legislation an independent Aboriginal justice body to monitor, audit and maintain accountability of the Government of South Australia in relation to justice initiatives affecting Aboriginal people, including the recommendations contained within this report.

This body should also be responsible for:

- (a) monitoring the development and implementation of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement
- (b) commissioning a review into the implementation of:
  - i. the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody by an appropriately qualified person (including having sufficient cultural knowledge)
  - ii. the recommendations of previous coronial inquests following the death of an Aboriginal person in custody, and
- (c) commissioning a review into the existence and impact of racial bias and discrimination in the youth and adult criminal justice sectors.

In the 2023-24 State Budget, the Government committed \$737,000 to develop a South Australian Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA). The South Australian Justice Partnership Committee is overseeing the development of the AJA, with the support of an AJA Working Group with representatives from SA Government and ACCOs. It is expected the AJA will be complete in 2026 following extensive engagements with ACCOs and Aboriginal communities.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) is funded by SA Government to provide the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Service. One of the outcomes of that service is to monitor compliance with, and advocate for, the complete implementation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommendations. In 2024 and 2025, the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Service undertook a review into the implementation of a selection of recommendations. On 26 June 2025, ALRM released their report *Unfinished Business – Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*.

## Facilitate Self-determination and Leadership

### Recommendation 11

That the Government of South Australia provide secure, long-term funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to promote the self-determined delivery of culturally appropriate and safe services to Aboriginal people.

This outcome is primarily being progressed by government through its commitment to Priority Reform 2 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap – Building the Community Controlled Sector.

The 2025-26 State Budget includes \$5 million over three years for grants to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to support the development of governance, systems, infrastructure, workforce and/or capacity building in preparation for the delivery of identified government services for Aboriginal people and communities. This follows feedback from ACCOs that many need time and support to build up service specific capacity prior to tendering for a government contract.

The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) is working with SAACCON on how this Fund will work, including funding guidelines and processes.

DTF is also leading the development of an Aboriginal procurement strategy to address the barriers faced by Aboriginal organisations in participating in government procurement processes.

Further details on progress towards achieving Priority Reform 2, including actions from a range of government agencies are available in [South Australia's Annual Report on Closing the Gap for 2024-25](#).

**Recommendation 13**

That the Government of South Australia commission an independent review into the experiences of current and former Aboriginal employees of South Australia Police. This review should, at a minimum, identify barriers to the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal staff, as well as their progression into leadership positions. The review should propose ways to create a culturally safe and responsive working environment.

In 2024, SAPOL undertook a survey of all members, including a set of questions specifically seeking the experiences of First Nations members, in line with recommendation 13. Their responses have informed subsequent actions and focus by the First Nations Unit, and will continue to do so.

Through conversations with the State First Nations Voice to Parliament, SAPOL has committed to a review of Murray Bridge policing as an example of strong, positive community relationships and retention of frontline Aboriginal staff. Learnings from this review will inform future activities.

The Commissioner of Police has given in principle support to holding an Aboriginal staff forum. This will provide a face-to-face opportunity in 2026 for staff across all areas of SAPOL to contribute their knowledge and experience about what does (and doesn't) make SAPOL a good place for Aboriginal people to work and help define what a culturally responsive and safe SAPOL looks like for Aboriginal people. This forum will also contribute to Recommendation 14.

**Recommendation 14**

That the review undertaken in response to recommendation 13 also include the following:

- (a) identify current limitations to the use and role of Community Constables
- (b) identify opportunities to increase the scope, authority and use of Community Constables, including the involvement of Community Constables as either first responders or as being present to advise on policing approaches to actions such as enforcing warrants, conducting arrests and undertaking welfare checks
- (c) identify any barriers to career progression for Community Constables to become sworn Officers, and
- (d) identify appropriate structural governance for Community Constables within South Australia Police, including consideration of supervision by Aboriginal Commissioned Officers dedicated to community policing.

The *Community Constable Remuneration Determination 2022* increased the pay rates of community police to the same pay rate as police officers, recognising the cultural value of the community police role.

In 2024, SAPOL undertook a substantial examination of the high job vacancy rates in remote communities. Removing ongoing barriers to employment was identified as critical to increase employment opportunities for First Nations peoples. As a result, SAPOL implemented an enhanced Police Liaison Officer intake. This involved onboarding Public Sector employees, removing barriers with *Police Act 1998* appointments.

The position description and classification were reviewed and updated, a uniform developed, and a thorough Police Liaison Officer Induction Program facilitated. This led to successfully onboarding 5 new employees to remote Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara communities, one of whom now works in Yalata. Concurrently, a long serving liaison officer from Amata was onboarded and appointed as a Community Constable.

An extensive review of the Community Constable Development Program has been completed. The revised program has undergone internal review and peer review by experienced Community Constables and First Nations staff. Implementation is scheduled for 2026.

## Intervene Early

### Recommendation 16

That the Government of South Australia fund evidence-based programs to disrupt the relationship between children being placed in State care and the risk of contact with the criminal justice system. These programs should take a holistic approach to supporting the family unit as well as the child or young person, and be designed and delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides stewardship of the Child and Family Support System (CFSS) to keep children safe and well in their family, community, and culture. CFSS services are delivered by the DHS Safer Family Services directorate (SFS), and through a number of contracts with non-government organisations (NGOs) and ACCOs. At present, 29% of all funding provided to external services is going to ACCO providers. Services include:

*Tier 1: Out of home care prevention*

*Taikurtirna Tirra-apintheta* (Making Families Safer) delivered by KWY offers culturally responsive, family focused and intensive case management support. The program aims to prevent the out of home care of Aboriginal children who are at imminent risk of entering the statutory child protection system.

*Tier 2: Intensive Family Services (IFS)*

KWY and AFSS are funded to deliver high intensity evidence informed supports to families with multiple and complex needs with child/ren aged 0-18 years who are identified as high to very high risk of entering the statutory child protection system.

*Tier 3: Family Support Services.*

KWY, AFSS and Nunkuwarrin Yunti are funded under the Strong Families Strong Communities program to provide lower intensity case management to families where there are lower to medium level child safety concerns. KWY additionally delivers a peer-to-peer Strong Families Strong Communities program that includes community led group work and case management.

DHS is also seeking to establish a new family support service for young, first-time parents of Aboriginal children in a small, defined service region in South Australia. It will aim to prevent the removal of Aboriginal infants and provide support for families from pre-birth to their child becoming two years of age. The service will be delivered by an ACCO or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO).

Additional to these services, DHS provides contract management oversight of the GoActive Family Support Program delivered Second Chances SA. Program funding is provided by DHS, the Department for Education and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The program is targeted to children and families of incarcerated people and provides home visits, school uniform packages, support, advocacy, and agency referrals with the goal of strengthening families and diverting children and families from the justice system. Reported outcomes include advancement of education and skill development goals, improved family functioning, improved connections to community supports and no contact with the justice system. Last financial year, the program worked with 15 Aboriginal clients (27%) with the majority of these young people being between the ages of 15 to 19 years old (35%).

As part of delivering culturally responsive family support and family preservation services, DHS Safer Family Services (SFS) has established a range of safeguards, including:

- SFS Intensive Family Services Cultural Governance across SFS practice to support the SFS workforce to assertively engage in a culturally appropriate way to increase the safety and wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people.
- SFS Aboriginal Cultural Practice Framework, launched in February 2023, continues to be embedded through SFS practice along with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles.
- With the support of Aboriginal practitioners, SFS focus on developing case planning with the voice of the Aboriginal family members captured within the case planning documents, using the caregivers voice rather than jargon to better capture the families' decision making.

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) is pursuing transformational reform to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in care, which is critical to disrupting this cohort's likelihood of future contact with the criminal justice system. Newly passed legislation, the *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025*, is repositioning the child protection system to deliver culturally specific, holistic support services. Specifically, DCP are delivering the following initiatives:

- Funding and expanding the use of ACCO-run Family Group Conferencing services to offer a pathway for families to engage in family-led decision making to achieve safety for a child or young person;
- Enabling the delegation of decision-making powers and service provision to the ACCO sector, acknowledging that best outcomes are achieved through processes rooted in principles of family-led decision making and self-determination;
- Co-designing a robust ACCO Procurement and Investment Strategy to build the capacity of the sector in support of future opportunities for service delivery;
- Undertaking family scoping through the Finding Families program to explore family-based care options for children and young people in residential care placements; and
- Creating a dedicated Dual Involved Practice Lead position to improve outcomes for children and young people involved in both the child protection and youth justice systems.

The sum of these efforts aim to disrupt the nexus between those with a care experience and their likelihood of future contact with the adult criminal justice system. These activities

continue to be co-designed and implemented in partnership with Aboriginal peak bodies, the ACCO sector, and community to ensure approaches are culturally informed.

### **Recommendation 18**

That the Government of South Australia fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to develop and implement health and behavioural intervention programs and support services for young people under 14 years of age who display offending behaviours, or behaviour associated with needs not being met, and their family members.

The 2025-26 State Budget included \$715,000 per annum to continue the Child Diversion Program (CDP), which diverts Aboriginal children aged between 10-14 years who have been charged with a minor offence away from a custodial environment with appropriate supports. This may include short-term accommodation where no other suitable bail option has been identified. This allows for further family scoping to support the young person to be placed back with family or kin with a wraparound case management service.

The CDP model uses an evidence-informed approach, focusing on Aboriginal methodologies and culturally-centred approaches to engagement. These include Aboriginal family-led decision making, relationship-based practice and kinship and family mapping which are complemented by culturally responsive programs and services provided by DHS Aboriginal Practice and Partnerships. As of 30 June 2025, 63 children have participated in CDP.

DHS and the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) have established South Australia's Youth Justice Working Group (YJWG), a partnership that will further focus efforts to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system. The Terms of Reference task the YJWG with the development and review of specific measures to address Closing the Gap Target 11, including the development and review of specific measures to reduce the significant overrepresentation of Aboriginal children aged 10-13 in the criminal justice system.

## Support and Rehabilitate

### Recommendation 19

That the Government of South Australia provide funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to design and deliver culturally responsive support and rehabilitative programs to Aboriginal people on remand.

The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) will receive \$600,000 (GST exclusive) from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2026 to provide an overall uplift in Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) support services, specifically through expanding delivery from the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council and OARS Community Transitions.

The Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council continues to deliver culturally appropriate AOD support to Aboriginal people in a variety of custodial settings (including prisons, remand, the community) and locations (including metropolitan and regional).

### Recommendation 20

That the Government of South Australia provide funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to establish bail accommodation options, at a minimum in Adelaide and Port Augusta. The services must also link clients to drug and alcohol support services.

### Recommendation 22

That the Government of South Australia provide funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to provide case management, culturally appropriate supervision and wraparound supports for Aboriginal people on conditional release.

Lemongrass Place in Port Augusta is a culturally specific accommodation service delivered by DCS in partnership with the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council. It provides residential services which support participants to build their skills and capacity to transition back to the community and engage with education and employment opportunities.

The 2025-26 State Budget included \$500 000 in 2025-26 and 2026-27, increasing to \$3.5 million per annum from 2027-28 to establish and implement an additional 30 bed Bail Accommodation Support Program which will create a remand to bail pathway. This will provide participants with case management to transition to longer-term housing, increasing their likelihood of meeting their bail conditions, maintain links to services in the community, reduce recidivism and contribute to the Closing the Gap targets.

The Department has partnered with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation InComPro Aboriginal Corporation, to deliver programs 1 and 2 of Yalakiana Tapa suite.

- *Program 1 - Marni Tapa*: a service that delivers culturally responsive case management and rehabilitation support to Aboriginal men and women released from custody to bail. The mentoring and support service assists Aboriginal men and women to understand and comply with their bail conditions, identify and address their support and rehabilitation needs and reconnect with family, community, and culture. After joining the program, clients work with Marni Tapa Mentors and a Case Manager to develop a case plan that helps them to meet their bail conditions. The case plan also reflects the client's own personal goals that contribute towards their recovery and rehabilitation and areas of their lives they would like to improve.
- *Program 2 - Wardli-ana Tapa*: an Aboriginal cultural healing program that provides intensive case management bail support and short-term accommodation in the northern metropolitan region.

Both Marni Tapa and Wardli-ana Tapa were co-designed with DCS and InComPro Aboriginal Corporation.

In 2026, the Department will work with an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation to co-design and deliver program 3 of Yalakiana Tapa, a residential treatment program for people requiring intensive drug and alcohol services.

### **Recommendation 23**

That South Australia Police ensure the provision of mental health awareness training for new and current police officers so that they can recognise the symptoms of, and appropriately respond to, a person experiencing an acute mental episode or crisis.

SAPOL's Constable Development Program includes 13 lessons with a mental health focus, including but not limited to: Crisis Behaviours, Stress, Intellectual Disability, Mental Illness, Suicidal Behaviours, Anti-Social Behaviours and Responding to Victims of Sexual Assault.

**Recommendation 24**

That the Department for Health and Wellbeing and South Australia Police evaluate the Mental Health Co-Response Program to ensure it meets the needs of, and improves outcomes for, Aboriginal people. If found to be effective, the program should be expanded to other regions of the state.

The 2025-26 State Budget included \$13.9 million over five years to support the continuation of the Mental Health Co-Responder Program in northern and central metropolitan Adelaide and expand the program to southern Adelaide. The Mental Health Co-Responder Program complements the public mental health services already in place for children, adolescents, adults and older people in South Australia. Patients can undergo a specialised mental health clinical assessment and when needed follow-up referrals are made, connecting consumers with community-based mental health services and reducing the potential of a police callout in the future.

**Recommendation 26**

That the Government of South Australia fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to design, develop and deliver a service that provides culturally responsive trauma and victimisation supports to Aboriginal women, regardless of whether they have been convicted of an offence or are currently in custody.

In 2023-24, SAACCON was funded to scope the need for, and design, a service model to support Aboriginal women who are victims of crime. The final report of this project was delivered to government in July 2025 and is being considered.

**Recommendation 27**

That adequate funding be provided to an appropriate Aboriginal legal service, such as the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA), to provide support and legal advice to Aboriginal women experiencing domestic and family violence.

The National Access to Justice Partnership (2025-2030) provides an uplift and commitment of ongoing funding for the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation.

## Reform service responses

### Recommendation 29

That the Government of South Australia provide funding for a Nunga Court to sit frequently and consistently in regional areas, starting with Port Augusta and the APY Lands.

Nunga Courts now operate at the following regional locations at the following frequencies:

- Murray Bridge Nunga Court – five sittings per year
- Yalata Anangu Court – five sittings per year
- Narungga Court (Maitland) – up to five sittings per year
- Boodliridi Court (Port Lincoln) – nine sittings per year

### Recommendation 30

That the Government of South Australia expand the number of Aboriginal Community Courts to increase the participation of Aboriginal people in culturally responsive court diversionary programs.

In 2023, the Courts Administration Authority established the Youth Aboriginal Community Court in Adelaide, which enables Aboriginal children and young people to participate in a culturally responsive program that aims to disrupt escalation points in a young person's offending, address trauma and criminogenic needs, implement protective factors and divert young people from further offending.

Funding to establish a Youth Aboriginal Community Court in Port Augusta has been approved to be co-funded by the Attorney-General's Department and NIAA, as part of the Port Augusta Safety and Wellbeing Commonwealth-State funding partnership. The Port Augusta Youth Aboriginal Community Court is expected to commence hearings in March 2026.

**Recommendation 35**

That the Government of South Australia amend the *Bail Act 1985 (SA)* to:

- (a) remove presumptions against bail which disproportionately impact Aboriginal people
- (b) prescribe that accommodation, in isolation of other factors, should not be a requirement for the granting of bail
- (c) mandate that a bail authority must take into account an Aboriginal person's individual and cultural history, including consideration of family, community and social impacts of a person being remanded to custody, such as the risk of their children entering the child protection system, and
- (d) decriminalise technical and administrative breaches of bail.

The Attorney-General has referred a review of the *Bail Act 1995* to the South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI). The wide-ranging review of the operation of the Bail Act will assess its operation and role in the criminal justice system, and examine if it is balancing the rights of an accused with the safety of the community. SALRI have announced that public consultation will take place in late 2025 and will include considerable engagement “with a wide range of views and perspectives, including with regional and Indigenous communities.” The SALRI report is expected to be published in 2026.

**Recommendation 36**

That the Government of South Australia, in partnership with Aboriginal community, investigate and implement culturally responsive environments within prisons to support Aboriginal peoples' connection to culture.

**Recommendation 37**

That the Government of South Australia provide funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and / or Aboriginal Elders and community leaders to deliver cultural programs in prison.

The Mirnu Aboriginal Cultural Treatment Unit located at Yatala Labour Prison provides intensive cultural support and intervention for individuals on remand, parole, or under extended supervision order breaches.

The unit assists Aboriginal men to create pathways from the justice system and will strengthen wellbeing that is built upon resilience, positive cultural identity and strong connections to kinship and community. DCS Aboriginal Services Directorate staff tailor and deliver programs facilitated across a 12-week period in partnership with the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, Ku Arts and Tauondi Aboriginal College. This unit has been operating since May 2024.

Yatala Labour Prison is currently redeveloping its old visits centre and holding cells into a centre, which includes a purpose-built Cultural Centre as part of the overall scope.

DCS is also investing \$4.6 million over four years to secure and fit out a new Port Augusta Community Corrections Centre. The new facility will support access to culturally appropriate rehabilitation and reintegration spaces for Aboriginal offenders. Consultation is occurring with community to support culturally appropriate spaces within the new Community Corrections Centre.

DCS received \$945,000 over three years for the provision of Aboriginal cultural programs for Aboriginal men and women in South Australian prisons and under DCS community supervision. DCS has partnered with Ku Arts, Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation and National Indigenous Network Initiative to deliver a suite of cultural programs to Aboriginal people.

DCS have reviewed the Aboriginal Elders and Respected Leaders Program which is a program that will provide cultural support and guidance to Aboriginal prisoners in a culturally appropriate manner. The program seeks to strengthen/re-establish prisoner's connections to family and community.

To initiate this review, funding provided by the Attorney-General's Department was utilised to engage an FTE at 0.8 to undertake the review and then implementation of the program.

The program will be fully implemented in the first half of 2026 across the 8 prisons sites within the state.

**Recommendation 39**

That the Government of South Australia fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to establish and operate appropriately located culturally responsive environments for Aboriginal offenders, based on the Indigenous healing lodge model in Canada.

DCS is partnering with ACCOs to deliver *Wardli-ana Tapa*, an Aboriginal cultural healing program/healing lodge that provides intensive case management bail support and short-term accommodation in the northern metropolitan region.

**Recommendation 41**

That adequate funding be provided to Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to perform a state-wide legal representation and advocacy service that includes supporting Aboriginal people to access and engage with the various criminal justice complaint mechanisms.

The National Access to Justice Partnership (2025-2030) provides an uplift and commitment of ongoing funding for the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to deliver specialist legal services and the Custody Notification Service.

The 2025-26 State Budget included increased funding to continue the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Service and expand the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme.