Aboriginal Advisory Committee

Call for membership – information sheet

Purpose

Rural Health West is establishing an Aboriginal Advisory Committee to strengthen our commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations across WA.

Rural Health West is a not for profit organisation, committed to supporting the health workforce in WA, with a specific focus on rural, remote and priority locations, to ensure communities have access to the health services they need.

The aim of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee is to provide expertise and advice to Rural Health West to ensure that Rural Health West can deliver on Strategic Priority two in the [2025-2030 Strategic Plan](https://ruralhealthwest.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Strategic-Plan-2025-2030_website.pdf): partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee will provide expertise and advocate for Aboriginal people and communities in relation to Rural Health West business activities.

Principal Functions

* Strengthen the Aboriginal cultural capacity and diversity of Rural Health West;
* Support Rural Health West in the development of new and existing relationships with ACCOs, to explore strategies for increasing Aboriginal governance of health programs targeting Aboriginal people;
* Support Rural Health West in strengthening the health workforce that serve Aboriginal people and their communities, including the ACCO workforce;
* Strengthen Rural Health West’s commitment to reducing the disparity in health outcomes for Aboriginal people in WA; and
* Advise Rural Health West Board and Executive to inform and guide the development of culturally appropriate policies and programs at Rural Health West.

Aboriginal practices will be integrated into our meetings. This will involve taking time to reconnect, practising deep listening, engaging in respectful discussions, sharing stories, making informed decisions, asking respectful questions, ensuring everyone has a voice, and fostering trust and respect **Governance**

**Scope:** The Aboriginal Advisory Committee will report directly to the Rural Health West CEO and indirectly to the Rural Health West Board through the Advisory Committee Chairperson.

The Advisory Committee will provide an advisory role to Rural Health West to inform business activities, however will not have decision making authority for Rural Health West business activities.

**Membership:** the Aboriginal Advisory Committee will be led by Dr Stephanie Trust, Gidja/Walmajarri Woman and former Rural Health West Board Director, as the inaugural Chairperson. Acknowledging the diversity across WA, membership representation from each of the regions, including the Metropolitan will be sought.

Aboriginality is a genuine occupational requirement for these positions within the meaning of Section 50(d) of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 WA.

It is an essential requirement that nominees for the Aboriginal Advisory Committee are Aboriginal, have a strong connection with country and an understanding of the health workforce needs for regional and remote Western Australia.

**Frequency of meetings:** four meetings will be held each calendar year, with one meeting held in person in Perth. The remaining three meetings will be held online. Note, in the first year there will be two in person meetings held to align with Rural Health West conferences (March and August 2026). Reasonable costs of travel will be covered by Rural Health West to attend in person meetings.

**Renumeration:** the Chairperson and members will be renumerated for their time. Members will be allocated a sitting fee for each meeting attended.

**Nomination process:** The Aboriginal Advisory Committee membership positions will be promoted through targeted communications to key stakeholders, such as ACCOs. Interested members will need to complete a nomination form and submit to Rural Health West by COB 24 October 2025.

Nominations will be reviewed by a panel, and a recommendation to the Rural Health West Board for endorsement will be sought. Aboriginal Advisory Committee members will be appointed for a minimum of two years, with an option to re-apply for an additional term.

For more information on the Rural Health West Aboriginal Advisory Committee, please contact:

* Dr [Stephanie Trust](mailto:stephanie.trust@gmail.com) (Chairperson, Aboriginal Advisory Committee) | M: 0400 244 221 E: strust@wunanhealth.org.au
* Professor [Catherine Elliott](mailto:catherine.elliott@ruralhw.com.au) (Chief Executive Officer, Rural Health West) | M: 0416 246 627 E : catherine.elliott@ruralhw.com.au

**To request a nomination form, please contact** [aac@ruralhw.com.au](mailto:aac@ruralhw.com.au)