**Communique – Meeting 8 (7 May 2021)**

The eighth meeting of the Implementation Group was hosted by Ms Emma Truman at the Family Inclusion Network Western Australia. The meeting was held on the
7 May after being rescheduled from 30 April due to members availability. Emma provided an Acknowledgement of Country and opened the meeting which was attended by Mr William Hayward (Co-Chair), Ms Rekisha Eades, Ms Glenda Kickett, Ms Corina Martin, Mr Jonathon Reid, Mr Damien Parriman, Mr Glenn Pearson, and Mr Keiran Dent.

On 5 May Mr William Hayward accompanied Minister Simone McGurk to Geraldton for the announcement of the Midwest-Gascoyne as the chosen regional pilot site and gave a recap of the day. Mr Hayward reiterated the impact of the cyclone on the Midwest-Gascoyne area. Members acknowledged that the region is in recovery and emphasised the devastation inflicted on the communities of Kalbarri and Northampton.

The Implementation Group took time to recognise the role of women in lobbying during the 1970s and in the development of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle which was established in 1984 in response to the Stolen Generation.

The Implementation Group agreed that there should be a community information session in the Midwest-Gascoyne region to inform and update community about opportunities for the sector and how the AFLDM pilot will provide a greater level of self-determination within the community.

The Implementation Group are nearing the end of the pre-pilot phase in developing the pilot approach. Advertising for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations who will manage the convenors of the program is on track for June 2021. The information will be available on TendersWA.

The future governance of the pilot will expand to a local level group and the Department of Communities will engage an operational group to oversee the implementation of the pilot in the Districts. The composition of the operational group was discussed in the meeting and it was determined that the Implementation Group will continue to provide oversight throughout the pilot. The group agreed this will be a standing agenda item for future meetings.

Members recommended a full day workshop on the 4 June to explore the practice guidance of the program and further consider how AFLDM will be developed for a Western Australia. Members requested Mark Burgess, Caretaker, Specialist Child Protection Unit and Patrick Ryder, Aboriginal Practice Leader to facilitate the day.

The Implementation group is still to consider recommendations on the trainer approach for AFLDM. Mel Brown from Spirit Dreaming will present to the next meeting scheduled for 21 May to provide further insight into training of the convenors in the Family Group Conferencing model.