

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal-led independent advisory panel

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Improved outcomes for Aboriginal people only occur when real decision-making power, agency and control is vested within the community, and the decision-making processes reflect Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, and doing. In 2017 the Department of Health and Human Services established the Aboriginal Governance and Accountability Framework. The framework aims to:

- embed Aboriginal leadership and decision making at all levels of the department
- strengthen accountability and transparency to the Aboriginal community
- engage and promote the diversity of Aboriginal voices – particularly from local communities.

The governance, policy and program environment across the health and human services portfolio has shifted significantly since 2017 when the Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum and the Koorie Caucus were first established.

Aboriginal voice, as heard through the state-wide and divisional structures of the Aboriginal Governance and Accountability Framework (AGAF), have raised the need for a review. The independence of this review will be overseen by an Aboriginal led independent advisory panel (the advisory panel).

The review will explore the extent to which the structures within the AGAF operate effectively in a government environment, where they can influence funding decisions and requirements for service delivery and maximise self-determination.

It will deliver recommendations that:

- support the alignment of the AGAF review with the evaluation of *Korin Korin Balit-Djak: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017-2027* (KKBD) and the development and implementation of the KKBD system transformation strategy
- support governance solutions that will enable Aboriginal community controlled organisations (ACCOs) to operate effectively and through this, support improved outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians
- deliver a stronger form of self-determination using modern evidence-based principles of best practice within a changing environment.

The Aboriginal led independent advisory panel will oversee the AGAF review scope, structure, data and evidence collection requirements, and implementation of the review.

The panel will report an outline of early findings to Koorie Caucus and provide an endorsed report to the Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). Supported by a project team, the advisory panel will consist of three members (one of which will be the chair) and will be established in February 2021. The advisory panel will complete its role by April 2021. Employees of DFFH are not eligible to apply.

Role and scope

The advisory panel will oversee the conduct of the review, including adherence to the following endorsed principles that will guide all work:

- be transparent
- respect Aboriginal culture and community protocols

- hear every voice
- be Aboriginal led
- support learning and innovation
- hold purpose at the forefront.

Specifically, the responsibilities of the panel are to:

- develop the AGAF review scope, structure (including any preliminary or interim reports) and evidence collection requirements
- review evidence to closely monitor the objects of the AGAF and its review
- provide the Koorie Caucus with a draft outline of early findings and an endorsed review to the Secretary

Period of appointment and expected time commitment

The duration of appointment will be from March 2021 to May 2021. Advisory panel members will be required to meet online for one hour, up to six times prior to the end of May 2021. Meeting dates and times are to be determined.

Conditions and remuneration

The chair will be remunerated with \$237.75 per meeting (plus 9% superannuation) and panel members \$184.75 per meeting (plus 9% superannuation) for providing independent advice. Reasonable expenses will also be covered for both the chair and panel members.

Expertise and experience preferred

Are you

- An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person with experience in governance?
- Action-oriented and keen to get the job done?
- A good communicator who can talk and negotiate with different types of people?
- Community minded?

Do you have

- An evaluation, research and/or data knowledge background (desirable)?
- Expertise and/or experience in governance and government administration (desirable)?

Please note this expression of interest is open to all Aboriginal people including (but not limited to) those in the tertiary education sector, other government departments and Aboriginal consultants. Employees of DFFH are not eligible to apply.

Selection process

Applications will be reviewed in confidence. Shortlisting and panel selection will be led by Koorie Caucus of the Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum.

How to apply and further information

If you would like to express interest in becoming a panel member or if you would like to find out more information, contact the Aboriginal Strategy and Oversight Branch at Aboriginalstrategyandoversight@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Applications close midnight Tuesday 16 March 2021.

If you have a disability, and require advice and support with the recruitment process, please contact our Diversity Unit on DiversityInclusion@dhhs.vic.gov.au.

Special Condition: Only Indigenous Australians are eligible to apply under the Special Measure Provision, Section 12 (1) of the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic). Elders are encouraged to express interest.