



**The Hon Roger Cook MLA
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health; Mental Health**

PERTH CORONERS COURT

- 6 JUN 2019

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Our Ref: 60-17306

Ms Ros Fogliani
State Coroner
Office of the State Coroner
Level 10, Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Fogliani

**STATE GOVERNMENT'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO ABORIGINAL YOUTH
SUICIDE REPORTS**

I bring to your attention the Western Australian Government's preliminary response to the recommendations of your 'Inquest into the 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region', handed down on 7 February 2019.

The Government's attached 'Statement of Intent on Aboriginal youth suicide' outlines the Government's preliminary response to each of your recommendations, as well as those of the former Education and Health Standing Committee's 2016 report *Learnings from the Message Stick: the report of the Inquiry into Aboriginal youth suicide in remote areas*.

The Statement of Intent indicates that the Government accepts, accepts in principle, or has already commenced implementing, the majority of the recommendations.

I would ask you to note the Government's acceptance of Recommendation 42 and emphasise that we will continue to work towards establishing genuine partnerships with Aboriginal people, and ensuring that Aboriginal organisations and communities are active participants in the development of policies and programs that affect them.

Over the coming months we will be working with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal organisations and peak bodies, to consider further how your recommendations can be addressed.

Following this engagement process, I expect that a comprehensive whole-of-government response to Aboriginal youth wellbeing will be published, which outlines a range of proposed State Government actions, initiatives and partnerships.

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Hon Bill Johnston MLA
Acting Minister for Health; Mental Health

30 MAY 2019