# The Guiding Principles are now reaching local communities across the state

**Grandmothers Against Removal (GMAR) NSW have toured the state to promote the Guiding Principles to local communities and FACS districts.**

Throughout November GMAR NSW held meetings with various communities and FACS districts to promote the *Guiding Principles*, discuss establishing Local Advisory Groups (LAGs) and to learn from communities who have made progress in this area. These included:

* Dubbo (Western NSW) on 1 November 2016
* Ballina (Northern NSW) on 10 November 2016
* Macksville/Kempsey (Mid North Coast) on 11 November 2016
* Wyong (Central Coast) on 14 November 2016
* Mount Druitt (Western Sydney) on 15 November 2016

While meeting with equivalent FACS Executive District Directors, GMAR NSW’s and community members were able to discuss local community priorities regarding early intervention and child protection.

GMAR NSW reported back on these meetings to the Guiding Principles Yarning Circle (GPYC), held on 15 November at AbSec in Marrickville.

Other key outcomes from the November GPYC meeting included discussion on:

* What data would assist community, GPYC and FACS to monitor implementation of the Guiding Principles?
* The need to provide support, training and resources to community when establishing LAG’s.
* Clarification on the role of local GMAR Groups and LAGs.
* The next areas prioritised for meetings are:
* Nowra (Illawarra Shoalhaven)
* Coonabarabran (Western NSW)
* Moree (Hunter New England)

The next scheduled GPYC meeting will be held at the NSW Ombudsman’s Office on 14 December 2016.

More information:

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