# The Guiding Principles Yarning Circle rolls out Local Advisory Group Development Workshop

**Moree hosted the February 2017 Guiding Principles Yarning Circle (GPYC) meeting and the focus is on supporting the establishment of Local Advisory Groups.**

The GPYC held its first meeting for 2017 at the Aboriginal Legal Service in Moree, where it discussed the next steps in supporting local communities to establish Local Advisory Groups (LAGs) under the *Guiding Principles,* by hosting a LAG Development Workshop in Newcastle over two days, 6 and 7 April 2017.

Throughout November and December 2017, GMAR NSW held meetings with various communities and FACS districts to promote the *Guiding Principles*, to discuss establishing Local Advisory Groups (LAGs) and to learn from communities who have made progress in this area. Communities visited 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
* Moree (Hunter New England) on 8 December 2016
* Nowra (Illawarra/Shoalhaven) on 15 December 2016

The LAG Development Workshop is to enable all stakeholders (community members, Aboriginal service providers and FACS staff) from areas previously visited by GMAR NSW, to meet, discuss and plan for establishing a LAG in their communities.

The Workshop will also include opportunities for attendees to plan for establishing a working group, identifying members, and preparing for the first LAG meeting. Optional resources to support the local community in establishing a LAG will be provided and each LAG will determine what resources they will use.

GPYC members from GMAR NSW, AbSec, the NSW Ombudsman’s Office, Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS), and FACS will also be part of a panel discussion on “Working Together to Support Aboriginal Families”.

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

* Legal advice in relation to seeking parental consent
* Communicating and rolling out across the state the change in Delegations for key decisions related to Aboriginal children and young people
* Review of the Aboriginal Children and Young People Project.

Following the February 2017 meeting, further GPYC meetings will be on a bi-monthly basis.

More information:

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