

Western Region Commander, NSW Police Force

1. With regard to Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee (PACC) meetings in the Western Region:

a. How frequently do the PACCs meet and who participates?

In most places, PACCs are held quarterly. PACCs are also held at the request of the community and therefore may be held every 6mths.

The responsibility to hold PACCs rests with the AEO (at Insp level) who is present along with the ACLO and some meetings are attended by Commanders. PACCs are attended by members of the Aboriginal community and some Aboriginal organisations (place-based).

We have had a LECC Aboriginal Liaison Officer attend a meeting (whether this was in his personal capacity, is unknown).

b. How are the meetings advertised to Aboriginal community members?

Social media including Facebook, through ACLOs & AEOs within community, some areas have created posters for display within the Police Station.

c. In what ways are PACCs improving police engagement with Aboriginal communities?

- PACCs provide a genuine forum for community to raise matters that are important and specific to them. As AEOs are responsible for the meetings, communities are able to raise matters directly with senior police (AEOs at Inspector level). One of the key learnings from Uplift (Supt Tanner and Will Green attending various regional communities to learn what mattered to them) was visibility and access to senior police. PACCs provide this community need.
- PACCs allow the community and police to develop mutually respectful relationships where those relationships are drawn on in good and bad times.
- PACC meetings provide a platform for Police to educate the community on important and relevant information. For example, the newly legislated Coercive Control offence which commenced on 1 July 2024. A communication plan was developed to deliver a specialised abridged version of the Coercive Control training package to the Police and Aboriginal Consultative Committees across the state. All training was recorded on the Engage register.

2. With regard to Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) positions:

a. How many ACLOs are employed across the Western Region?

b. What are the ACLOs' core responsibilities?

Key Accountabilities

- Maintain high visibility across all Aboriginal Communities within NSW including local Aboriginal people within the Command.
- Assist and provide support to community groups regarding crime prevention and preventative youth programs relevant to policing to reduce crime and build partnerships.
- Promote the role, purpose, and responsibilities of the ACLO and the ASD to the Aboriginal and wider community.
- Assist in establishing and maintaining Aboriginal support groups to provide support to Aboriginal persons in custody or victims of crime.
- Encourage Aboriginal communities to work with police to address issues involving crime, violence, and work together towards 'Close the Gap' targets and Aboriginal disadvantage within policing environments.

Key Challenges

- In conjunction with the Education Development Officer (EDO), assist in the development and the delivery of localised Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training.
- In conjunction with the Aboriginal Engagement Officer (AEO) assist with local induction of new staff into the PAC & PD The key challenges for ACLOs are:
 - Balancing police and community interests, whilst managing competing expectations from communities and police as to the ACLO role responsibilities
 - Addressing conflicts of interest with the Aboriginal community whilst maintaining integrity and ethical conduct to best meet community expectations and meet operational needs, and
 - Building relationships and trust within Aboriginal communities and within Commands to increase awareness and understanding of the ACLO role and its benefits to the community and policing.

c. How is the NSWPF measuring the success/impact of the ACLO program?

Various measures - Community feedback, place-based PAC/PD taskings, requests for specialist area and PAC/PD deployments, requests for community deployments, my performance measures, pmes surveys, PACC feedback. Because each area has its unique set of place-based issues and ACLOs are required to respond according to those needs, there is no one measure of assessment but many.

3. Could you please provide an overview of youth engagement programs delivered by police in the Western region?

186/864 – Aboriginal CtG Target 11 ‘Youth’ related engagements recorded on ENGAGE system in Western Region.

a. What impact are these youth engagement programs having?

The engage system has a purpose-built evaluation workflow to enable the recording and oversight of ASD funded engagement evaluations. Feedback from engagement participants informs the effectiveness of current and future engagements to ensure the aims of programs are being met.

b. Are police adequately resourced to deliver these youth engagement programs on an ongoing basis?

ASD Grant funding per ann is \$150k.

4. How did the Yindymarra Buwana program come about, and how many young people do you expect will participate over the life cycle of the program?

This is a Youth Command Program ran by Sgt Tanya Oliver.