



# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN COURTS AND TRIBUNALS RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

We, the heads of jurisdiction of Western Australian courts and tribunals, acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first Australians and the Aboriginal peoples of Western Australia as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work.

We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their Elders, past, present and future. We respect and celebrate the diverse languages, cultures and spiritual connection to the land, seas, sky and waterways of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge, with regret, that, over the course of our shared history, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have faced significant barriers to justice in our courts and tribunals, whether as parties to civil proceedings, witnesses, victims of crime or accused persons in criminal proceedings.

We acknowledge, with regret, that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to be over-represented in the criminal justice system and face obstacles in pursuing their rights in a variety of other ways in our justice system as a whole.

We acknowledge, with regret, that negative experiences within our courts and tribunals on the part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have contributed to mistrust and a lack of confidence in the justice system.

We recognise that our justice system can only truly be said to be fair and just, when it is fair and just for all people. We accept that it is our responsibility to create and foster trust and confidence in our justice system on the part of everyone in our community.

We therefore commit ourselves, and the courts and tribunals to which we belong, to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia to improve access to court and tribunal services across the State, to ensure that Western Australian courts and tribunals are culturally sensitive and culturally safe, and to foster mutually respectful relationships between our courts and tribunals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Hon Justice Peter Quinlan  
*Chief Justice of Western Australia*

The Hon Justice Gail Sutherland  
*Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia*

The Hon Justice Janine Pritchard  
*President of the State Administrative Tribunal*

Her Honour Judge Julie Wager  
*Chief Judge of the District Court of Western Australia*

His Honour Judge Hylton Quail  
*President of the Children's Court of Western Australia*

His Honour Magistrate Steven Heath  
*Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court of Western Australia*

State Coroner Ros Fogliani  
*Coroners Court of Western Australia*

On This Day 29 May 2023

