

Election Scorecard Response in Full from the WA Liberal National parties (on behalf of Zak Kirkup, Leader – WA Liberals)

Treaty

I certainly welcome the Noongar settlement agreement, in fact, I was personally involved in its development in my previous role as a government adviser.

Much of the negotiations occurred under the Liberal Government and we passed through parliament the Noongar (Koorah, Nitja, Boordahwan) (Past, Present, Future) Recognition Act 2016 and Land Administration (South West Native Title Settlement) Act 2016.

We will continue to negotiate in good faith in a manner consistent with the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Closing the Gap

As a person of Aboriginal heritage I am deeply committed to addressing the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to closing the gap.

Consistent with the Closing the Gap priority areas:

- We are committed to building genuine partnerships between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including building and strengthening the structures that empower effective decision-making.
- This includes building strong community-controlled organisations that support closing the gap.
- I will direct the Department of Premier and Cabinet to develop and coordinate a reform program across all government agencies and businesses to ensure they understand what is happening in Western Australian communities and the issues and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- As part of this reform, the Department of Premier and Cabinet will be responsible for developing localised community level data and information for communities and agencies to achieve the priority areas of closing the gap.

I am also passionate about addressing youth suicide. I was appalled with the State Coroner's findings in *the Inquest into the 13 Deaths of Children and Young Persons in the Kimberley Region* and I have been fighting in the parliament, and will continue to fight, for these issues to be addressed.

Justice

My priority is to deliver policies that prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from entering the criminal justice system. For those that do enter the system we are focused on a fairer approach, and a good example is our \$8.2 million Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy.

This will include a three-year trial for an on-country juvenile justice and diversion program located in the Kimberley. This will be delivered by a locally based non-profit organisation in

conjunction with TAFE, Department of Education and Department of Justice. It will incorporate work training and skills development and be an option for the courts as an alternative to incarceration in Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre.

The strategy will also focus on:

- Funding for night patrols in communities which seek these services
- Place-based grants to fund safe place activities
- The current suite of services being offered by non-government and government agencies
- Transparent and routine status reporting
- Pathways for young offenders that provide a graduated approach to justice
- Locally based input and solutions to penalties and rehabilitation
- Emergency accommodation where kids are at risk and on the streets
- The role of sports and other programs for youth diversion
- The role of schools and job training to ensure young people have hope for success
- The role of the Courts, Police and other office bearers to intervene before young people are sentenced.

Housing

It is unfortunate that the McGowan Labor Government sold off over 1,000 public houses that has led to a chronic homelessness crisis here in WA.

We have committed to provide over 500 emergency accommodation beds in the first 6 months and an additional 4,600 beds in the next five years, almost double what WA Labor has committed.

Heritage Protection

The terrible events at Juukan Gorge are profoundly disturbing to all of us.

We support a balanced approach to improving heritage legislation to protect our important cultural heritage and commit to work closely with WA Labor to deliver new legislation that strikes the right balance between creating jobs and the tightest safeguards to protect our cultural heritage.

Other

Our Aboriginal Affairs policy will be released shortly with specific initiatives that will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.