

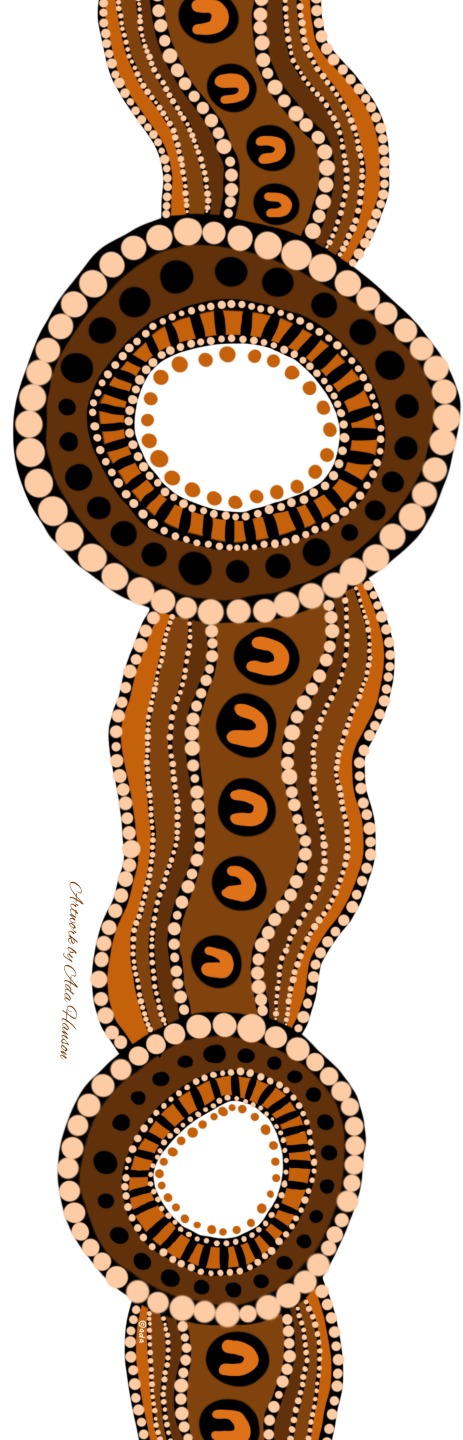
Language Rejuvenation and WA State Aboriginal Language Policy

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Wangka kanyira ngalipirniku
PRESERVING OUR LANGUAGES FOR ALL OF US

WA State Aboriginal Languages Policy



Artwork by Chela Alaman



National Policy

1987 National Policy on Languages

2009 National Indigenous Languages Policy

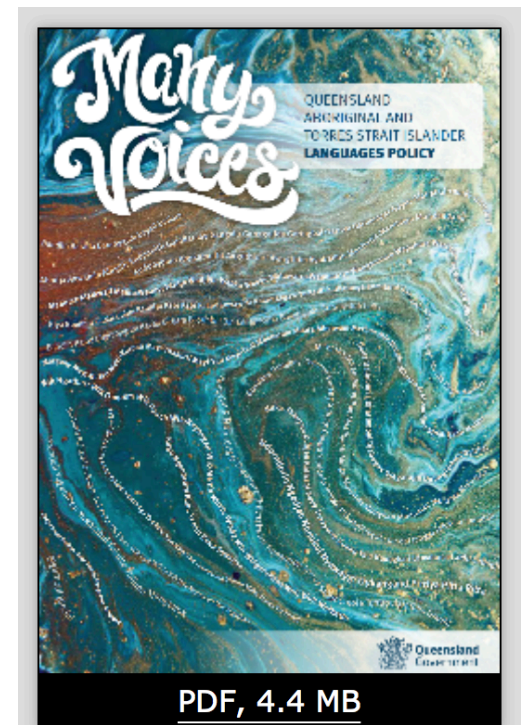
National Approach

National Indigenous Survey Report (NILS)

Australian State and Territories Policies and Legislation

Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Sept 2020.

NSW Aboriginal Languages Act 2017



WA Language Policy History

1. 2007 *Draft State Aboriginal Languages Policy*
2. 2008 Draft *State Aboriginal Languages Policy* shelved
3. *Western Australian Languages Services Policy 2020* .

Why have a State Aboriginal Languages Policy?

1. Recognition of the languages as a valid means for communication by many people, self identity and the carrier of cultural knowledge.
2. To celebrate the use of these languages.
3. To provide a vehicle for reconciliation with past policy and practice.
4. For the languages to receive due attention and adequately to be resourced.
5. To provide Aboriginal people with critical interpreting and translating services.
6. To provide a better quality of education for children entering school speaking an Aboriginal mother tongue.
7. For reasons as identified by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the *Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights*.



Goldfields Language Revival Policy

All peoples have the right to speak the language of their heritage connections. In particular, First Nations peoples have the right to speak, use, enjoy, learn and teach their heritage languages. Linguistic rights are both individual and collective. This policy is with regards to the First Nations' languages of the Goldfields region of Western Australia.

GALCAC aligns this policy with the *'Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights'* 1998 and the *United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Goldfields Language Revival Policy

- 1. safe:** all generations use the language as a first language. Large speech community 500+
- 2. unsafe:** some children use the language in all settings, all children use the language in some settings, medium speech community 300+
- 3. endangered:** few children speak the language; predominantly spoken by the parental generation and older, small speech community 20+
- 4. severely endangered:** spoken by older generations; not used by the parental generation and younger, very small speech community 10+
- 5. critically endangered:** few speakers remain and are mainly from the great grandparental generation, most people speak words or formulaic phrases, 2+ people.
- 6. extinct:** no living speakers. People identify with heritage connection.

Goldfields Language Revival Policy

1. *National Indigenous Languages Policy 2009*
2. *Western Australian Languages Services Policy 2020*
3. *Commonwealth Copyright Act (1968)* with limited capability to protect languages.
4. *First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts* as a support mechanism for languages.
5. *Indigenous Arts Code*, as a member, and adheres to the code in this policy.

Goldfields Language Revival Policy

Policy Objectives

1. Provide resources and opportunities for speakers to use, enjoy, celebrate, immerse in, and increase language, language use and prestige.
2. Provide resources and opportunities for people and communities with heritage language connection to reconnect with, learn, enjoy and engage with their heritage language.
3. Provide resources and opportunities for languages to be recorded, written, archived, produced in books, comics, film, TV, radio and social media for educational, use and prestige purposes.

Goldfields Language Revival Policy

Policy Objectives

4. Provide opportunity for the speech communities to revive, revitalize, and rejuvenate sleeping languages using scientifically identified phonemic, morphological, semantic, syntactic and discourse strategies. Create 'traditional' (dictionaries from verified original speech sources) and 'contemporary' (dictionaries which include rejuvenated language items) versions of dictionaries.
5. Provide the wider community with information about language revival, revitalization, and rejuvenation strategies, in order to garner support for communities with sleeping languages to reawaken languages.

Goldfields Language Revival Policy

Policy Objectives

6. Undertake political lobbying for a WA State Aboriginal Languages Policy, in order to enshrine protection for WA's languages, being aware that State policy is subject to change.
7. Undertake political lobbying for enshrinement of WA First Nations' languages in the State constitution, to ensure long-term support regardless of political change.



Conclusion

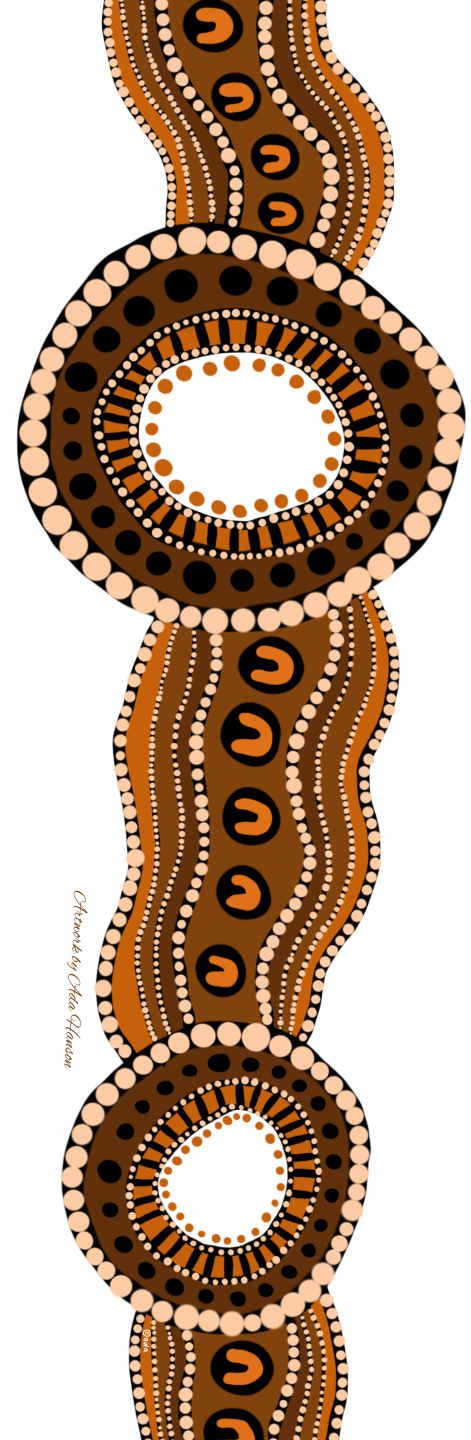
1. Recognition for a First Nations' Voice to Parliament,
2. The *NSW Aboriginal Languages Act 2017*,
3. *Many Voices: Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy*
4. The *National Indigenous Language Policy*,
5. The International Decade of Indigenous Language 2022-32
6. The Closing the Gap targets,

Conclusion

1. Recognition for a First Nations' Voice to Parliament,
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Conclusion

The only Voices in WA for First Nations languages are the language centres and language programs across the state. We need these voices to be heard.



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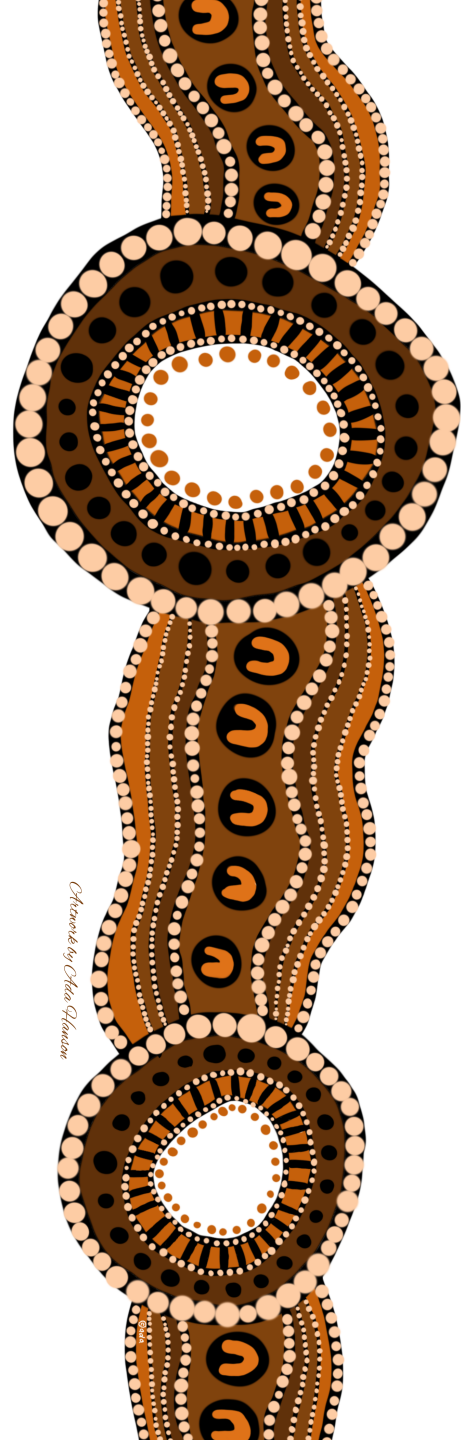
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Aboriginal Language Centre

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