

WAALLA Launch Film

Language is our identity.

Language is the mouth of our culture.

Language is the carrier of our culture.

Each language is a living library of knowledge.

To lose our language would be like burning down a library; all that information and knowledge is gone forever.

Since colonisation, Australia has seen the highest rate of language loss in the world with fewer than 20 of the original 250 Australian languages still spoken as first languages today.

You can help with reversing the loss of languages, the loss of the way to express culture, the loss of cultural identity.

We invite you to get involved. Ally with us to call for WA State Aboriginal language legislation.

Western Australia is at severe risk of losing many more of the 85 first languages of the State, unless we take immediate action to ensure they are safely preserved and resourced to head into the future. So many languages are already extinct and many more at severe risk of dying in the next 20 years.

New South Wales took strong action to strengthen the State's languages. Legislation was passed in Parliament called the *NSW Aboriginal Languages Act 2017*. This legislation provided for the establishment of a NSW Aboriginal Languages Trust. The Trust is a statutory body with rights and responsibilities to ensure the growing, nurturing, and reawakening of the State's First Nations languages.

WA does not have State legislation. WA does not even have a State First Nations languages policy!

WAALLA is a call to action to bring the need for WA Aboriginal Language Legislation to the attention of the WA Premier and Parliament.

WAALLA is the Western Australian Aboriginal Languages Legislation Alliance.

Indigenous languages can not wait for the Government to protect them; we need to make it happen ourselves!

Lend your voice to the call for language legislation. Become a WAALLA ally. You can add your organisation's name to the growing list calling on the WA Government for protective legislation. You can write to your local parliamentary

members and the Premier, add the WAALLA ally badge to your signature, website and social media, and work alongside First Nations peoples to create protection for WA's precious languages and their cultural knowledge.

WAALLA's Statement of Intent

There are 2 things WAALLA is calling for:

1. The enactment of WA State Aboriginal Languages Legislation.
2. The establishment of a WA Aboriginal Languages Trust which:
 - Recognizes W.A. Aboriginal languages as official languages of the State.
 - Develops and implements a 10-year State Aboriginal languages strategic plan.

How Can I join the Campaign?

You can add your organisation's voice to the call for WA's First Nation's language legislation by becoming a WAALLA ally.

Your organisation can join WAALLA as a registered ally. To do this, complete the membership form and send to the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre. The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre is the organisation running this campaign.

Once you are a registered ally, an action toolkit will be sent to you which includes:

- a digital WAALLA ally badge to include on your signature, social medias, website and newsletter.
- 5 digital memes which can be posted to social media platforms, your organisation's website, and newsletters.
- sample letters to send to local members of parliament and the Premier.

Who can become an ally?

Organisations, rather than individual people, can join to be a WAALLA ally.

Organisations will add great strength to the call for legislation by engaging their workforce in the campaign.

The Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre, which is running the campaign, is a small, grassroots organisation, and opening ally membership for individuals will most likely overwhelm the Centre's capability. A single ally membership of an organisation can reach many people associated with that organisation.

Why should our organisation become a language legislation ally?

There are many good reasons why your organisation's should join the alliance:

- To ally with WA's First Nations calling for State language legislation.
- To ensure the continuation of the 85 First Nations languages of WA.
- To advocate for linguistic social justice, equity and inclusion.
- To align your organisation with principles of cultural safety.
- To showcase your organisation's integrity.
- To highlight your organisation's strong sense of community.

Additionally, your organisation's allyship can be added to a RAP document and form a strong foundation for your organisation's cultural safety planning.

What to do next?

Head to the WAALLA page on the Goldfields Aboriginal Language Centre's website, phone on 9021 3788, email info@wangka.com.au or check out the WAALLA Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

First Nations language legislation creates strong, flourishing languages. First Nations language health is everyone's business.

Come on, join in the call for WA State Aboriginal languages legislation! Join WAALLA!