

e-Petition Request form



This form may be used when seeking to request a Member of the WA Legislative Council to facilitate an e-Petition for posting on the Parliament of Western Australia website. Please ensure this form is complete and accurate prior to forwarding to the MLC's office.

Contact details for MLCs are available from the Parliament of Western Australia website at:

<https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/memblast.nsf/WebCurrentMembLC>

Petition title:	Aboriginal language legislation
Principal petitioner:	Susan Hanson
Petitioner address:	34A King Street
City/Town/Suburb and Postcode:	South Boulder 6432
Contact Email Address:	susanhanson@y7mail.com
Proposed Posting period:	8 weeks

Detail of Petition:

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We the undersigned...

humbly request that the 85 First Nation languages of Western Australia be enshrined and protected under State legislation to ensure their healthy continuation into the future. We request the enactment of WA Aboriginal Languages Legislation.

Many of WA's First Nations languages are now extinct, with a greater number under severe threat of loss, unless action is taken immediately to recognise and resource them to survive into the future. In WA, only eight languages are considered alive with speech communities of several hundred people, and with children speaking a language as a mother tongue.

Each First Nations language is a library of knowledge and information. The languages carry medicinal, geographical, heritage, history, mapping and cultural information that is lost if the language dies. Language is identity, the mouth of culture, and the carrier of culture. To lose a language is like burning down a library; all that information and knowledge is gone forever. The First Nations languages of WA carry tens of thousands of years of knowledge and information about WA. They are State treasures that we would like to share and celebrate with all Western Australians.

First Nations Western Australians have long called for their languages to be acknowledged, protected and resources for the future. First Nations peoples have identified that no significant improvement could be made to Close the Gap, until identity is acknowledged. Resources for family intergenerational language learning and transfer, are critical to the language's survival. The instigation of a First Nations Languages Trust, such as the one created under the NSW Aboriginal Languages Act 2017, would

enact the legislation, and make large strides towards Closing the Gap.

This call for legislation comes from a grass-roots, First Nations Language Centre in the Goldfields region, and from many registered allies across the State. This is an Aboriginal-led call. Please work with us to save and resource our languages through WA Aboriginal Languages Legislation.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Member of the Legislative Council details: (to be completed by the MLC - the completed form is then to be forwarded to the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Council)

Dear Member,

If you agree to facilitate this ePetition, please complete the following details and forward this document to the Clerk's Office.

Name:

Region:

I agree to facilitate the above petition

Signature:

Date: