KWOOP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 17 September 2026, 10am–12noon
Sydney Community Foundation (SCF) Offices, 35–39 Dickson Street, Newtown

Attendance

Eileen Baldry, Eleni Psillakis, Julie Morris, Marisa Moliterno, Loredana Fyffe (in person)

& Simone Gristwood, Lauren Stefanou (online)

Apologies

Caroline Hood

KWOOP Staff

Alice Cahill

Observer

Naomi Monfrooy

Agenda

1. Acknowledgement of Country
2. Previous Minutes (6 August 2026)
3. Gender Justice Lived Experience Board Program — Update
4. Spent Convictions Project — Update
5. Parliamentary Roundtable — Update
6. Community of Practice Update
7. Solution Focused Justice Practitioners Network — NSW & ACT
8. Strategic Meetings and First Nations Engagement
9. Member Meetings
10. Financial Report
11. Other Business

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Eileen Baldry opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Previous Minutes (6 August 2026)

The minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting held on 6 August 2026 were accepted as read.

3. Gender Justice Lived Experience Board Program — Update

Eleni Psillakis reported on the success of the recent Lived Experience Working Group (LEWG) workshop.

Discussion:

- Eleni noted that some women attending the workshops have had negative or traumatic experiences of serving on boards.
- Members discussed how the Board Program can ensure that organisations introduced to, or matched with, Board Program graduates understand their responsibilities and what is required to support a board member with lived experience of the criminal legal system — so that board participation does not cause these women additional trauma. Significant education will be needed for these organisations.

Action:

Alice Cahill to continue to engage with Just Governance, which is delivering the program, and the SCF/KWOOP Executive to ensure adequate engagement, training and upskilling is provided to organisations seeking women with lived experience for their boards. KWOOP to consider the insurance implications for boards appointing women with lived experience as part of this broader engagement.

4. Spent Convictions Project — Update

Alice Cahill provided an update on the spent convictions work being undertaken by the Justice Equity Centre (JEC) and Allens. KWOOP will meet with Kira Levin (JEC) at the end of October, following Corinne Kemp's return.

Discussion:

- Members discussed the complexity of the issue. Julie Morris asked whether a person's record could be expunged after 10–15 years. It was noted that different rules and complexities apply to criminal records for children.
- It was suggested that Lauren Stefanou be invited to the meeting with Kira Levin, and that the issue could be taken to a broader collaborative forum with the participation of the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS).
- Eleni Psillakis spoke about the challenges women with criminal records face when applying for government roles.

Action: That the Advisory Committee note the update on the spent convictions work being undertaken by the JEC and Allens.

5. Parliamentary Roundtable — Update

On 31 August 2026, KWOOP advised invitees that the 2026 Parliamentary Roundtable, planned for 5 November, has been postponed. The decision reflected a scheduling clash with national ministerial meetings and advice from key government contacts that a cross-portfolio conversation would carry greater impact once the DCJ Diversion of Women Project and the Solution Focused Justice work are further progressed.

Action: That the Advisory Committee note the postponement of the 2026 Parliamentary Roundtable and KWOOP's intention to consider reconvening once the Diversion of Women Project and Solution Focused Justice work have progressed further.

6. Community of Practice Update

Alice Cahill provided an update on the Community of Practice (CoP) program. No CoP sessions have been held since the last Advisory Committee meeting. CoP membership continues to grow and diversify, with members now joining from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and regional NSW.

Upcoming sessions:

- Cultural Safety — Developing Skills for First Nations Cross-Cultural Safety. 7 October 2026, 1–2pm (online). Presenter: Rowena Lawrie, Director, Yamurrah. 113 registrations to date.
- International Case Study — November 2026 (online). Despite repeated attempts, KWOOP has been unable to confirm Diagrama Foundation (Spain).

Action: That the Advisory Committee note the alternative international case study suggested by Lauren Stefanou, who will provide details to Alice Cahill.

7. Solution Focused Justice Practitioners Network — NSW & ACT

Eileen Baldry provided an update on recent meetings with the Solution Focused Justice (SFJ) Practitioners Network, led by Rebecca McMahon (Forbes Chambers), which align directly with KWOOP's strategy on diversion. Discussions are at a very early stage and have focused on two initiatives:

- a Bail Diversion Program model for NSW courts, connecting women applying for bail with appropriate services to address bail concerns and support release to bail where appropriate; and
- an education and community engagement program to build the capacity of a small group of bail lawyers (10–20) in the SFJ approach, trauma-informed practice and engagement with key community providers. Discussions are continuing with Legal Aid and the ALS.

Both initiatives will require a comprehensive, regularly maintained directory of community organisations able to support the diversion of women, and more funding for women's support services over the longer term.

Action: That the Advisory Committee note the early discussions with the SFJ Practitioners Network on two initiatives that directly align with KWOOP's strategy, and that additional resources (time and possibly funding) will be required for KWOOP to support and progress them. Lauren Stefanou to send through details of the ALS / Legal Aid Victoria framework and CPD sessions on SFJ and cultural capability.

8. Strategic Meetings and First Nations Engagement

Alice Cahill provided an update on strategic meetings held since the last Advisory Committee meeting, including with Western Sydney Community Legal Centre and with DCJ as part of its Diversion of Women Project.

- DCJ held a number of consultation roundtables with the sector in August as part of its Diversion of Women Project. The project examines opportunities to strengthen court-based supports for women appearing before the Local Court who have not yet been sentenced, across three areas: court-based intervention programs; housing and accommodation support; and case management and socio-legal support services. DCJ is expected to finalise its findings over the coming months.
- Corrective Services NSW's Communities of Practice team has approached KWOOP regarding a new community of practice for staff working with women across custody and community corrections. KWOOP has offered to promote the CoP when it is ready to engage the sector more broadly, and to be a guest speaker at an upcoming session (possibly November 2026).

First Nations Engagement

Naomi Monfrooy, First Nations Engagement Coordinator, continues to build her outreach program to broaden the KWOOP network, with First Nations organisations and service providers.

Action: That the Advisory Committee note KWOOP's recent engagement, and in particular the significant work being undertaken by DCJ through its Diversion of Women Project.

9. Member Meetings

The final Member Meeting for 2026 will be held online on 18 November. Kira Levin (JEC) has accepted KWOOP's invitation to present on the JEC's work on misidentification. KWOOP has also invited Stephanie Wallace, Principal Advisor, Women – Women's Advisory Unit, Corrective Services NSW, to provide an update on the restructure and realignment within Corrective Services; confirmation of her availability is pending.

Action: Advisory Committee members to provide suggestions to KWOOP for additional agenda items for the 18 November Member Meeting and topics for 2027 Member Meetings.

10. Financial Report

The Advisory Committee noted the KWOOP Financial Report.

11. Other Business

Newsletter

Simone Gristwood suggested that the toolkit for Representing Pregnant Women and Mothers (https://lacw.com.au/toolkit/) be included in the next KWOOP newsletter.

Action: Alice Cahill to include the toolkit in the September newsletter.