

WANALA Meeting
28th July 2015: 9am-12pm
Draft Minutes

These minutes accepted 2nd December 2016.
Moved: Rosie Sitorus, Seconded: George Hayden

Present: Mark Crocombe, Jill Abdullah, Merinda Hansen, Rosie Sitorus, George Hayden, David Nathan, Coco Yu, Lorraine Indjie, Julie Walker, Margaret Carew, April Campbell, Glennis Galbet, Majella Chula, Gretel Macdonald, Maree Klesch.

Apologies: Maningrida, Ngukurr Language Centre, Tennant Creek Language Centre, KLRC, Mowanjum Language Project

Agenda

1. Review WANALA Development Plan

a. The role of WANALA

The role and responsibilities of WANALA are listed in the WANALA Development Plan on page 5 of the document. WANALA is peak body providing support and services to WANALA members and to people working in Aboriginal Language activities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Language Centres and projects remain independent and their policies, management and operational activities are independent of WANALA. WANALA does not have any authority over Language Centres or Language Projects.

WANALA's primary role as stated in the Development Plan remains to:

- Provide advocacy
- Improve and enhance recognition and awareness of Aboriginal linguistic diversity
- Provide a range of technical, professional assistance and support or provide directions where these services might be obtained.
- Provide professional development activities for WANALA members
- Be advised by a representative Advisory Group drawn from full members.
- maintain a website and disseminate information

b. Broome meeting notes

To be provided

c. Structure and governance

Carried over

d. WANALA membership

See development plan

DN BIITE: questioned why we would make information/services questioned why information would be available to members only as we decided not to have fees.

Fees - discussion around fee structure, a number of people don't support having a fee.

JW Wangka Maya: noted that the development plan section on membership and fees needs quite a bit of work.

ACTIONS:

Review membership fees section - page 11. Develop a procedure for membership of WANALA.

Remove membership fees in the short to medium term, be more inclusive and build membership

Over the next 12 months move development plan to a business plan with expanded sections on sustainability, membership, philanthropic strategies, activities, services, etc

2. WANALA Status - funding and Commonwealth proposal

Outline of the Commonwealth's advice that for the final round of the three-year offers WANALA will maintain its funding, that from July 2016 there would be one National body – First Languages Australia. Funding for WANALA in the current Commonwealth plan will cease in June 2016.

CY Yawuru: We have been working in language for many years but know nothing about the national body or how they represent our language centre or our community. I do know about WANALA and that they work with and for us. I feel much more comfortable working with this group.

DN BIITE: gave a little bit of the history of what happened to FATSIL

GH Noongar: First Languages Australia (FLA) does not have languages reps from WA & NT and FLA said that they didn't have the funding to have reps, but if they got further funding then they would have reps. While we support a national body we would also need to be represented.

LI Wangka Maya: See a need to have the structure where decision-making comes from the community to regional and state/territory, and then to FLA. It needs to be WANALA who decides who the representatives are and not by invitation from FLA.

JW Wangka Maya: There needs to be recognition of the challenges of working and living remotely, IT, maintenance of buildings, funding opportunities, access to participate in other peak bodies or government agencies, costs associated with rural and remote contexts.

We need to change the situation with FLA so that there is equal coverage of each language situations, particularly for first languages speakers to ensure a greater understanding of diversity of language situations.

MK BIITE: There is a perception that first language speakers are OK and that they don't need funding, as their languages are not in decline. This is not the case; while general conversation on day-to-day issues might be functional there is great loss when working with concepts and consequently ancestral knowledge.

MC Wadey: WANALA centres support situations of multiple languages in greatly varying health]

RS Irrawangka: What does first languages do? Who are they? Not prepared to forgo WANALA for a group that haven't to date been able to perform and represent us. The framework document is a compilation of consultations, it' nice to see our contributions in the framework but there is a long way to go to have a workable document.

LI Wangka Maya: There are values and beliefs systems that are threatened when the great diversity of cultures and languages have lost their voice to a national body that doesn't represent their voice. Each activity or Language Centre should undertake Service delivery. WANALA is something that is long term and has our support and stability. WANALA is not too large and not too small and provides stability for our delegates.

DN BIITE: what about the ACARA framework?

MK BIITE: as far as I know the frameworks are not connected, however they need to be so that communities can choose how they connect their language projects to school based teaching and learning, particularly in bilingual programs.

FLA is a default body when originally they were looking after their own interests and it is the Government that has given them the national voice. There is also RNLD that do a lot of training and revitalization training that the Federal Government sees as having a national focus.

DN: FLA say that they were just going about their business but the Govt approached them to both give them opportunities but also put them in potentially difficult political positions.

MC BIITE: WANALA has taken some time to get to where it is now and it grew out of real needs and it would be a tragedy to see it dissipate.

MC Wadey: We agree, we need to have our representative body that does represent its members and gives a real voice.

There are also many groups that are not represented by either WANALA or the national body.

GM Kununarra: the role of WANALA is really important and we want to have our own voice that covers language revitalisation and maintenance and the real issues and outcomes that are grown out of the community. We have very different language situations in WA & NT.

MK BIITE: FLA did provide support for WANALA at the WANALA presentation in Bunbury 2013

Can see that option 1 will work administratively
Arrows, to show sharing and cooperation of work there needs to be a PEAK body that does this..... we are not out to compete but to maintain our ground

and justify that through servicing our needs that are unique and to reach out and support those groups that are struggling.

Maybe have a partnership with FLA, not necessarily a formal partnership, delegate with WANALA that sits on FLA and visa versa.

JA LAA: What is the scope of FLA and has that agenda been set by the Commonwealth Govt at a strategic level. I don't think WANALA can sit outside the nation framework, that is possibly the politically reality and we need to be part of the national structure.

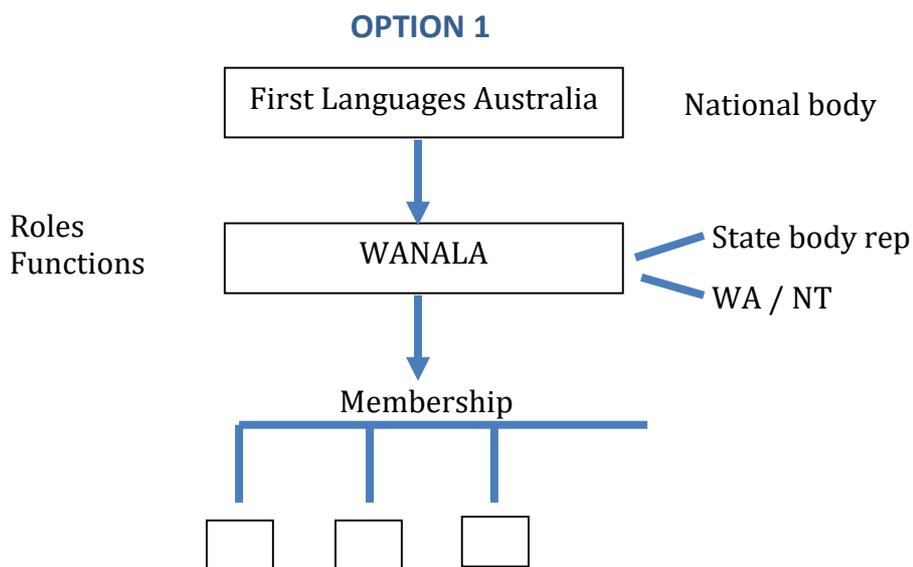
LI Wangka Maya: A national framework should have a wider scope than what has been put forward in the draft framework. There is no clarity - what the framework could possibly do is lock us into a project based funding model that is not viable.

Some performance indicators are mandatory and some are optional. This is a key performance indicator for FLA funding and what FLA will do. Who assesses the KPIs for FLA

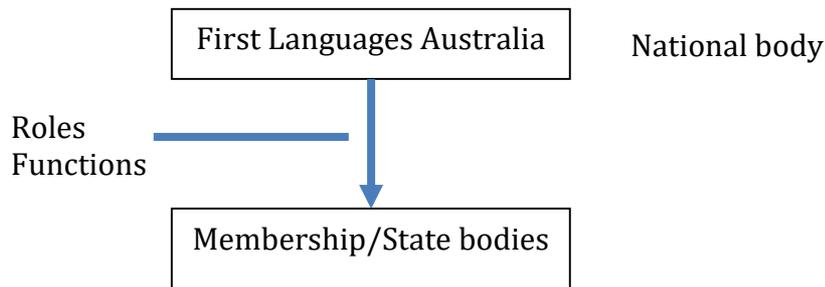
MK BIITE: Note the name of the document, when people see this they might not think it belongs to them, e.g. this document is not about us. It is another example of the weight of eastern state in production of these documents. It can be seen as a political model that risks disenfranchising other non-related language groups.

DN: does this kind of language-word 'fetish' indicate something about difference in perspective of FLA/revival viewpoint?

(2a) WANALA principal external relationships (JW)

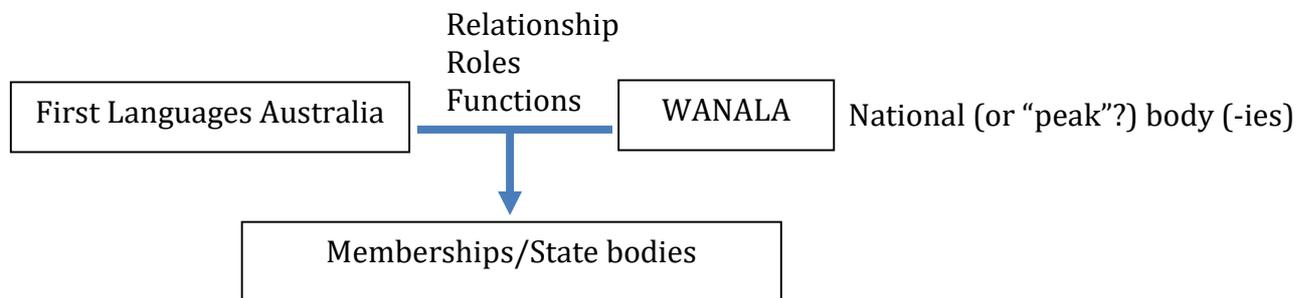


OPTION 2



OPTION 3

(Also MC described another possible option where FLA and WANALA collaborate at the same 'level')



OTHER ISSUES

- Issues:
- Membership
 - No representation
 - Risk management
 - Independence
 - Language, Discourse

- Common Issues:
- Language maintenance activities
 - KPI

National framework (JW)

- Issues**
- Membership
 - Representation
 - Remote and rural.

MOTION:

This committee moves to retain the Western and Northern Aboriginal Languages Alliance as an independent peak body representing language centres and projects, and related activities and organisations, in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Moved Coco Yu. Seconded Merinda Hansen.

Decision: all in favour

GH NOONGAR noted that he supports the motion in principle, however the resolution needs to go back to the board Noongar Boodjar Waangkiny.

GM Mirima: also noted that agreement needs to be ratification at the level of the language centre board (Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring).

This was discussed as a requirement for all resolutions from this meeting for those representatives that must report back to their Board of Directors.

ACTION:

Communicate resolution back to local boards for discussion and ratification.

All about cultural governance, which it needs to go back to the communities. Support in principal.

Actions and motions to be ready to take home on Thursday evening.

ACTION:

Chairperson to travel to Canberra to lobby and advocate on behalf of WANALA.

3. WANALA conference – see recommendations re conference.

MK BIITE: The Commonwealth will continue to fund a biannual conference for WANALA. Do we want the conference to stay within WANALA?

Bunbury conference in 2013 was called WANALA, because it was run by WANALA. Name remained for Broome conference but wasn't run by WANALA.

Would it be better for WANALA to retain the conference? That would involve WANALA applying for and running the conference. Goldfields have offered to run the conference in 2016. Will they will need to apply for the funds, under the framework?

MOTION:

This committee resolves that the WANALA conference funding be applied for and managed by WANALA.

Moved: Maree Klesch, *Seconded by:* Lorraine Indjie

Decision: *All in favour. Note to those who voted in favour in principal with feedback to their Boards*

ACTION:

Communicate resolution back to local boards for discussion and ratification.

WANALA staff will consult with Goldfields and other WANALA members about the operational consequences.

4. WANALA services

a. Advocacy -

- i. Letting people know who we are and what we stand for, letting people know including ordinary people in the street, not just for WANALA but also for others that might just want a little submission for a family group, helping people getting started, technical advice on what might be happening,
- ii. Outreach and publishing, a strategic and assertive process of identify of who you have to convince of what, allies are detractors
- iii. How do we continue, what do we need to do?
- iv. Increasing capacity for, political advocacy.
- v. Working as a group and providing a range of levels of support.
- vi. Providing an expo of ideas, maybe onto the end of a conference
- vii. Strategic vision
- viii. A role on the importance of language, language revival, Kriol, general information about language status maybe involved with
 1. Clinical practices
 2. Showcase materials of language situations
- ix. Need to be *extremely clear* about desired goals and activities and focus advocacy on making them most possible to achieve]

b. Assisting with facilitation and development of language and cultural protocols

- i. Protocols for visitors, e.g. visitors from different states that might be sister cities or schools
- ii. Correct ways of documentation and how to proceed with documentation
- iii. Protocols for working with men and women
- iv. There are some good solid practice around protocols, who gets access, sacred site visits – partnerships with Rangers, visitors are guided.
- v. There probably needs to do some professional development, what is correct with the law and what are good solid practices.
- vi. Local practice, what you want the world to know, case studies, processes & procedures, networks.
- vii. Protocols and laws have existed for 40 thousand years it is just getting the recognition for these and how we engage in our practice.
- viii. Refer to existing documents, e.g. AIATSIS, ATSILIRN etc; perhaps look at international (north American) examples too.

c. Duty statements and salary scales

- i. What these on the web with samples and recommendations
- ii. All to be located on the website
- iii. Recommend standards for WANALA including qualified and unqualified positions.
- iv. Conditions for employment – benchmarks and tied to minimum wage.
- v. Not to work for the dole and the minimum wage.

- vi. Get grant funding for training for certificates and that the salary scales work towards this.
 - vii. Language worker industry group to have some standards and to maintain an industry.
 - viii. Ensure model documents and recommendations model do identify the range of employment situations, e.g. remoteness, difficulty in attracting employees, travel and housing expenses, youth training and retention.
- d. Language teaching resources
Carried forward
 - e. Language teaching methodologies
Carried forward
 - f. Protection of resources, copyright & privacy agreements, assigning rights
Carried forward
 - g. Contracts
Carried forward
 - h. Archive/collection standards and practices
See professional development notes and PowerPoint attached.
5. Next professional development activity.
- are these advisory committee PD open workshops or just for WANALA members.
 - Can we open the sessions and charge non-WANALA members to attend PD?
 - opportunities for individual language centre PD
 - using electronic whiteboards
 - Working on and creating apps
6. WANALA Action Plan
See attached.
7. Date and location of next WANALA meeting.
Next meeting the week beginning 30th November 2015. Langford Aboriginal Association have offered their premises for the meeting. Jull will advise of LAA Board response.

Other items:

- Who is the current advisory group? See Broome meeting notes attached.
- Role of the advisory group? See WANALA Development Plan.
- WANALA Website
 - Get a domain name for WANALA
 - Reference group: Lorraine Indjie, Margaret Carew, Rosie, Gretel, Langford Aboriginal corp.

- Not driven by the technical people, driven by us by our users, web reference group, and advisory group
- Firstly we need to be clear about our values are, our mission and objectives.

Brainstorming for website design, look and feel, identity:

- branding –needs to be defined so that everyone knows what we do - and be visually/symbolically recognizable
- design a new logo: potential concepts (“triggers” for designer):

unity intergenerational image representing western + northern country language component sharing knowledge	people coming together people travelling what makes language special? colours plants words for language
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Brainstorming for website content:

Audience/s	Content	Participants	Ecology
Membership	Centres – websites, activities	Members, contributions	Facebook, blog, twitter
Wider community			
Our community	Advisory group,		
Teachers/schools	Services offered by		
Funding bodies	WANALA		
Government	Services		
Corporate bodies	Who we are		
Philanthropic groups	Contacts		
Volunteers	Members – how to join		
Interns	Media, events, news,		
Potential members	All the things on our wish list,		
Sole traders	Instructional videos		
Small business	Vimeo/YouTube channel,		
Service providers – medical services for regional and rural	Model		
Promotion, linked to	document/templates		