

Government of Western Australia  
Media Statement



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Portfolio: Indigenous Affairs

## 'Verbal judo' to help combat trouble situations

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Nyoongar patrol members are being provided with the latest techniques to talk their way out of trouble and diffuse potentially violent situations.

Patrol members and Town of Vincent rangers will soon be skilled in the art of 'verbal judo' - using communication to resolve potential conflicts.

Indigenous Affairs Minister Sheila McHale said during the two-day training session, 25 Nyoongar patrols and rangers would receive lectures, practical demonstrations and role-play to show how communication could reduce anti-social behaviour.

"Patrols often deal with aggressive or intoxicated people so knowing how to manage the situation to avoid physical confrontation is critical to the safety of the community and patrols," Ms McHale said.

"These conflict management techniques and communication skills will help address anti-social behaviour in the community."

The Minister said the training, which was jointly funded by the Department of Indigenous Affairs and indigenous recruitment centre PEEDAC, was also a fantastic opportunity to build on the patrol's strong relationship with the Town of Vincent.

"Patrols and rangers frequently communicate with each in their work and this training will help build relationships and improve co-operation between local government and Aboriginal organisations," she said.

Ms McHale said the workshops complemented existing training and would be rolled out across other patrols in Western Australia over coming months.

Minister's office: 9213 6900

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