Closing the Gap

Commonwealth 2024 Implementation Plan Actions Status

## Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Next steps  |
| Support National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (NACCHO) to employ up to 260 new positions in Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) to deliver cancer treatment and other supports | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2027  | Underway  | * Recruitment processes underway.
 |
| Deliver First Nations Cancer Packages* Cancer Council culturally safe and responsive cancer care for First Nations people
* First Nations postgraduate scholarship program
* First Nations research grant
* Refresh of the Optimal Care Pathway
 | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 March 202531 December 20251 March 202531 December 2025 | UnderwayUnderwayUnderwayUnderway  | * Award Cancer Care grants in March 2025.
* Announce successful recipients of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate scholarship program in February 2025. Round 2 to open mid-2025.
* Announce up to 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research community-based grants.
* Refresh of the Optimal Care Pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer released in October 2024.
 |
| Review health care in prisons to improve health outcomes for First Nations people | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2024 | Complete  | * The Review made 6 recommendations currently under consideration by Government.
 |
| Establish up to 30 dialysis units and associated workforce accommodation to help First Nations people in regional and remote locations with end stage kidney disease  | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2027  | Underway | * Grant agreements established for 9 sites under the Better Renal Services for First Nations People program. Additional sites to be announced through 2025 rounds.
 |
| Deliver 6 new dialysis units: Coober Pedy and Yalata (SA), Balgo (WA), and Atitjere (Harts Range), Borroloola and Ti Tree (NT) | Minister for Health and Aged Care  | 30 June 2027 | Underway | * The Coober Pedy unit opened in June 2024. The 5 remining units (Balgo, Atitjere, Yalata, Borroloola and Ti Tree) will be operational in 2025.
 |
| Develop measures that report on institutional racism within the health system and measure access by First Nations people to culturally safe health services | Minister for Health and Aged Care  | 30 June 2025 | Underway | * Collaborations Workplan developed, with further work required to fill data gaps in 2025.
 |
| Improve administration and coordination of health assessments with allied health services in partnership with ACCHOs | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2027 | Underway | * 2 projects delivered across 2024-25 and 2025-26 will promote improved administration and other systems improvements.
 |
| Increase the number of health assessments being undertaken through culturally appropriate and targeted health messaging to promote health checks locally | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2026  | Underway  | * The Deadly Choices program expansion was launched at *Winnunga Nimmityjah* in Canberra in September 2024. Future campaigns will align with major sporting events.
 |
| Continue to develop rheumatic heart disease program activities at the community level to be implemented by local ACCHOs | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Underway | * 24 ACCHOS are delivering the rheumatic heart disease program across 89 sites.
 |
| Develop and implement an echocardiogram training program | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 2024-28 | Underway | * A co-designed echocardiography training program (Echo in ACCHOs) is being developed to strengthen the capacity of primary healthcare workers in the ACCHO sector to deliver community-led, evidence-based, culturally safe, equitable echocardiography services. Pilot rollout of the Echo in ACCHOs program will commence in early 2025.
 |
| Continue to deliver the Strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services Initiative | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2022-26  | Underway  | * Currently 31 Primary Health Networks are commissioning 115 First Nations-specific Alcohol and Other Drugs treatment services.
 |
| Continue strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 2023-27 | Underway  | * At the end of 2024, over 220 trainees were enrolled in the First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program and 60 confirmed completions.
 |
| Support NACCHO rollout of the final tranche of Elder Care Support workers | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Underway  | * The current contract with NACCHO is due to expire on 30 June 2025. The contract provides for one 12 month extension, until 30 June 2026.
 |
| Invest in essential aged care infrastructure projects to increase access to quality, sustainable and culturally safe aged care services | Minister for Health and Aged Care | December 2024 | Underway | * Construction is underway on culturally safe aged care homes for older First Nations people to age on country.
 |
| Ensure early access to culturally safe services including growing the maternity health workforce and re-designing maternity services to reach more First Nations pregnant women | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025  | Underway  | * 10 Birthing on Country projects complete in urban, rural, remote and very remote locations in Australia to support the culturally safe delivery of maternity services to First Nations communities.
 |
| Refresh the National Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Strategic Framework and develop an implementation plan | Minister for Health and Aged Care | Ongoing  | Underway | * The SEWB Framework and implementation plan are due to be finalised early in 2025.
 |
| Work with Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia and First Nations experts to finalise the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy and develop an implementation plan | Minister for Health and Aged Care | December 2024 | Underway | * Strategy endorsed, Gayaa Dhuwi to lead development of an implementation plan in 2025.
 |

## Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  |  Next steps |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Finalise a new school funding agreement to come into effect from 2025 | Minister for Education | 2025 | Complete | * The Better and Fairer Schools Agreement was developed with peak partners and agreed between Commonwealth, states and territories in 2024. The new agreement commenced on 1 January 2025 and will run for 10 years.
 |
| Develop formal partnership agreements with NATSIEC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation) and SNAICC --National Voice for our Children | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 2024 | Delayed  | * Both partnership agreements are being negotiated and are expected to be finalised in the first quarter of 2025. The agreements formalise the way the Commonwealth engages with NATSIEC and SNAICC. To complement the partnership agreement, the Australian Government has committed $16.6 million to SNAICC and $12.5 million to NATSIEC over four years (from 2024-25) to support the formal partnership with shared decision making on all matters affecting First Nations children.
 |
| Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership (ECCDPP): * Develop a work plan
* Identify opportunities to provide recommendations to Joint Council
 | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 20242024 | CompleteComplete | * In 2024 the ECCDPP provided its first set of recommendations, inaugural annual report and 3-year strategic plan to Joint Council on Closing the Gap.
* During 2025, in partnership with First Nations stakeholders, governments will develop implementation advice on funding model options for Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to deliver integrated early years services, and optimal hours of subsidised early childhood education and care for First Nations people.
 |
| Expand Connected Beginnings by a further 9 sites | Minister for Early Childhood Education | 2024 | Complete | * In 2024, 10 new Connected beginnings sites were established.
 |
| Finalise the Early Years Strategy  | Minister for Social Service Minister for Early Childhood Education | 2024 | Complete  | * The Early Years Strategy was finalised in 2024. The strategy will be delivered through 3 action plans over the next 10 years. The First Action Plan was released in 2024 alongside an Outcomes Framework which will measure progress against the Strategy’s outcomes.
 |
| Preschool Outcomes Measure: * Develop a new preschool outcome measure for trial in 2025
* Create new attendance target to drive improved participation in preschool in the year before full-time schooling
 | Minister for Early Childhood Education | 20252025 | UnderwayUnderway | * The measure is currently being developed and is on track for a national trial to commence in 2025.
 |
| Support Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to establish and operate playgroups in First Nations communities | Minister for Social Services | 2023-26 | Underway | * In 2024, 13 ACCOs were funded to deliver new playgroups.
 |
| Maximise uptake of the Indigenous Cultural Responsiveness Initiative | Minister for Education | 2022-27 | Underway | * During 2025, the resources will be evaluated in an implementation trial. The evaluation will inform further refinements of the toolkit and the creation of professional learning resources.
 |
| Continue the City-Country Partnerships Program  | Minister for Education | 2023-25 | Underway | * As of December 2024, 19 partnerships have been approved and are underway. The Commonwealth continued to work with Yadha Muru Foundation to establish and maintain partnerships across the country in 2025.
 |
| Report early findings from the evaluation of the Schools’ Closing the Gap measures | Minister for Education | May 2024 | Complete | * Following receipt of a progress report in 2024, the Commonwealth continues to work with the Australian Council for Educational Research and Ninti One to evaluate 5 First Nations student focused programs:
	+ City-Country Partnerships,
	+ Good to Great Schools Australia,
	+ ScalingUp,
	+ MultiLit, and
	+ Building Boarding Schools on Country.
* In 2025 the evaluation will focus on data collection and evaluation. A final report is due in 2026.
 |
| Support 42 new Junior Rangers activities | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2024-25 | Complete  | * In 2024 funding agreements were finalised for 44 new Junior Ranger activities, with all activities underway.
 |
| Distance Education models: * Pilot community-led models of distance education in up to 5 remote communities
* Evaluate existing distance education models, and provide a report by the end of 2025.
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Education | 2024-25 | UnderwayUnderway | * In 2024, pilot locations were finalised, and negotiations are underway to commence pilots. All pilots are on track to commence in 2025.
* The report on the evaluation of current distance education models is on track to be delivered in 2025.
 |
| Implement the new Australian Apprenticeships service delivery model | Minister for Skills and Training | 2024-26 | Complete  | * The Commonwealth implemented the new model in 2024. Uptake of apprenticeships by First Nations people and utilisation of mentoring and personal support services under the new support model will be monitored throughout 2025.
 |
| Implement the redesigned Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program | Minister for Skills and Training | July 2024 - ongoing | Complete | * Round 1 of the SEE First Nations Delivery grants opened on 1 July and closed on 23 August 2024, with 5 ACCOs awarded delivery grants. Round 2 of the SEE First Nations Delivery grants opened on 18 November 2024 and will close on 28 February 2025. The department has approved 8 SEE First Nations Scoping projects to date.
 |
| Implement an additional 300,000 Fee-free TAFE places and an additional 20,000 Fee-Free TAFE Construction places | Minister for Skills and Training | 2023-26 | Underway | * From 1 January to 30 September 2024, 10,340 First Nations people enrolled into Fee-Free TAFE, which made up 5% of total enrolments. The Commonwealth will work with jurisdiction to continue to implement and evaluate Fee-Free TAFE.
 |
| Increase university pathways by guaranteeing all First Nations students in Australia are supported by a Commonwealth funded place at a university of their choice, when accepted into their chosen course of study | Minister for Education | 2024 | Complete | * During 2025, the Commonwealth will identify measures of success of the program.
 |

## Employment and Economic Development (Target 8)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Provide Indigenous Skills and Employment Program (ISEP) grants to 37 organisations to deliver their program in partnership with communities | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2024 | Complete | * During 2024, 37 organisations were successful in their ISEP applications, and the organisations commenced delivering their activities throughout 2024.
 |
| Continue delivery of the Launch into Work program | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 2017-28 | Underway  | * In 2024, 5 Launch into Work programs specifically tailored to First Nations people were delivered. 79 First Nations people participated and 86% of participants moved into employment.
 |
| Develop and deliver strategic projects as part of the Workforce Specialist Initiative | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 2027 | Underway | * Funding from the Workforce Specialists initiative has been redirected to invest in supporting job seekers through the Paid Employment Pathways Package.
* There are 6 remaining projects being delivered until June 2027.
 |
| Partner with the National Indigenous Employment and Training Alliance (NIETA) to scope a data project to improve employment services design | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 2024-27 | Underway | * Draft scoping undertaken with negotiations underway with NIETA to finalise the project scope and timeframes.
 |
| First Nations Economic Partnership:* Scope a First Nations Economic Partnership with Coalition of the Peaks and other organisations
* Consider the outcomes of the scoping exercise
 | Treasurer Minister for Indigenous Australians | 20242024 | CompleteComplete | * The Commonwealth has committed to funding and working with First Nations organisations on establishing the Economic Partnership. Negotiations to finalise are underway and expected to be completed in 2025.
 |
| Establish Remote Training Hubs Network* 2 hubs in Central Australian by 2025
* Up to 7 hubs by 2027
 | Minister for Skills and Training | 2024-28 | Underway  | * Design of the Remote Training Hubs network is complete. On track to commence implementation in 2025.

  |
| Replace the Community Development Program (CDP) * Design a new jobs program to create 3,000 jobs in remote communities. Design in partnership with First Nations people and informed by continued engagement with remote communities, CDP providers and participants
* Develop a new employment service to complement the new jobs program
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 20242025 | CompleteUnderway | * The new jobs program (named Remote Jobs and Economic Development – RJED) launched in 2024. It was informed by advice from a First Nations Reference Group and feedback from community consultation.
* Design of a new remote employment service progressed and is on track to be launched in 2025.
* The CDP was extended to June 2025 to allow establishment of RJED and the new remote employment service.
 |

## Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9A, 9B and 17)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Make recommendations to Joint Council about improving housing outcomes and homelessness prevention for First Nations people  | Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | December 2024 | Complete  | * In 2025, the Housing Policy Partnership will take on a greater role in identifying national priorities for action.
 |
| Commence delivery of first social and affordable dwellings funded by the Housing Australia Future Fund and the affordable housing component of the Housing Accord  | Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | 2024-29 | Underway | * In September 2024, Housing Australia notified applicants of the outcomes of the first funding round under the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility and National Housing Accord Facility.
 |
| Repairs, maintenance and improvements in remote Indigenous communities to be funded through $200 million in Housing Australia Future Fund disbursements | Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | 2024-30 | Underway | * Over the next 5 years, Qld, WA, SA and NT governments will each receive an equal share of the $200 million to address areas with the highest overcrowding and poor living standards.
 |
| Develop Implementation Strategy for Housing Sector Strengthening Plan (SSP) | Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | 30 July 26  | Underway  |  |
| Release a 10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan in collaboration with the Housing Policy Partnership as a conduit for First Nations needs and priorities | Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | June 2024 | Underway | * In the next 10-years the Commonwealth will deliver more homes for remote areas, as well as employment and training opportunities for those who live in the communities and homelands.
 |
| Plan and develop long-term housing arrangements for the Northern Territory  | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | Ongoing  | Underway  | * A Partnership Agreement has been signed with members of the Joint Steering Committee for Remote Housing NT to improve housing outcomes for First Nations people living in remote NT communities and homelands.
 |
| Release the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 6 December 2024 | Complete | * The Commonwealth is developing an Implementation Plan for the first 18 months of Strategy implementation (2025 to mid-2026).
 |
| Free community Wi-Fi services to around 20 First Nations communities in 2024 | Minister for Communications | December 2024 | Complete | * Free community Wi-Fi infrastructure has been installed in 22 remote First Nations communities through the Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Project.
 |
| The Wi-Fi roll out will be undertaken in partnership with NBN Co, with access delivered via the NBN Sky Muster service and in-community Digital Ambassadors to support digital literacy | Minister for Communications | 2024-28 | Underway | * Design work commenced on the Commonwealth’s $20 million investment to provide 23 remote First Nations communities with free community wide Wi-Fi in partnership with NBN Co.
 |
| Launch of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Roadmap: Beyond 2026, including extensive stakeholder and community engagement over the year | Minister for Communications | 2024 | Complete  | * Ongoing implementation of improved data collection on First Nations digital inclusion.
 |
| Commence 44 projects to improve telecommunication services in First Nations communities  | Minister for Communications | December 2024 | Complete | * Contracts signed to commence implementation of 44 projects to improve telecommunication services in First Nations communities under Regional Connectivity Program Round 3 and Mobile Black Spot Program Round 7.
 |
| Identify opportunities and fund proposals for water infrastructure planning and construction projects, and to support science and other enabling projects that can ensure solutions are evidence-based, sustainable and align with community priorities | Minister for the Environment and Water | 2023-27 | Underway  |  |

## Justice for all (Targets 10 and 11)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Implement the Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) Strategic Framework* Develop a Justice SSP
* Develop anti-racism and cultural capability strategies for justice sector agencies
* Expand justice partnerships
* Improve cross-sectoral partnerships with sectors such as disability, health, family violence prevention, care and protection, social and emotional well-being, education and housing
 | Attorney-General | 2024-26 | Underway | * The Strategic Framework guides the actions of the JPP to 2030. The JPP Implementation Roadmap outlines initiatives the JPP will prioritise to deliver its Strategic Framework over 2024-25.
 |
| Provide grants to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia to develop, implement and evaluate justice reinvestment initiatives | Attorney-General Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2024 | Underway  | * 27 initiatives have been funded under the National and Central Australia Programs since they commenced in 2023. Grant rounds for 3 remaining projects will continue to progress.
 |
| Establish the independent Justice Reinvestment Unit | Attorney-General | 2024-26 | Underway | * The Justice Reinvestment Unit will deliver priority functions for 12-18 months before transitioning to an Aboriginal Community Control or Indigenous-led Organisation.
 |
| Continue to work with state and territory governments to reform the minimum age of criminal responsibility | Attorney-General | Ongoing | Underway  | * Closing the Gap is a standing item on the Standing Council of Attorneys‑General agenda and jurisdictions continue to be asked to provide updates on the progress of minimum age of criminal responsibility reform.
 |

## Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Connected Family Safety Services - Establish 5 place-based community networks in regional and remote locations to improve collaboration and service integration across the family safety sector | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Social Services | June 2025 |  Underway |  |
| Establish culturally appropriate data collection on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council | Minister for Social Services | June 2028 | Underway  | * To be finalised when the standalone plan is finalised.
 |
| Further build the family and domestic violence evidence base for First Nations people and develop a culturally appropriate data collection mechanism | Minister for Social Services | June 2028 | Underway | * Current data collection is insufficient to measure progress.
 |
| Finalise Stage 2 and Implement Stage 3 of the Closing the Gap Outcomes and Evidence Fund | Minister for Social Services | 2024-26 | Underway  | * Trial projects will be implemented and evaluated in each of the 8 locations. The projects will deliver services and activities that have been prioritised by each community to support targets 12 and 13.
 |
| Improve early disclosure experiences and access to specialist services for First Nations victims and survivors of child sexual abuse through SNAICC, partnering with Yamurrah | Minister for Indigenous Australians | June 2025 | Underway | * Project Bird will launch First Nations pilots in 5 locations across Australia to improve early disclosure experiences and access to specialist services for First Nations Victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
 |
| Establish a First Nations National Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Peak Body | Minister for Social Services | 30 June 2025 | Underway  | * The National Peak Body will be established in June 2025 to align with the launch of the First Nations Family Safety Plan.
 |
| Launch the Safe and Supported Partnership Agreement for Shared Decision‑Making | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2024 | Complete | * All parties to Safe and Supported are working to implement Safe and Supported under the principles of the Partnership Agreement.
 |
| Progress second wave of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study | Attorney-General | 30 June 2025 | Underway  | * A procurement process is currently underway. Next steps will be announced in 2025.
 |
| Embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in the design of service delivery programs | Minister for Social Services | 2025 | Underway  | * SNAICC and the Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group are leading the development of the draft child placement minimum standards.
 |
| Develop the National Child and Family Investment Strategy | Minister for Social Services | 2023-27 | Underway  | * The draft Strategy is being reviewed with SNAICC to ensure it aligns with the action plan parameters, transition needs of the non-Indigenous Non-Government Organisation sector are incorporated and best practice options are outlined for governments to consider for implementation, guidance as opposed to prescriptive targets and timelines.
 |
| Deliver the Strengthening Families and Communities Partnership in Central Australia in the NT | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025  | Underway  | * Engagement is underway with the Central Australia Plan Aboriginal Leadership Group and communities across Central Australia to determine early community priorities.
 |
| Deliver an assessment of the needs and barriers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families engaged with child protection systems who require access to legal supports | Minister for Social Services | 2023-26 | Underway | * The Barriers Experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families Accessing Legal Supports Scoping Study report is under review and when finalised will support governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners to identify areas for improvement across systems, and commit to address the barriers faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in seeking legal supports.
 |
| Develop the First Nations National Plan | Minister for Social Services | mid-2025 | Underway  | * The First Nations National Plan is on track to be launched mid-2025.
 |

## Connection to Country, and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fund and facilitate the legal recognition of land and sea Native Title rights and interests, including funding to Native Title Representative Bodies/Service Providers to assist Native Title claimants and holders in this process | Attorney-GeneralMinister for Indigenous Australians | 2024 | Complete  | * Continuing support of the operation of the native title system, including through measures announced in the 2024-25 Budget context to support the Federal Court to resolve complex native title claims; digitisation of native title records; and an increase in the National Native Title Tribunal’s support for native title holders to resolve disagreements.
 |
| Work with the Preservation Evidence Working Group to identify lawful and culturally appropriate options to preserve evidence to support the resolution of Native Title claims | Attorney-General | Ongoing | Underway | * The Preservation Evidence Working Group will continue meeting in 2025.
 |
| Finalise the remaking of 4 legislative instruments under the *Native Title Act 1993* which are due to terminate | Attorney-General | 2024 | Complete | * Regulations were remade on 1 October 2024.
 |
| Continue to progress the commitments made as part of the Parliamentary Inquiry into the destruction of caves at Juukan Gorge to co-design options to reform heritage protection | Minister for the Environment Attorney-GeneralMinister for Indigenous Australians | 2024-26 | Underway  | * The Commowealth renewed the agreement with the Alliance to co-design First Nations Cultural Heritage reforms from 1 July 2024 until 30 June 2026.
 |
| Continue to receive advice on issues impacting the Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) sector  | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Ongoing | Underway | * The PBC Capacity Building Program will continue in 2025. The PBC Steering Group continues to meet and collaborate with Government on PBC reforms.
 |
| Consider the most appropriate mechanism/s to review the future acts regime in the *Native Title Act 1993* | Attorney-General | 2024 | Complete | * On 4 June 2024 the Attorney-General referred to the Australian Law Reform Commission a review of the future acts regime. The inquiry will report back by 8 December 2025.
 |
| Elevate the Indigenous ProtectedAreas (IPAs) program with a focus on closer stakeholder collaboration, enhanced on-ground support and environmental technical expertise, strengthened reporting, monitoring and evaluation, and increased communication | Minister for the Environment and Water | 2023-28 | Underway | * IPA Managers Network to be re-established in 2025. The intent of this group is to share knowledge relevant to land and sea management on IPAs. The scope and structure will be established in collaboration with IPA providers.
 |
| Finalise grant round one of the Indigenous Rangers Program (IRP) expansion, with a focus on growing the Indigenous ranger sector, increasing the number of female rangers, and Indigenous rangers on dedicated IPAs | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2024-25 | Underway | * The Government has invested $355 million to expand the IRP over the next 4 years. More than 1,000 new jobs will be created and up to 770 new ranger roles for First Nations women will be created. Grant round one of the IRP expansion was run during 2024 and will be finalised in early 2025.
 |
| Progress development of the *First Nations Clean Energy Strategy* | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 2023-24 | Complete | * The Strategy was released on 6 December 2024. The Commonwealth is working with states and territories to develop a plan to support the implementation of the Strategy.
 |
| Progress the development of an Inland Waters target | Minister for the Environment and Water Minister for Indigenous AustraliansAttorney-General | Ongoing | Underway  | * In July 2024, the Joint Council on Closing the Gap supported a jurisdictional Inland Waters Target approach, instead of a national approach (i.e., 3% national target). Jurisdictional governments will work in partnership and shared decision making with First Nations People to determine their baseline inland waters metric, actions, and target/s.
 |
| Continue to work with First Nations stakeholders to implement key actions and priorities identified in the Languages Policy Partnership’s (LPP) Roadmap for strong, supported and flourishing languages, including:* Identifying and scoping policy priorities to support intergenerational language transfer, and
* Implementing new languages initiatives in partnership with the language sector
 | Minister for the Arts | 2024-26Ongoing | UnderwayUnderway | * In 2024, Joint Council endorsed languages as a new sector for strengthening. First Languages Australia received funding for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026 to progress this work. A working group to guide development of the SSP has been established.
* In the 2024-25 Budget context, the Government invested $53.8 million over 4 years to enhance support for community-led language learning. The Commonwealth will work with the LPP to determine funding priorities for the Indigenous Languages and Arts Program.
 |
| Continue working with First Nations communities to develop and deliver the fourth National Indigenous Lanugages Survey (NILS) | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2023-26 | Underway | * NILS4 co-design commenced in December 2024 and will be finalised by June 2026, continuing to work with the LPP.
 |
| Implement the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 2024-30 | Underway | * The Strategy was released on 6 December 2024. The Commonwealth is working with states and territories to develop a plan to support the implementation of the Strategy.
 |

## Cross-Cutting – Disability, Gender, Sexuality and Identity. Remote Australia

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Undertake due consideration of recommendations of:* the Disability Royal Commission, and
* the NDIS Review

as they relate to improving outcomes for First Nations people with disability | Minister for Social Services | 20242024  | CompleteComplete | * In July 2024, the Australian Government 'accepted' or 'accepted in principle' all recommendations in Volume 9 of the Disability Royal Commission's (DRC) Final Report. The focus is now on implementing DRC recommendations within the Commonwealth’s responsibility and the NDIS Review. This includes consultation on the First Nations Disability Forum.
 |
| Development of a Remote Australia Framework  | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | Ongoing | Underway | * In 2024 the National Indigenous Australians Agency led development of a draft Remote Australia Framework for consideration by Secretaries Board. Ongoing work in 2025 will draw from the draft framework to support place-based actions in remote Australia across Government.
 |
| Release national strategy to achieve gender equality | Minister for Women | March 2024 | Complete | * *The Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality* was published on 7 March 2024.
 |
| Implement gender budgeting in the 2024-25 budget processes | Minister for Women | May 2024 | Complete | * From the 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, gender responsive budgeting has been implemented across the Budget process. Gender responsive budgeting will continue in future Budgets.
 |
| Release the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda for First Nations Gender Justice and Equality by mid-2024 | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 19 March 2024 | Complete | * The Wiyi Yani U Thangani Change Agenda for First Nations Gender Justice (formerly known as the National Framework for Action) was launched on 19 March 2024.
 |
| Launch the Understanding Gender in First Nations Policy and Program Work online training module | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Mid 2024 | Delayed | * Revised date for the module being made available as a resource Australian Public Service (APS)-wide is June 2025.
 |
| Embed First Nations Sexuality and Identity as a priority area across the Commonwealth | Attorney-GeneralMinister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2024 | Underway |  |
| Implement the 10 Year National Action Plan for the health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people | Attorney-GeneralMinister for Health and Aged Care | December 2024-34 | Underway | * Implementation of the National Action Plan will include:
	+ Establishing a $13 million grants program to scale up dedicated LGBTQIA+ services and support successful initiatives that build the health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ communities.
	+ Investing $2 million to collect data to underpin priority areas for action through La Trobe University’s ‘Private Lives’ and ‘Writing Themselves In’ health and wellbeing surveys.
 |

## Priority Reform One

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Strengthen the Commonwealth partnership stocktake:* Provide greater transparency and accountability of the stocktake with First Nations partners
* Implement a more regular approach to assessing the number and type of place-based partnerships
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | 20242024 | CompleteComplete | * The 2024 stocktake included an assessment of funding provided to First Nations partners to ensure they have the capacity to engage in genuine partnership, as well as the number and type of place-based partnerships.
 |
| Undertake a value assessment of Jurisdictional partnership stocktakes:* Work in partnership with Coalition of the Peaks to review partnerships across all jurisdictions
* Identify gaps, including whether First Nations partners are adequately resources
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians  |  2024 | Complete | * Critical analysis of jurisdictional partnership stocktakes were presented to Joint Council in July 2024. This activity will be repeated in 2026.
 |
| Develop and implement Policy Partnership Evaluation Methodology | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | 2024 | Underway | * The Commonwealth has shifted to providing Policy Partnerships with a guideline to support consistent evaluations.
 |
| Identify future policy partnerships:* Work in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks to identify sectors for future policy partnerships
* Consider the outcomes of a scoping study for the development of a First Nations Economic Partnership
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | 2024 | CompleteComplete | * 3 new policy partnerships have been identified for future implementation, the VET and Skills Policy Partnership, the Data Policy Partnership and the First Nations Economic Partnership.
 |
| Place-based partnerships: * Continue to support the 6 place-based partnerships established under the National Agreement
* Establish an approach to monitoring by the end of 2024`
 | Minister for Indigenous Australians  | Ongoing2024 | UnderwayDelayed | * The Commonwealth expects the place-based partnerships to be fully established by their relevant state or territory in 2025.

  |
| Releasethe Commonwealth Engagement and Partnership Framework | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2024 | Superseded | * In 2025, work will be undertaken to develop and implement a partnership playbook that supports how the APS can work in genuine partnership with First Nations people.
 |
| Develop a First Nations approach to foreign policy | Minister for Foreign Affairs | Ongoing | Underway | * Work is ongoing to develop a First Nations approach to foreign and trade policy.
 |
| Establish a First Nations Health Partnership | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 2024 | Complete | * The first meeting occurred in 2024. A meeting schedule and work plan for 2025 is being developed.
 |
| Establish an interim First Nations Skills and Training Partnership Committee | Minister for Skills and Training  | 2024 | Complete | * The first meeting was held in 2024, to agree draft terms of reference and governance, and to develop a forward workplan. Future meetings will focus on designing the enduring national VET Policy Partnership arrangements.
 |
| Establishment of a new First Nations Visitor Economy Partnership  | Minister for Trade and Tourism | 2024 | Complete | * The first meeting of the Partnership will occur in early 2025.
 |

## Priority Reform Two

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Deliver the Business Case for a proposed Grant Connected Policy | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance | 30 June 2024 | Delayed  | * Finalise the business case by 31 December 2025.
 |
| Roll out the Grants Prioritisation Guide across Commonwealth agencies and monitor update | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance | 2024-25 | Complete | * In 2025 the Commonwealth will continue to promote the voluntary Grants Prioritisation Guide.
 |
| Consultation process to strengthen the Indigenous Procurement Policy | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance | 31 December 2024 | Complete | * Government to decide on specific policy reforms based on feedback received.
 |
| Support consideration of the future role of the Indigenous Expenditure Report and the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report by National Cabinet | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance Treasurer | 2025 | Underway | * Work is underway to scope options.
 |
| Design and implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SSPs | Minister for Indigenous Australians Attorney-General Minister for the Arts Minister for Social Services Minister for Skills and TrainingMinister for HousingMinister for Homelessness | March 2025 | Underway  | * The project timeline has been extended to enable maximum input from Peak members. The validated framework will be presented to Joint Council in 2025.
 |
| Develop new SSP for Justice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages and scope a Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Sector and a Skills and Training SSP | Minister for Indigenous Australians Attorney-GeneralMinister for the Arts Minister for Social Services Minister for Skills and Training Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | 2025-26 | Underway | * SSP are at different stages and undergoing different processes:
	+ Justice SSP – 30 June 2026
	+ Languages SSP – 30 June 2025
	+ Skills and Training SSP – sector analysis scoping by 31 December 2025
	+ Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence SSP – scoping by 30 June 2025.
 |
| Work collaboratively with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Housing Organisations | Minister for Indigenous Australians Attorney General Minister for the Arts Minister for Social Services Minister for Housing and Minister for Homelessness | Ongoing  | Underway | * Progressing national priorities, including incorporating the Housing Policy Partnership in the development of a national implementation approach.
 |
| Develop transition plans to strengthen the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Sector  | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 2022-27 | Underway  | * The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme was the first program to transition on 1 July 2024, with an additional 29 programs identified to transfer to community-control, where appropriate, by 30 June 2027.
 |
| Conduct 10 integrated care and commissioning trials across rural and remote regions  | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 2024-27 | Underway  |  |
| Explore opportunities to expand programs for First Nations children | Minister for Education Minister for Health and Aged Care | Ongoing | Underway  |  |
| Work collaboratively with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association to develop an implementation strategy | Minister for Social Services Minister for Indigenous Australians | 2023-24 | Delayed | * This action is being progressed through the Housing SSP.
 |
| Develop a National Child and Family Investment Strategy | Minister for Social Services | 2023-27 | Underway  | * The draft Strategy is being reviewed with SNAICC to ensure it aligns with the action plan parameters, transition needs of the non-Indigenous Non-Government Organisation sector are incorporated, and best practice options are outlined for governments to consider.
 |

## Priority Reform Three

| Action  | Lead | Timeframe | Status  | Next Steps  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Continue to develop the draft Commonwealth Monitoring and Accountability Framework | The Prime Minister Minister for Indigenous Australians  | 30 June 2025  | Underway | * Commonwealth agencies to opt-in to rollout in 2025.
 |
| Prioritise work on the design of a Commonwealth Independent Mechanism | The Prime Minister Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Underway | * In July 2024, the Joint Council agreed to prioritise establishing an Independent Mechanisms in every jurisdiction. The Commonwealth Independent Mechanism will be established in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks.
 |
| Development of metrics to better inform accountability of mainstream health services | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Health and Aged Care | Ongoing | Underway | * Further work is required to fill existing data gaps by developing measures that report on institutional racism within the health system and measure access by First Nations peoples to culturally safe health services.
 |
| Develop a Central Agency Strategic Action Plan | The Prime Minister Minister for Finance Treasurer | 31 March 2025 | Underway | * Central Agency Secretaries to finalise and implement the Central Agency Strategic Action Plan.
 |
| Develop a Priority Reform Three Strategy | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Public Service | 2025 | Underway | * In 2025, the Commonwealth will commence work on the scoping and development of the Commonwealth Transformation Strategy.
 |
| Trial a First Nations System Lead role to drive systems-level cultural change and policy thinking across the APS Reform Agenda | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Public Service | June 2025 | Underway | * The First Nations System Lead role will continue to be trialled until June 2025 with arrangements past this date to be considered concurrently with broader APS Reform arrangements.
 |
| Establish a partnership arrangement with the First Nations community-controlled sector to develop the First Nations employee value proposition  | Minister for Public Service | 30 June 2025 | Delayed  | * This project has been delayed until June 2026.
 |
| Establish a National Cultural Safety Working Group | Minister for Indigenous Australians | June 2024 | Delayed  | * Under consideration by the Partnership Working Group.
 |
| Implement resources developed through the Priority Reform Three allyship project, to support individual and organisational transformation | Minister for Indigenous AustraliansMinister for the Public Service | 2024 | Underway | * In 2025, utilisation of the Allyship toolkit will be monitored across the APS.
 |

## Priority Reform Four

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Next Steps |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Closing the Gap Community Data Projects - Provide regional data and support via a portal and training for each of the 6 project locations | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Ongoing | Underway  | * The data portals for the Blacktown, Maningrida and Western Suburbs of Adelaide sites continue to be developed, aiming to have operational data portals that provide data relevant to community priorities by the end of 2025.
 |
| Indigenous Data Network (IDN) to deliver Community Data Projects  | Minister for Indigenous Australians |  2024-25 | Underway | * Co-designed Research Partnership Agreements have been finalised with each partner organisations to establish an agreed, robust and collaborative approach to the research.
 |
| Establish a measurement frameworkfor Priority Reforms | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Ongoing | Underway | * ANZSOG delivered its final Priority Reform Measurement Framework report with recommendations, which are to be considered by the Partnership Working Group.
 |
| Develop data items in the Data Development Plan  | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Ongoing  | Delayed | * The Data Development Plan is likely to be considered as part of the work of the Data Policy Partnership.
 |
| Undertake a First Nations Data Scoping Study on disability and deliver a report reconciling definitions and methodologies across data sets | Minister for Indigenous Australians | Mid-2025 | Underway | * The study is on track to be produced by mid-2025.
 |
| Connected Beginnings data sharing | Minister for Early Childhood Education | Ongoing | Underway | * This is occurring at all Connected Beginnings sites.
 |
| Justice Reinvestment - Increase transparency about publicly available data, and where possible facilitate access to it, or consider data sharing arrangements | Attorney-General | Ongoing | Underway | * The department continues to work with state and territory governments to enter Memoranda of Understanding, including regarding how jurisdictions will support community access to government data.
 |
| Establish 5 place-based community networks in regional and remote locations | Minister for Social Services | June 2025 |  Underway |  |
| Establishing culturally appropriate data collection on family and domestic violence | Minister for Social Services | June 2028 | Underway | * Current data collection is insufficient to measure progress on this target.
 |