

Closing the Gap

Commonwealth 2024 Implementation Plan Actions Status



Australian Government



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment processes underway.
Deliver First Nations Cancer Packages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2025 31 December 2025 1 March 2025 31 December 2025	Underway Underway Underway Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Review made 6 recommendations currently under consideration by Government.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING (TARGETS 1, 2 AND 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant agreements established for 9 sites under the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Coober Pedy unit opened in June 2024. The 5 remaining 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 ACCHOs are delivering the rheumatic heart disease program across 89 sites.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING (TARGETS 1, 2 AND 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
Develop and implement an echocardiogram training program	Minister for Health and Aged Care	2024-28	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of 2024, over 220 trainees were enrolled in the First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program and 60 confirmed completions.
Support NACCHO to roll out the final tranche of Elder Care Support Workers	Minister for Health and Aged Care	30 June 2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction is underway on culturally safe aged care homes for older First Nations people to age on country.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING (TARGETS 1, 2 AND 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT (TARGETS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a work plan Identify opportunities to provide recommendations to Joint Council 	Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education	2024 2024	Complete Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, 10 new Connected beginnings sites were established.

EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT (TARGETS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
Finalise the Early Years Strategy	Minister for Social Services Minister for Early Childhood Education	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	2025 2025	Underway Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2024, 13 ACCOs were funded to deliver new playgroups.
Maximise uptake of the Indigenous Cultural Responsiveness Initiative	Minister for Education	2022-27	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

EDUCATION AND EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT (TARGETS 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
Implement the new Australian Apprenticeships service delivery model	Minister for Skills and Training	2024-26	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft scoping undertaken with negotiations underway with NIETA to finalise the project scope and timeframes.
First Nations Economic Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	2024 2024	Complete Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TARGET 8)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
<p>Establish Remote Training Hubs Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 hubs in Central Australian by 2025 • Up to 7 hubs by 2027 	Minister for Skills and Training	2024-28	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of the Remote Training Hubs network is complete. On track to commence implementation in 2025.
<p>Replace the Community Development Program (CDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
		2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
<p>Make recommendations to Joint Council about improving housing outcomes and homelessness prevention for First Nations people</p>	<p>Minister for Housing</p> <p>Minister for Homelessness</p>	December 2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025, the Housing Policy Partnership will take on a greater role in identifying national priorities for action.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (TARGETS 9A, 9B AND 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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 Minister for Homelessness	2024-29	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Minister for Homelessness	2024-30	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Minister for Housing 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 Minister for Homelessness	June 2024	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Northern Territory communities and homelands.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (TARGETS 9A, 9B AND 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Release the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy	Minister for Climate Change and Energy	6 December 2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (TARGETS 9A, 9B AND 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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
<p>Implement the Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) Strategic Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Justice Sector Strengthening Plan • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

JUSTICE FOR ALL (TARGETS 10 AND 11)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	

FAMILIES AND KIN (TARGETS 12 AND 13)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All parties to Safe and Supported are working to implement Safe and Supported under the principles of the Partnership Agreement.

FAMILIES AND KIN (TARGETS 12 AND 13)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Progress second wave of the Australian Child Maltreatment Study	Attorney-General	30 June 2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement is underway with the Central Australia Plan Aboriginal Leadership Group and communities across Central Australia to determine early community priorities.

FAMILIES AND KIN (TARGETS 12 AND 13)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Nations National Plan is on track to be launched mid-2025.

CONNECTION TO COUNTRY, CULTURE 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-General Minister for Indigenous Australians	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing support of the operation of the native title system, including through measures announced in the 2024-25 Budget 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 disagreement.

CONNECTION TO COUNTRY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES (TARGETS 15A, 15B AND 16)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Preservation Evidence Working Group will continue meeting in 2025.
Finalise the remaking of 4 legislative instruments under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> which are due to terminate	Attorney-General	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 and Water Attorney-General Minister for Indigenous Australians	2024-26	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Commonwealth 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Attorney-General	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

CONNECTION TO COUNTRY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES (TARGETS 15A, 15B AND 16)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Elevate the Indigenous Protected Areas (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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>First Nations Clean Energy Strategy</i>	Minister for Climate Change and Energy	2023-24	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Australians Attorney-General	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

CONNECTION TO COUNTRY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES (TARGETS 15A, 15B AND 16)

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
<p>Continue to work with First Nations stakeholders to implement key actions and priorities identified in the Languages Policy Partnership's (LPPs) for strong, supported and flourishing languages, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>2024-26</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Underway</p> <p>Underway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 outcome, 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 Languages Survey (NILS)	Minister for Indigenous Australians	2023-26	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 AREAS: DISABILITY, REMOTE AUSTRALIA, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
<p>Undertake due consideration of recommendations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Disability Royal Commission, and the NDIS Review <p>as they relate to improving outcomes for First Nations people with disability</p>	Minister for Social Services	2024 2024	Complete Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July 2024, the 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

CROSS-CUTTING AREAS: DISABILITY, REMOTE AUSTRALIA, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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-General Minister 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-General Minister for Health and Aged Care	December 2024-34	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the National Action Plan will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<p>Strengthen the Commonwealth partnership stocktake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	2024 2024	Complete Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Undertake a value assessment of Jurisdictional partnership stocktakes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth has shifted to providing Policy Partnerships with a guideline to support consistent evaluations.

PRIORITY REFORM ONE

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
Identify future policy partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 2024	Complete Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	Ongoing 2024	Underway Delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commonwealth expects the place-based partnerships to be fully established by their relevant state or territory in 2025.
Release the Commonwealth Engagement and Partnership Framework	Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians	2024	Superseded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first meeting occurred in 2024. A meeting schedule and work plan for 2025 is being developed.

PRIORITY REFORM ONE

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next steps
Establish an interim First Nations Skills and Training Partnership Committee	Minister for Skills and Training	2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2025 the Commonwealth will continue to promote the voluntary Grants Prioritisation Guide.

PRIORITY REFORM TWO

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Consultation process to strengthen the Indigenous Procurement Policy	Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance	31 December 2024	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is underway to scope options.
Design and implement a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Sector Strengthening Plans	Minister for Indigenous Australians Attorney-General Minister for the Arts Minister for Social Services Minister for Skills and Training Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness	March 2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project timeline has been extended to enable maximum input from Peak members. The validated framework will be presented to Joint Council in 2025.

PRIORITY REFORM TWO

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Develop new SSPs for Justice, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages and scope a Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence SSP and a Skills and Training Sector SSP	Minister for Indigenous Australians Attorney-General Minister for the Arts Minister for Social Services Minister for Skills and Training Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness	2025-26	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSPs are at different stages and undergoing different processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Minister for Homelessness	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing national priorities, including incorporating the Housing Policy Partnership in the development of a national implementation approach.

PRIORITY REFORM TWO

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Develop transition plans to strengthen the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Sector	Minister for Health and Aged Care	2022-27	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action is being progressed through the Housing SSP.
Develop a National Child and Family Investment Strategy	Minister for Social Services	2023-27	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth agencies to opt-in to roll-out in 2025.
Prioritise work on the design of a Commonwealth Independent Mechanism	The Prime Minister Minister for Indigenous Australians	31 December 2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In July 2024, the Joint Council agreed to prioritise establishing Independent Mechanisms in every jurisdiction. The Commonwealth Independent Mechanism will be established by the Commonwealth Government in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks.
Development of metrics to better inform accountability of mainstream health services	Minister for Health and Aged Care Minister for Indigenous Australians	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Agency Secretaries to finalise and implement the Central Agency Strategic Action Plan.

PRIORITY REFORM THREE

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Develop a Priority Reform Three Strategy	Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for the Public Service	2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians	June 2025	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 the Public Service	30 June 2025	Delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project has been delayed until June 2026.
Establish a National Cultural Safety Working Group	Minister for Indigenous Australians	June 2024	Delayed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Australians Minister for the Public Service	2024	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 framework for Priority Reforms	Minister for Indigenous Australians	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study is on track to be produced by mid-2025.
Connected Beginnings data sharing	Minister for Early Childhood Education	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is occurring at all Connected Beginnings sites.

PRIORITY REFORM FOUR

Action	Lead	Timeframe	Status	Next Steps
Justice Reinvestment - Increase transparency about publicly available data, and where possible facilitate access to it, or consider data sharing arrangements	Attorney-General	Ongoing	Underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current data collection is insufficient to measure progress on this target.



Australian Government



CLOSING THE GAP