- To align with the refreshed National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (Health Plan), suggest a greater focus on the importance of telehealth for accessible and place-based connection to services. The Health Plan has the following objective, specific to tele/digital health:
  - **Objective 9.4. Ensure access to telehealth, digital health and other technologies to enable better health care access and connection to services.**
    Ongoing efforts to improve access to telehealth, digital health and other emerging technologies must continue across general practice, allied health and specialist care, including for diagnostic and screening procedures. This must also include ongoing systems and infrastructure supports to enable the use of telehealth and clinical information systems in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, as well as supports to ensure best practice in the adoption and ongoing use of new technology. This must also take into account the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure the best level of access.
- The discussion paper underlines a number of factors that contribute to inequitable access / affordability / ability. In alignment with the refreshed Health Plan and the new National Agreement, key to addressing these and ensuring equity will be:
  - Partnership approaches that embed the decision-making and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations. This will be critical to ensure that design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of initiatives is culturally safe, responsive, ethical and relevant (including for the development and usage of data).
  - Prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations for the delivery of initiatives to ensure they are place-based and locally-relevant.
  - Cross-sector collaboration to address the broader social determinant factors that contribute to inequitable access.
  - Acknowledging and addressing systemic racism, and its impact on access to / use of digital technologies. This includes going beyond references to cyber safety, online harm and abuse, to name both the direct and indirect racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
  - Embedding mechanisms to address intersectional experiences of inequitable access (i.e. for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a disability, experiencing homelessness, LGBTQIA+, ageing populations, Stolen Generation survivors etc.).
- Suggest using "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander / Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people" rather than "Indigenous", as this is the terminology preferred by the sector and aligns with the Health Plan.