

# What is in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap?

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap belongs to all Australians. All Australian governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations have signed up to the Agreement.

This is the first time governments have developed and negotiated a National Agreement in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## True Partnership

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a demonstration of true partnership. The Agreement was developed in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks, and will be implemented in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations.

All Australian governments – the Commonwealth, states and territories, and the Australian Local Government Association – have committed to the actions under the National Agreement, as have the Coalition of Peaks. The parties will be publically accountable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all Australians.

## 4 Priority Reforms

At the heart of the National Agreement are four Priority Reforms to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people supported by specific targets.

### 1. **Formal partnerships and shared decision making**

Building and strengthening structures to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to share decision-making with governments.

### 2. **Building the community-controlled sector**

Building formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors to deliver services to support Closing the Gap.

### 3. **Transforming government organisations**

Systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government organisations to improve accountability and better respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

### 4. **Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level**

Enable shared access to location specific data and information to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations achieve the first three Priority Reforms.

## 17 Targets

The draft Agreement establishes 17 socio-economic targets to measure progress in the outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

1. **People enjoy long and health lives**
2. **Children are born healthy and strong**
3. **Early childhood education is high quality and culturally appropriate**
4. **Children thrive in their early years**
5. **Students achieve their full learning potential**
6. **Students reach further education pathways**
7. **Youth are engaged in education or employment**
8. **Strong economic participation and development**
9. **People can secure appropriate and affordable housing**
10. **Adults are not overrepresented in incarceration**
11. **Young people are not overrepresented in detention**
12. **Children are not overrepresented in out-of-home care**
13. **Families and households are safe**
14. **Social and emotional wellbeing**
15. **People maintain distinctive relationships with land and waters**
16. **Cultures and languages are strong**
17. **People have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives**

Two additional targets – on community infrastructure and inland waters – will be developed over the next year to further strengthen the National Agreement.

## Accountability and Monitoring

Under the National Agreement, governments are more accountable for their actions towards Closing the Gap than in the past.

All parties will develop Implementation Plans that set out how they will meet their commitments under the National Agreement, and all parties are required to report annually on their progress against these plans.

The Productivity Commission will publish a dashboard for Australians to access up-to-date data on Closing the Gap targets and outcomes.

The Productivity Commission will also undertake an independent three-yearly review on progress towards Closing the Gap.

This will be complemented by an independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led three-yearly review to capture the lived experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

## Living Document

The National Agreement is a living document and will be revised over its life as we progress towards Closing the Gap.