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“A community-controlled organisation implicitly recognises the strength, the expertise and the right to self-determination by Indigenous communities”

Engagement participant at
New South Wales Meeting

Building the Community-Controlled Sector

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap is built around four new Priority Reforms that will change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. Priority Reform Two is about building the community-controlled sector.

As part of this Priority Reform, parties are committing to building formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors to deliver services to support Closing the Gap.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services usually achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and can be given preference over mainstream services.

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED ORGANISATION?

Community-controlled organisations deliver services that strengthen and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and are:

1. Incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit
2. Controlled and operated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
3. Connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver services
4. Governed by a majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governing body



STRONG COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED SECTOR ELEMENTS

Strong community-controlled sectors are those:

1. Where there is sustained capacity building and investment
2. Where there is a dedicated and identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce
3. That are supported by a Peak Body which has strong governance, policy development, and influencing capacity
4. Have a dedicated, reliable and consistent funding model designed to suit the types of services required by communities



GOVERNMENT ACTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT

Governments commit to building strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors and organisations in line with the strong sector elements.

Governments commit to increase the proportion of services delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.



PARTNERSHIP ACTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT

Building strong community-controlled sectors requires national effort and joined up delivery against all sector elements.

The Joint Council on Closing the Gap will together develop Sector Strengthening Plans for specific sectors every three years. The first four sectors are:

- Early childhood care and development
- Health
- Housing
- Disability

Sector Strengthening Plans will focus on workforce, capital infrastructure, service provision and governance.