

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

Priority Reform One Shared Decision Making and Partnerships

Policy Partnerships -
Created for the purpose of working on discrete policy areas

State Actions

- Stocktake of current partnerships between Aboriginal people and their communities, and the WA Government – released for consultation February 2023
- Review and strengthen these identified partnerships in alignment with “Strong Partnership Elements” in the National Agreement – due 2023

Partnership Actions Joined up approach to five policy partnership areas:

1. Justice (adult and youth incarceration)
2. Social and Emotional Wellbeing
3. Housing
4. Early Childhood Care and Development
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

Place-based Partnerships

Partnerships between Aboriginal people and their communities, and governments based on a specific region

Partnership Actions

- There will be six (6) place-based partnerships across Australia
- Five (5) are established: Maningrida (NT), Tamworth (NSW), Doomadgee (QLD), Western Suburbs of Adelaide (SA), and East Kimberley (WA)
- One (1) partnership location is yet to be determined, in Victoria

Priority Reform Two Building the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector

Elements of a strong sector

- Sustained capacity building and investment
- Dedicated Aboriginal workforce and wage parity
- Support from a peak body
- Consistent funding model

Partnership Actions Sector Strengthening Plans -

- Every three (3) years, sectors for joint strengthening effort will be identified and sector strengthening plans (SSPs) will be developed

2020-2023

- Early Childhood Care and Development SSP - 2021
- Health SSP - 2021
- Housing SSP - 2022
- Disability SSP - 2022

SSPs will have a focus on:

- Funding
- Workforce
- Service Delivery
- Capital Infrastructure
- Peak Bodies
- Governance

Clause 55

Government parties have agreed to implement strategies to increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCO's

- a. Through funding prioritisation policies for ACCOs for the delivery of Aboriginal services
- b. Through apportioning a meaningful proportion of funding for socio-economic activities targeting the whole population, to ACCOs

Priority Reform Three Transforming mainstream institutions

Transformational elements

1. Identify and eliminate racism
2. Embed and practice meaningful cultural safety
3. Deliver services in partnership with ACCOs, Aboriginal people and communities
4. Increase accountability through transparent funding allocations
5. Support Aboriginal cultures
6. Improve engagement with Aboriginal people

State Actions

These need defining but must ensure government and mainstream agencies are free of institutional racism and commit to cultural safety

Partnership actions

These need defining but must include the development of an independent mechanism to monitor, review and support the transformational activities of agencies and institutions

Priority Reform Four Increasing access to data

Aboriginal communities must have equal access to data that affects them. This data will be essential for ACCOs delivering services to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities.

Elements to support data and information sharing:

1. Partnerships in place to support collection, management and use of data
2. Aboriginal stakeholders have access to data subject to privacy requirements
3. Governments collect data in a way that enables sufficient levels of disaggregation
4. Aboriginal people and communities are supported to build capacity in collecting, using and interpreting data

State Actions

Apply data and information sharing elements across their activities

Partnership Actions

1. Six (6) data projects being established in locations across Australia: Western Suburbs of Adelaide (SA), Maningrida (NT), Kimberley (WA), Blacktown LGA (NSW), Doomadgee (QLD), and one more TBC. Each project must enable Aboriginal communities and organisations to access and use location-specific data on CTG outcome areas.

The Kimberley data project is focusing on suicide and self-harm data to improve mental health outcomes

2. A national data portal is being developed by NIAA and the AIHW to support the six data projects

17 Socio-Economic Targets

Targets are designed to be met at a national level.

All jurisdictions have responsibility for detailing their commitments and activities to address the socio-economic targets in their Jurisdictional Implementation Plans

Legend

- Explanatory notes
- Actions required of the States and Territories to achieve the Priority Reforms
- Actions taken collaboratively by multiple parties to the National Agreement to achieve the Priority Reforms
- Activities currently in progress where influence can be applied.

Implementation

1. Parties have committed to achieving the State Actions and Partnership Actions detailed in this document
2. Implementation Plans – The Commonwealth, each State and Territory, ALGA and the Coalition of Peaks must develop, implement and monitor delivery of an annual Implementation Plan to the National Agreement

Evaluation and Reporting

Measuring the Priority Reforms means measuring the changes governments are making in the way they work with Aboriginal people
Measuring the socio-economic targets means measuring the outcomes experienced by Aboriginal people

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Productivity Commission's publically accessible Closing the Gap dashboard
2. Annual reporting by each party
3. Productivity Commission Review every three years
4. Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Review in alignment with the Productivity Commission reviews
5. Joint Council annual review

Funding

In the drafting of the National Agreement, Governments were firm in their position that it was not intended to be a funding agreement. Funding committed to the National Agreement so far that is relevant to WA is as follows:

1. Commonwealth: Close to \$1bn on a variety of initiatives including \$370m+ for Stolen Generations
2. Virtual Funding Pool for ACCO Strengthening activities under Priority Reform Two

Commonwealth contribution: \$46.5m (to be apportioned nationally)
WA contribution: \$3.4m (for WA)
WA contribution - AHCWA grant: \$1.4m (for the establishment of an ACCO Consortium)



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**



**Coalition
of Peaks**