

Closing the Gap

Appendix F: Reconciliation of 2025 Implementation Plan Commitments



Australian Government



CLOSING THE GAP

Closing the Gap

Across the Commonwealth, positive progress has been made against the Closing the Gap 2025 Implementation Plan commitments. The status key below outlines how commitments have been assessed, with internal monitoring of all outstanding commitments to be undertaken throughout 2026 until completion.

| Status Key | |
|-------------|--|
| Complete | The 2025 Implementation Plan commitment is complete. |
| In progress | Progress to implement the 2025 Implementation Plan commitment is progressing. |
| Superseded | Work on this commitment has ceased and is no longer being progressed, including where activities have been replaced or absorbed by updated implementation activities, or are no longer relevant due to changes in timings or priorities. |
| Paused | Work has been temporarily paused due to external dependencies, sequencing considerations or policy alignment requirements. Activity will resume subject to resolution of these factors. |

Priority Reform One

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Establish the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Skills Policy Partnership | Minister for Skills and Training | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The VET Policy Partnership will convene for its inaugural meeting in Quarter 1 of 2026, pending final endorsement from Skills Ministers. The inaugural meeting will focus on implementing the first year workplan. |
| Establish the Data Policy Partnership (DPP) | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The DPP was established in October 2025 to reflect the urgency and priority of its work. |
| Establish the First Nations Economic Partnership | Treasurer | Mid - 2025 | Complete | The First Nations Economic Partnership Agreement was signed on 29 September 2025. |
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the Tamworth (NSW) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | NIAA will explore a Place-Based Partnership with Tamworth Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and other stakeholders. |
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the Doomadgee (Qld) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Community governance arrangements are being finalised. The NIAA continues to provide ongoing support to the jurisdiction and partners. |
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the East Kimberley (WA) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The East Kimberley Place-Based Partnership Agreement has been finalised and readied for Ministerial signing. A signing ceremony is anticipated for early 2026. |
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the Western Suburbs of Adelaide (SA) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Place-Based Partnership Agreement draft is progressing through parties and is on track to be formalised in early 2026. |

Priority Reform One

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the Maningrida (NT) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The NT Government's Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) has been leading the development of the Maningrida Cultural Governance Group, supported by a governance consultant and an anthropologist. In 2026, CM&C will prioritise re-engagement with key members of the Maningrida Cultural Governance Group to seek their direction on the preferred approach to formalisation. |
| Support state and territory jurisdictions to establish a formal agreement for the Gippsland (Vic) place-based partnership | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The NIAA is facilitating engagement between other Commonwealth agencies and the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency. |
| Establish and implement a workplan for the First Nations Health Governance Group, which commenced in 2024 | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The First Nations Health Governance Group has established and embedded a structured workplan. |
| Finalise a First Nations Approach to Foreign Policy Strategy | Minister for Foreign Affairs | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is working in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to finalise a First Nations International Engagement Strategy in early 2026. |
| Finalise a playbook that supports the Australian Public Service (APS) to work in genuine partnership with First Nations people | Minister for the Public Service | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The First Nations Partnership Playbook was published on 12 June 2025. |
| Finalise the Policy Partnership Evaluation Guideline to support Policy Partnerships to develop individual, yet consistent, evaluations across the Commonwealth | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 April 2025 | Complete | The Policy Partnership Evaluation Guideline has been distributed to Policy Partnership secretariats to assist in the design of their evaluations. |

Priority Reform One

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|----------|---|
| Progress the Strengthening Families and Communities Partnership, through funding community initiatives in Central Australia, to increase family and community safety and strengthening under <i>A Better, Safer Future for Central Australia</i> plan | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Work is continuing with the Central Australia Plan Aboriginal Leadership Group to implement strategies that prevent and address family violence. This includes delivering local infrastructure projects and providing services for youth and men to strengthen community connections and positive male role models. |

Priority Reform Two

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Progress the Justice Sector Strengthening Plan (SSP) | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Continue to work with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to progress the Justice SSP. |
| Progress the Languages SSP | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | In progress | First Languages Australia is the Peak Body leading this work. Consultation is planned for March–April 2026 and endorsement on track for June 2026. |
| Progress the Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence SSP | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence SSP is expected to be finalised in December 2026. |
| Finalise a SSP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for consideration by Joint Council | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 1 July 2025 | In progress | An Evaluation Guide for SSPs is being designed to support SSP leads to design an evaluation for their specific Sector Strengthening context. |

Priority Reform Two

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Review Housing SSP at the end of its term | Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness Minister for Social Services Minister for Indigenous Australians | 1 July 2025 | In progress | Review is scheduled to commence in 2026. NOTE - The Administrative Arrangements Order - 13 May 2025 transferred housing, rental and homelessness policy from the Social Services portfolio to the Treasury portfolio. |
| Progress and review the Disability SSP with consideration to recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Continue to build the community-controlled disability sector consistent with the Disability SSP agreed to by Joint Council in August 2022. Options for a First Nations Disability Forum or other partnership mechanism are being developed for a future decision of government. NOTE: The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment. |
| Transition 21 health programs to community-control, as outlined through the Funding Transition Program | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Transitioning of the 21 identified health programs to community-control has taken longer than expected. The Commonwealth is taking a tailored approach to support the capabilities and capacity of programs, to ensure timely transition. |
| Finalise co-designed Capacity Building Framework for Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The Capacity Building Framework has been successfully co-designed through significant consultation with ACCHOs and the sector peak partners. |

Priority Reform Two

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Develop implementation advice on the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCO) funding model options report | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Implementation advice and associated recommendations will be considered to progress this work. |
| Develop implementation advice on the Evidence review of optimal hours of subsidised Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) for First Nations children | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Implementation advice and associated recommendations will be considered to progress this work. |
| Develop a First Nations Aged Care Workforce Action Plan | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 September 2025 | In progress | A national working group to co-design the First Nations Aged Care Workforce Action Plan (Action Plan) held 5 meetings between November 2024 and July 2025. Work remains underway to finalise the development and begin drafting in partnership with Action Plan key stakeholders in 2026. |
| Increase support for First Nations children and young people under the Specialised Family Violence Services program | Minister for Social Services, in consultation with the Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | On 25 March 2025, the 4 ACCOs currently funded to deliver Specialised Family Violence Services received top-up funding starting in 2024-25. Work has commenced to expand Specialised Family Violence Services delivery by ACCOs, with funding to commence early 2027. |
| Finalise the transition of the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education and Rotary Indigenous Health Scholarships programs to First Nations-led organisations | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Both programs have successfully transitioned to First Nations-led organisations. The Commonwealth will continue to support as required. |

Priority Reform Two

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|---|------------------|-------------|---|
| Deliver the Business Case for a proposed Grants Connected Policy to Government for consideration | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Finance | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The business case will be provided to the Minister for Finance to seek her support for the proposed Grants Connected Policy before it proceeds to Government for consideration. |

Priority Reform Three

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|--|---------------|------------|---|
| Finalise Central Agencies Strategic Action Plan (CASAP) | The Prime Minister Treasurer Minister for Finance | 31 March 2025 | Complete | The CASAP was endorsed in November 2025. |
| Finalise a series of cultural capability training eLearning modules through the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) | Minister for the Public Service | 30 June 2025 | Superseded | The APSC arranged for AIATSIS CORE cultural learning (foundational level training) to be free to access via APS Learn. |
| Establish Collaboration Circle as an ongoing sub-committee of the Chief Operating Officer Committee | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The Chief Operating Officers Committee endorsed the establishment of the Collaboration Circle as a permanent ongoing sub-committee. |
| Explore options with the Coalition of Peaks for establishing an Independent Mechanism to support agencies to embed Clause 59 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Options have been developed and are being considered. |

Priority Reform Three

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Finalise an overarching whole-of-Commonwealth Priority Reform Three Transformation Strategy | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for the Public Service | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Development of the Strategy is taking a 2-stage approach. Firstly, an APS Priority Reform Roadmap and Immediate Action Plan has been developed to support the Australian Public Service (APS) for sustainable and transformative change. Secondly, a Priority Reform Strategy will be developed in 2026 with the Coalition of Peaks. In 2026, the APS continues to progress work on an overarching, whole-of-Commonwealth Priority Reform 3 Strategy. |
| Increase First Nations representation at Senior Executive levels to at least 100 First Nations SES Officers through the second round of the SES100 | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The Ministerial Statement confirming the SES100 program achieved 100 First Nations SES in the APS was published in September 2025. |
| Establish <i>Bulbul</i> and <i>Yawarra</i> First Nations talent and assessment programs across the APS | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | 75 participants have completed the Bulbul program and 38 participants have completed the Yawarra program since inception. |
| Refine APS Census to better capture intersectional insights, including First Nations employees | Minister for the Public Service | 30 May 2025 | Complete | The First Nations unit partnered with the APS Census team to develop more culturally inclusive language for the APS Employee Census. These changes have been in effect since the 2025 Census. |
| Finalise Action Plan to address barriers to working with First Nations people within whole-of-government systems and processes | Minister for the Public Service | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Action Plan will be finalised in the first half of 2026 to support genuine partnerships between the APS and First Nations people, communities and organisations. |

Priority Reform Three

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|--|
| Finalise APS-wide First Nations Employee Value Proposition to increase First Nations representation in the APS to 5% by 2030 | Minister for the Public Service | 30 June 2025 | In progress | Development of product providing a First Nations lens to accompany the APS Employee Value Proposition is expected to be completed by 30 June 2026. |
| Finalise second Commonwealth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Strategy (2020-2024) | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The APSC have developed two evaluation surveys to measure the success of the Strategy. These will be distributed in early 2026 to agencies and employees across the APS. Outcomes will be shared to help shape the direction of future work. |
| Determine if a standardised whole-of-government approach to Confirmation of Heritage (CoH) for affirmative recruitment is feasible | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth to consider the introduction of a CoH repository to allow applicants to provide the APS their CoH only once. |
| Finalise peer review of foundational cultural competency modules across the APS to ensure it is accessible, appropriate and being used | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Both the Foundational and Advanced modules will be provided to the Collaboration Circle and COO Committee for endorsement to release. |
| Implement a pilot program, APS Integrated Unconscious Bias Training from a First Nations perspective, to support individual and organisational transformation. | Minister for the Public Service Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Senior leaders from across the APS participated in the pilot program. Lessons learned from the pilot will continue to inform ongoing learning opportunities. |

Priority Reform Three

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|--------------|----------|---|
| Provide a data report outlining a reconciliation of definitions and methodologies across disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sets | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Social Services | 30 June 2025 | Complete | <p>A co-authored paper (data report) on the prevalence and profile of disability in the First Nations disability population was published in February 2025.</p> <p>NOTE: The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment.</p> |

Priority Reform Four

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---|
| Provide advice to agencies establishing Indigenous data champions under the Governance of Indigenous Data Framework | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | In March 2025, the NIAA shared an Indigenous Data Champion role and position description with APS agencies, developed in collaboration with and distributed via the APS Governance of Indigenous Data Implementation Community of Practice. |
| Finalise governance mechanisms for overseeing the implementation of actions under the Governance of Indigenous Data Framework in partnership with First Nations representatives | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | NIAA convened the First Working Group meeting on 1 October 2025, held a second meeting later in 2025, and will continue to host and provide secretariat support. |
| Finalise Community Data Projects operational data portal – Blacktown, NSW community site | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 September 2025 | Complete | The portal has been finalised. A data sharing agreement with the community will be progressed. |

Priority Reform Four

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|-------------------|-------------|---|
| Progress Community Data Projects operational data portal – Maningrida, NT community site | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 September 2025 | In progress | Implementation of the Maningrida Community Data Project is underway, with next steps including establishing the Maningrida cultural governance group, currently in early development, which will formalise itself as appropriate for community. |
| Progress Community Data Projects operational data portal – Western Suburbs of Adelaide, SA community site | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 September 2025 | Complete | The portal has been finalised and is complete. |
| Finalise Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Lands, NT Indigenous Data Network Community Data Projects case study | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Melbourne University Indigenous Data Network team finalised the case study. |
| Finalise Brisbane, Qld Indigenous Data Network Community Data Projects case study | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Melbourne University Indigenous Data Network team finalised the case study. |
| Finalise East Kimberley, WA Indigenous Data Network Community Data Projects case study | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Melbourne University Indigenous Data Network team finalised the case study. |
| Finalise First Nations Disability Data Scoping Study to build consensus of disability definitions amongst key stakeholders | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The remaining actions under the Disability Data Scoping Study are underway, with interpretive guides now expected to be finalised by early 2026. |
| Implement an internal departmental First Nations Data Strategy and have publicly available the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Enterprise Data Strategy to better enable data governance that prioritises First Nations-led processes and supports community-driven data use | Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The First Nations Data Strategy will be included in the enterprise-wide data strategy and will be published in 2026. The strategy is currently undergoing final departmental approval. |

Priority Reform Four

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| Establish culturally appropriate data collection mechanism on family, domestic and sexual violence (FDSV) statistics for First Nations people | Minister for Social Services | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth partnered with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council for FDSV to finalise the project scope in September 2025. Next steps will include determining the most effective implementation approach as well as governance arrangements for the project. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Identify up to 21 additional regional and remote sites for new renal dialysis clinics in partnership with ACCOs | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Funding has been awarded to establish 17 regional dialysis units across 16 communities. Additional funding to support further dialysis units is a decision for government. Work remains underway in 2026 to identify and establish the remaining regional dialysis sites. |
| Evaluate Culture Care Connect (CCC) Program to improve effectiveness of First Nations suicide prevention and reduce suicide rates for First Nations people | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The independent evaluation of the CCC program is complete. Key findings of the CCC evaluation are positive, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in supporting First Nations-led approaches to address suicide prevention. |
| Develop implementation strategy to address issues raised in the National Review of First Nations Health Care in Prisons to reform health care in the custodial setting for First Nations people in partnership with ACCHOs | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | In 2025, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Collaboration began work to develop the Implementation Approach, including commencing an engagement process with key stakeholders. This process will continue in 2026, with a draft Implementation Approach expected to be presented for consideration in mid-2026. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Implement Specialist Trainee Support Program (STSP) to increase the number of specialists that will provide First Nations patients with culturally appropriate high-quality specialised care | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The implementation of the four-year STSP grant agreement was executed in October 2024. As of August 2025, the Colleges all recorded 100% retention of their respective trainees. This figure does not include instances where trainees have elected to change career paths into other specialities or GP roles. |
| Finalise recruitment of up to 210 of the 260 new First Nations health care positions to improve cancer outcomes for First Nations people | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Recruitment is ongoing and will continue to be finalised throughout 2026. |
| Implement 10 Birthing on Country activities across rural, remote and very remote locations to increase access to culturally safe maternal care | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | All 10 Birthing on Country activities across rural, remote and very remote locations have been established. |
| Improve access to culturally safe, appropriate rheumatic heart care and address social determinates of health contributing to Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) prevalence | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | Complete | 5 additional services were established in 2025, with further programs being established in 2026. |
| Develop and pilot the 'Echos in ACCHO's' program to detect, treat and prevent RHD in high-risk communities | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Throughout 2026, the identified pilot sites will be established, and the Echos in ACCHOs pilot will officially commence. |
| Support states and territories development of post elimination strategies to ensure sustainable and effective measures are in place to prevent trachoma resurgence | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Throughout 2025, the Commonwealth worked with states and territories and key stakeholders to promote cross-sectoral collaboration required to address critical factors that underpin achieving sustainable prevention and control of trachoma. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Develop and implement training options on culturally safe, trauma aware and healing informed care, over 3 years, for mainstream and First Nations Aged Care providers to improve older First Nations people experience of feeling safe when accessing services | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | A procurement process has taken place, and a provider has been selected. Work is underway to develop and implement training options on culturally safe, trauma aware and healing informed care. |
| Commence implementation of the 19 recommendations of the evaluation of the Australian Family Partnership Program with the 15 sites across Australia and a focus on recruitment and retention of program workforce | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 1 July 2025 | Superseded | The Commonwealth has ceased using the licensed model of the Australian Family Partnership Program and is supporting all 15 sites to transition to their own First Nations-led Maternal and Child Health model of care, that will be delivered from 1 July 2026. |
| Commence implementation of First Nations aged care assessment organisations to provide a culturally safe, trauma aware and healing informed pathway for older First Nations people to access aged care services | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 1 July 2025 | Complete | Implementation of First Nations aged care – assessment pilot has commenced with three organisations across five states and territories providing assessment to metro, regional, remote and very remote areas. |
| The Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Policy Partnership to finalise the refresh of the National Strategic Framework for <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing</i> | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 1 March 2025 | In progress | A draft National Strategic Framework (the Framework) has been prepared, and the SEWB Policy Partnership will work with key stakeholders to finalise the Framework in 2026. |
| Amend <i>Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Act 2010</i> to legislate formal coverage of low-risk homebirths and intrapartum care outside a hospital setting | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Legislative amendments to the <i>Midwife Professional Indemnity (Commonwealth Contribution) Scheme Act 2010</i> have passed, expanding the Midwife Professional Indemnity Scheme from 1 July 2025. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Allocate \$31.8 million of the \$32.3 million grant funding to increase antenatal, childhood and adult vaccination uptake for First Nations people attending Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Allocation remains underway. The grant agreement was executed in February 2025 and will conclude in June 2026. |
| Finalise expansion of the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Program (\$11.1 million) to all PBS medicines currently dispensed by public hospitals | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | The Closing the Gap PBS Co-payment Program was expanded and finalised in January 2025. |
| Implement National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities Action Plan, including monitoring of progress and evaluation of the Strategy | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The National Strategy for Food Security in Remote First Nations Communities was released on 5 March 2025. Strategy partners are working towards establishment of a governance mechanism and action plan to guide implementation of the 10-year Strategy. |
| National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) First Nations Disability Strategy Implementation Plan to be codesigned with the First Nations community and published | Minister for the NDIS | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The First Nations Disability Strategy Implementation Plan is anticipated to be complete mid-2026. Timeframes have been delayed to enable engagement with community through a series of jurisdictional workshops between November 2025 and April 2026. Publication is anticipated in the second half of 2026. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Continue to implement <i>Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031</i> alongside the National Agreement to build an inclusive Australian society where policies, program and services of government are responsive to First Nations people with disability, their families, carers and communities | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The Commonwealth has made progress in implementing <i>Australia's Disability Strategy</i> alongside the National Agreement to build a more inclusive Australia.</p> <p>NOTE - The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment.</p> |
| Conduct qualitative study that provides insights and data on attitudes towards disability in First Nations communities, including how these attitudes affect people with disability | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | <p>The report is expected to be finalised and published in the first quarter of 2026.</p> <p>NOTE - The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment.</p> |
| Finalise the implementation plan for the <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy</i> | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | In progress | In 2026, the Commonwealth will continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders to support the development of the implementation plan for the <i>National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy</i> . |
| Establish subsidy scheme arrangements with Outback Stores Pty Ltd and remote stores, and progress the distribution centre to support provision of low-cost food and essential products | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Since 1 July 2025, over two thirds of the 152 available spots have been filled, with rollout funded over 4 years to 2028–29 and progress to be monitored and evaluated. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Create a dedicated governance training and support package for remote stores | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations completed development of the stores training framework in 2025. Training content and materials as well as implementation approach are being developed in consultation with stores. The delivery of the training package is on track for July 2026 commencement. |
| Develop a workforce training program to promote good nutrition and inform healthy choices when community members are shopping and preparing food | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | 21 local First Nations store-based staff are scheduled to commence before 30 June 2026, and numbers are expected to grow to 106 over the following 2 years. |
| Engage First Nations stakeholders, including the SEWB Policy Partnership, on the design of a flexible funding pool and development of Grant Opportunity Guidelines | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The Commonwealth has engaged with a range of sector stakeholders on the design and development of the flexible funding pool grant opportunity. |
| Undertake First Nations consultations, including with the SEWB Policy Partnership, to agree on an approach for the development and dissemination of First Nations-led Social and Emotional Wellbeing assessment tools. Develop grant or procurement approaches for commencement of support in 2025-26 | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Following stakeholder consultations, the Commonwealth is establishing a project steering committee with First Nations experts to guide the development of grant and procurement approaches for commencement in the 2025-26 financial year. Although establishment has been delayed, the committee is expected to commence discussions in February 2026. |
| Work with the First Nations mental health sector, including the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association to determine a suitable approach to supporting the higher education fees of up to 150 First Nations psychology students, and engage appropriate provider/s for commencement of support in 2026 | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth engaged First Nations mental health stakeholders to better understand factors affecting student success and to identify an appropriate delivery approach for the project. An appropriate provider/s will be engaged early in 2026 to commence supports for students. |

Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Engage First Nations organisation(s) to lead the initiative, including identification of up to 12 new community laundry locations (or upgrade existing laundries) in remote First Nations communities across northern and central Australia based on health need and community interest, and development of an implementation plan over the 4 years | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Grant Opportunity is open and will close 13 February 2026. Grants will be awarded in early 2026 to establish or upgrade the community laundries, with the first laundries under this commitment expected to be operational in First Nations communities in the second half of 2026. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Support implementation of Junior Rangers program expansion to 50 locations, providing more place-based opportunities that are community driven and tailored to local needs and priorities | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Activities are underway for new junior ranger projects at over 50 locations nationally. |
| Establish Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework to enable Junior Rangers providers to enhance the measurement of outcomes | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | A final draft of the Junior Rangers Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework has been submitted to the Commonwealth. |
| Establish new services through the \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund. This will increase the capacity of existing ECEC services and support priority cohorts, including First Nations children | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | From July 2025 | In progress | The Government is progressing the design of the Building Early Education Fund, with discussions underway with First Nations partners, including SNAICC. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Replace the activity test and offer 100 hours of subsidised ECEC per fortnight to First Nations children by January 2026 | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 January 2026 | Complete | The Commonwealth implemented system changes and delivered communications to ECEC providers and families in January 2026 with changes coming into effect from 5 January 2026; an external evaluation is planned for 2027-28 to assess how the policy contributes to Closing the Gap priorities. |
| Extend the Closing the Gap Partnership on Early Childhood Care and Development for 3 years from 2025-26 | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2028 | Complete | The Closing the Gap Partnership on Early Childhood Care and Development has been extended to 30 June 2028. |
| Extend the Aurora Education Foundation's Redefining Indigenous Success in Education initiative to provide tutoring and mentoring programs for First Nations high school students in NSW | Minister for Education | February 2025 | Complete | Aurora will continue to build on their successes with the aim to support 800 First Nations students. In 2025 Aurora re-directed focus to support students in NSW, ceasing delivery of this activity in WA. With this re-direction, student engagement with the initiative will be a focus. |
| Extend the GO Foundation initiative to provide access to quality education, mentorship, and pathways to employment for young First Nations people | Minister for Education | February 2025 – December 2027 | Complete | In November 2025, the first progress report showed that 508 scholarships have been awarded, exceeding the annual target. The GO Foundation will continue to deliver scholarships which support First Nations students to succeed in school and prepare for the workforce. |
| Finalise Monitoring and Evaluation Framework under the Early Years Strategy 2024-34 | Minister for Social Services Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is in development and is anticipated to be released in early 2026. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Conduct Preschool Outcomes Measure National Trial | Minister for Social Services Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The final report for the National Applied Trial of the Preschool Outcomes Measure will be delivered in February 2026. As part of the 2025-26 MYEFO, the next stage of the Preschool Outcomes Measure has been agreed by the Government and will commence in 2026 through a 2-year pilot. The pilot will collect evidence on the useability of the Preschool Outcomes Measure national tool for teachers and educators and inform approach to future implementation. |
| Open 3 new Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR) Expansion Program services in remote and very remote areas | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The first site to open under the CCCFR Expansion program began operations as a new integrated ECEC Centre in Napranum, Qld on 23 June 2025. The second site in Kununurra, WA opened to local families in the community on 21 July 2025. The third site in Alice Springs, NT opened on 1 December 2025 providing quality education and care for up to 37 local children. |
| Finalise evaluation of the Cultural Responsiveness Reflection Toolkit in 40 schools to inform refinements | Minister for Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Summary report of implementation trial findings was delivered in June 2025. The Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership is drawing on these findings to inform its further work in 2026. |
| Establish first 2 of up to 7 Remote Training Hub Networks | Minister for Skills and Training | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Finalise round one of the Central Australia Remote Training Hubs grant program by March 2026, with subsequent rounds expected to open from February 2026. |
| Promote engagement and compliance with the Early Childhood Worker Retention Payment workplace instruments to meet criteria | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 30 June 2025 | In progress | Eight organisations, including SNAICC, were selected to support services in applying and meeting eligibility requirements, including workplace instrument criteria. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|---|------------------|-------------|--|
| Implement the Indigenous Boarding Provider grants program extension in 2025 and 2026, for approximately 50 boarding providers supporting around 2,500 First Nations students from remote and very remote areas | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Education | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Funding agreements were established to support over 2,500 remote and very remote First Nations students attending over 50 boarding providers. |
| Open the 10 new Regional University Study Hubs announced in March 2024 | Minister for Education | 31 July 2025 | Complete | All 10 new Regional University Study Hubs are now open and operational. |
| Finalise evaluation of the Skills for Education and Employment program | Minister for Skills and Training | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Planning for the evaluation of the redesigned Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) Program began in late 2025, with evaluation expected to commence in 2026. |
| Finalise Round 3 of the Skills for Education and Employment (SEE) program | Minister for Skills and Training | 31 December 2025 | In progress | There have been 2 rounds of SEE First Nations Delivery Grants. Round 3 opened for applications 27 October 2025 and will close 9 February 2026. Grant agreements are expected to be executed in May 2026. |
| Finalise the development of the First Nations Teacher Strategy in consultation with First Nations education peak bodies | Minister for Education Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Department of Education has undertaken extensive consultation on the Strategy. The department is working in partnership with First Nations stakeholders to finalise the Strategy by mid-2026. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|------------------|-------------|--|
| Finalise development of the First Nations Education Policy in partnership with key First Nations stakeholders and state and territory governments | Minister for Education | 31 December 2026 | In progress | The Department of Education will continue to work in partnership with key First Nations education stakeholders and state and territory governments, including through the Policy Working Group and sub-groups of Education Ministers Meeting. Five First Nations organisations have been engaged to undertake First Nations led engagement in early 2026. The department will also analyse responses to the public submission process that was open from November 2025 to February 2026. The Policy will be considered by the Education Ministers Meeting in mid-2026. |
| Finalise a sector analysis and government funding review report to strengthen the Community-Controlled and First Nations Owned Registered Training Organisation sector | Minister for Skills and Training | 30 December 2025 | In progress | Deliver the Sector Strengthening Scoping Plan to the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council in 2026. |
| Finalise evaluation of Trainer and Assessor Demonstration Project with NACCHO to build the First Nations skills and training workforce in the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Registered Training Organisation sector | Minister for Skills and Training | 31 December 2025 | Complete | With commissioning processes finalised in early 2026, the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation report have informed an expansion of the Trainer and Assessor Demonstration project. |
| Pilot community-led models of distance education in 5 remote locations | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Education | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Funding Agreements have been established with 4 providers to deliver pilots in 6 locations across NT, SA and Qld in 2025 and 2026. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|---|------------------|-------------|---|
| Finalise evaluation report of current distance education models | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Education | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The evaluation has commenced but is delayed, with the final report now expected by 31 December 2026 to incorporate the findings from community-led pilots before informing broader sector reform. |
| University pathways – initial evaluation of demand driven places | Minister for Education | 30 November 2025 | Complete | The initial evaluation of demand driven places has been completed. In 2024, First Nations commencements increased to a historical high of 10,840 students. 2025 higher education statistics will be available in late 2026. The Commonwealth will continue to publicly report annually through the Department of Education's Higher Education Statistics. |
| Finalise new early childhood attendance target | Minister for Indigenous Australians Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The refreshed target is expected to be finalised by June 2026 (through a process of shared decision making with all governments and First Nations partners) and will include a preschool enrolment and attendance component. |
| Finalise formal partnership agreements with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Corporation (NATSIEC) and SNAICC – National Voice for our Children (SNAICC) | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 March 2025 | Complete | The Commonwealth signed Formal Partnership Agreements with SNAICC and NATSIEC in March 2025. |
| Delivery of the final evaluation of the SNAICC – National Voice of our Children's Early Years Support Program | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 28 February 2025 | Complete | The final evaluation report was delivered to the Commonwealth in April 2025. |

Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|--|---------------|----------|---|
| Implement core funding, as agreed in the 2024-25 Budget, to support the ongoing operations of SNAICC (\$16.6 million over four years from 2024-25 to 2027-28) and the NATSIEC (\$12.5 million over 4 years from 2024-25) as First Nations education peaks | Minister for Education Minister for Early Childhood Education | 31 March 2025 | Complete | The Commonwealth entered into Grant Agreements with SNAICC and NATSIEC respectively in January 2025 and the first two core funding payments have been made. |

Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------|---|
| Finalise first Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED) grant round and open the second grant round, with an allocation of at least 630 jobs across these 2 rounds | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | 1,450 jobs have been created with RJED Round 3, scheduled for 2025-26 financial year, expected to accelerate progress toward the 3,000-job target. |
| Finalise the design and implement the new remote employment service through a grant selection process | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | 49 organisations have been selected to deliver services across 60 regions in remote communities. |
| Transition New Jobs Program Trial employers and jobs determined to be suitable (in line with the RJED Program Grant Opportunity Guidelines) to the RJED program | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 July 2025 | Complete | The New Jobs Program Trial is now fully implemented with 282 jobs approved to transition. |
| Finalise evaluation of all 37 organisations delivering projects under the Indigenous Skills and Employment Program | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | 37 providers have developed Project Monitoring Plans, with first performance reports submitted in July 2025; next steps include integrating capability-building supports into ISEP based on needs identified during plan development. |

Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|------------------|-------------|---|
| Continue delivery of the Launch into Work (LiW) program | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The LiW team is trialling different ways to alert job seekers to projects and support them in presenting their strengths to employers. The Launch into Work program continues to work with First Nations organisations to ensure projects are appropriately tailored to First Nations participants. |
| Implement relevant evaluations of Local Jobs National Priority Fund projects and other Local Jobs Program data in future policy and program design and development | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 30 June 2025 | Complete | All 25 projects from the National Priority Fund were completed by 30 June 2025. There were a further 178 activities under the Local Jobs Program Local Recovery Fund that targeted First Nations participants. |
| Commence development of a First Nations Economic Framework | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The First Nations Economic Partnership was signed on 29 September 2025, and partners are now developing the first Annual Workplan and a First Nations Economic Framework. |
| Finalise the remaining 6 projects under the Workforce Specialist Initiative | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 31 December 2025 | In progress | On 14 May 2024, the Australian Government announced it will cease approving new projects under the Workforce Specialists initiative. Only two projects remain operational with one project remaining open for First Nations people and being close to completion. |
| Implement phase one of the Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program in up to 15 locations | Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Phase One of the REAL Program will be delivered in a cross-section of 26 facilities in 16 locations across states and territories, ahead of full-scale delivery nationwide in Phase 2. |
| Commence implementation of Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) reforms with the new Commonwealth and Portfolio procurement targets commencing 1 July 2025 and the change to IPP eligibility criteria commencing 1 July 2026 | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Indigenous procurement targets have commenced at 3% for 2025-26, increasing by 0.25% annually to reach 4% by 2029-30, with a new eligibility threshold of 51% First Nations ownership and control effective 1 July 2026. |

Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Commence delivery of a place-based business mentoring and coaching program for First Nations women and entrepreneurs | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth is finalising the Project Schedule for the Supporting First Nations Women in Business activity with Indigenous Business Australia, with delivery of the coaching and mentoring program scheduled to commence on 1 July 2026. |

Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9A, 9B and 17)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|------------------|-------------|--|
| Provide 270 new houses for First Nations families across 40 remote NT communities and 3 additional Alice Springs town camps | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | As at 30 September 2025, 264 houses have been built in 34 communities and 2 Town Camps since 1 July 2024. |
| Allocate acute housing measure funding for remote First Nations communities through a Federation Funding Agreement Schedule to fund repairs, maintenance and improvements in remote Indigenous communities in the NT, Qld, SA and WA. | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 30 June 2025 | In progress | Implementation plans for WA, SA and Qld are complete and approved by the Commonwealth. WA, SA and Qld have all received their first payment. The Commonwealth continues to work closely with the NT to finalise their implementation plan and release their first payment of \$25 million to allow works to commence. |
| Release a 10-year National Housing and Homelessness Plan with considerations for First Nations people's needs and priorities | Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Plan is being progressed through feedback from around 1,700 participants, the consultations have supported informing the Government's housing and homelessness programs. |

Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9A, 9B and 17)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------|--|
| Deliver a pilot capacity building program in the community housing sector, to enable participating organisations to better access and manage funding from government housing finance programs | Minister for Housing | 31 December 2025 | Complete | This program was delivered by Housing Australia and has now been finalised. |
| Monitor the progress of all jurisdictions building social dwellings using Social Housing Accelerator Payment funds to reduce social housing wait list times | Minister for Housing | 31 December 2025 | In progress | 292 dwellings of the more than 400 dwellings intended for First Nations people are either completed or underway. |
| Commence 2-year evaluation of the Social Housing Accelerator Payment, considering its impact on First Nations people and the Indigenous community housing sector | Minister for Housing | 30 September 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth expects to undertake this evaluation following the February 2026 statements of assurance process. |
| Implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Housing Organisation Capacity Building Program pilot | Minister for Housing | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Government's decision on the selection phase of the program is pending. |
| Improve shared decision-making and monitoring of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clauses of the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness outcomes through separate First Nations focused reporting | Minister for Housing Minister for Homelessness | 31 December 2025 | In progress | States and territories are at varying stages of developing Partnership Bodies, with jurisdictions (Qld and Vic) having established their Partnership Bodies as of September 2025. Work is underway through the Housing Policy Partnership to oversee NASHH arrangements relating specifically to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. |
| Finalise First Nations specific outcomes and a separate First Nations schedule to the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness | Minister for Housing | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The NASHH was signed in 2024 and includes First Nations clauses on shared decision-making and separate outcomes reporting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. |
| Increase the number of Indigenous Business Australia Indigenous Home Ownership Program concessional loans | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Indigenous Business Australia exceeded its 2024-25 target of 500 new home loans, delivering 583 loans. |

Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9A, 9B and 17)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Install Community Wi-Fi equipment in a further 9 remote NT communities through the Digital Connectivity Project | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Wi-Fi installation has been completed in 30 remote communities (including 4 Town Camps) in regional and remote locations across the NT. |
| Establish First Nations Digital Support Hub and a Network of Digital Mentors to support the digital ability and connectivity literacy of First Nations people across Australia | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The department will look to adjust implementation to use a more staged approach to build capability in First Nations organisations, in consultation with the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group. |
| Invest an additional \$20 million over 3 years through an open competitive program to provide free Wi-Fi in more remote communities | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | Complete | On the 12 November 2025, the Minister announced that 52 First Nations communities will benefit from improved connectivity through the program. Grant Agreements to be executed with successful applicants and rollout to commence by end of quarter one 2026. |
| Provide 23 remote First Nations communities with free community wide Wi-Fi in partnership with NBN Co. | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | Complete | All 23 remote communities have active services. The operation of services is funded until 30 June 2028. Work will continue with NBN Co. to ensure the optimal performance of Wi-Fi services. |
| Finalise survey work to improve data collection on First Nations inclusion and release analysis | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | Complete | On 12 November 2025, RMIT released the first report, <i>Counting on Connectivity: Measuring Digital Inclusions for First Nations Australians</i> along with the launch of a new First Nations Digital Inclusion dashboard. The second round of data collection will commence in 2026, with updated reporting in 2027. |
| Implement the First Nations Digital Inclusion Roadmap | Minister for Communications | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group will continue to focus on advocating for the Roadmap's recommendations with government, industry, and the not-for-profit sector. |

Access to Justice (Target 10 and 11)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Finalise funding support for 4 additional justice reinvestment initiatives under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program | Attorney-General | 10 April 2025 (Round 3) 10 September 2025 (Round 4) | Paused | Two grant applications were successful under the Justice Reinvestment in Central Australia Program. Future grant opportunities under this program are paused to prioritise the financial sustainability of the successful initiatives. |
| Finalise the structure and governance arrangements for the final National Justice Reinvestment Unit | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Complete | In 2025, the Interim Justice Reinvestment Unit continued coordinating design work for the future Unit's structure and governance. The next steps are to establish the Final Justice Reinvestment Unit. |
| Establish independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit | Attorney-General | 31 July 2026 | In progress | The Commonwealth will go to market in early 2026 for the National Justice Reinvestment Unit, with a transition period to the selected provider expected by mid to late 2026. |
| Develop Measurement and Evaluation Framework to measure success of initiatives funded under the National Justice Reinvestment Programs | Attorney-General | 31 August 2025 | Complete | The Measurement and Evaluation Framework has been co-designed with Commonwealth funded First Nations community-led justice reinvestment initiatives, and justice reinvestment stakeholders. |
| Finalise and publish the 2024-25 Justice Policy Partnership Implementation Roadmap on the Attorney-General's Department website | Attorney-General | May 2025 | Superseded | Noting there were delays in seeking jurisdictional endorsement and 2024-25 has passed, the Commonwealth is no longer intending to publish the Roadmap. |
| Finalise a needs analysis for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled justice sector and develop a workforce stream under the SSP to address workforce constraints | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | In progress | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services to finalise the needs analysis and develop a workforce stream by mid-2026. |

Access to Justice (Target 10 and 11)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------|---|
| Establish a co-chair with NATSILS working group to progress and implement recommendations contained in the Justice Policy Partnership's Bail and remand reform report | Attorney-General | 31 July 2025 | Complete | The Bail and Remand Reform Working Group was established in January 2025 and provided a report on bail and remand reform to the Standing Council of Attorneys-General during its 15 August 2025 meeting. |
| Establish Terms of Reference for the Closing the Gap Engagement Forum to develop the Closing the Gap Schedule in partnership with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector, under the new National Access to Justice Partnership | Attorney-General | 30 June 2025 | Complete | AGD, in partnership with NATSILS, First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV) and state and territory governments, has established the Terms of Reference for the NAJP Closing the Gap Engagement Forum. |
| Progress grant round(s) for remaining Justice Reinvestment projects in 2025 | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Paused | The Commonwealth is working to transition the National Program to ongoing funding from 1 July 2026, to enable continued support for justice reinvestment projects. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Commence implementation of the Outcome and Evidence Fund trial projects in 8 locations across Australia | Minister for Social Services | 28 February 2025 | Complete | The Outcome and Evidence Fund trial projects commenced in 2025. A comprehensive evaluation will assess each of the trial projects and the Fund overall. |
| Finalise the national child placement minimum standards to reduce the over-representation of First Nations children and young people in child protection systems | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | SNAICC and the Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group are in the process of developing draft national standards for active efforts to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Promote the existing Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The Commonwealth has run the Keeping our Kids Safe campaign since 2021.</p> <p>From 22 June to 19 July 2025, a Keeping our Kids Safe resources promotional radio campaign aired across regional, rural, and remote stations in First Nations communities.</p> |
| Establish the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support to drive self-determined research grounded in First Nations knowledge | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Commonwealth completed a closed-competitive Expression of Interest process as the first step to establishing the Centre, which is now progressing steadily through a partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group. |
| Monitor state and territory governments in effective implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | SNAICC conduct annual reviews of state and territory implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle to identify effective reforms and promising practices to drive progress in child protection systems. |
| Develop the Second Action Plan of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse to strengthen alignment with relevant Closing the Gap Priority Reforms | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Activity under the First Action Plan has been extended while the Second Action Plan is being developed. |
| Launch <i>Our Ways - Strong Ways - Our Voices</i> , informed by the findings of the <i>Senate Inquiry into Missing and Murdered First Nations Women and Children</i> to guide a whole of society approach to address the unacceptable rates of violence against First Nations women and children | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <i>Our Ways - Strong Ways - Our Voices</i> was finalised in December 2025. The <i>Our Ways</i> Action Plan and Outcomes Framework will be developed by mid-2026. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---|
| Finalise \$41.9 million extension of the First Nations Leaving Violence Program Regional Trial to include 3 new sites in Broome, WA, Darwin NT and Dubbo, NSW | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The Commonwealth entered into grant agreements with 3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led service providers to deliver new Regional Trial sites for the Leaving Violence Program. |
| Establish a National Peak Body to champion the rights and interests of First Nations communities affected by Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) and oversee the implementation of <i>Our Ways - Strong Ways - Our Voices</i> | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The National Peak Body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety is scheduled to launch in March 2026. |
| Finalise National Child and Family Investment Strategy under the <i>Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-26</i> to underpin the Commonwealth's \$10 million investment | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The National Child and Family Investment Strategy, led by SNAICC in consultation with the Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group, states, territories, and the Commonwealth was endorsed by most jurisdictions in December 2025 and is now moving into implementation. |
| Administer the Innovation Fund grant opportunity to drive a proportionate shift in investment to the ACCO sector, for services delivered to First Nations people and their families | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Murawin Pty Ltd has been procured to evaluate outcomes from the Innovation Fund and provide evaluative capacity building for funded organisations; a Selection Advisory Panel has made funding recommendations, and grant projects along with the evaluation will be delivered over 3-years to 2027. |
| Establish the National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People | Minister for Social Services | 31 January 2025 | Complete | The National Commission commenced operations on 13 January 2025 as an executive agency within the Social Services portfolio. Sue-Anne Hunter was appointed as the inaugural ongoing National Commissioner and commenced on 1 September 2025. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| The National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People to identify priorities and set the work program for 2025-26 | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The National Commission has consulted with Commissioners, Guardians and Advocates, peak bodies, and civil society to inform priorities and set the 2025-26 work program. |
| Progress scoping of Community-Controlled FDSV SSP | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The FDSV SSP Working Group is now established, made up of equal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and representatives from all government jurisdictions. |
| Finalise scoping study to improve the availability and quality of legal support for families engaged with child protection systems | Minister for Social Services | 1 July 2025 | Complete | <i>The Barriers Experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families Accessing Legal Supports Scoping Study</i> was undertaken by SNAICC and NATSILS and accepted by Safe and Supported governance bodies. |
| Establish Community of Practice with ACCOs, stronger families' partners, SNAICC and the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership | Minister for Social Services | 30 April 2025 | In progress | Stakeholders were consulted on the proposed Community of Practice, but interest was limited as engagement occurs through other fora; the Commonwealth to consider alternative approaches to support collaboration. |
| Continue consultation with First Nations people with disability, peaks and community-controlled organisations to develop options for a, First Nations Disability Forum or other appropriate shared decision-making mechanism | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Options for a First Nations Disability Forum or other appropriate shared decision-making mechanism are being developed for a future decision of government. NOTE - The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| Finalise the NDIS First Nations Disability Strategy Implementation with the First Nations community | Minister for the NDIS | 31 December 2025 | In progress | <p>The First Nations Disability Strategy Implementation Plan is anticipated to be complete mid-2026. Timeframes have been extended enabling engagement with community through a series of jurisdictional workshops between November 2025 and April 2026. While several initiatives to implement the Strategy have commenced, formal implementation through the Implementation Plan will commence in the second half of 2026.</p> |
| Finalise study and provide qualitative data on attitudes towards disability in First Nations communities, including how these attitudes affect people with disability in a final report | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | In progress | <p>The report is expected to be finalised and published in the first quarter of 2026.</p> <p>NOTE - The Administrative Arrangements Order – 26 June 2025 transfers responsibility for policy and services for people with disability from the Social Services portfolio to the Health, Disability and Ageing portfolio, other than policy and services to help people with disability obtain employment.</p> |
| Finalise APS-wide Understanding Gender in First Nations Policy and Program Work online training module | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The Understanding Gender in First Nations Policy and Program Work module has been published as an APS-wide resource on APSLearn. |
| Publish annual status of women report card, in support of <i>Working for Women; A strategy for Gender Equality</i> | Minister for Women | 31 March 2025 | Complete | The 2025 Status of Women Report Card was published on International Women's Day, 8 March 2025. |
| Establish First Nations Gender Justice Institute | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 28 February 2025 | Complete | The Commonwealth provided funding to the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute to support establishment of a First Nations Gender Justice Institute. |
| Commence implementation of the <i>National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ People 2025-2035</i> | Minister for Health and Aged Care | 30 June 2025 | Complete | Implementation of the National Action Plan for the Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ People 2025-2035 has commenced. |

Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|----------|--|
| Extend activities which deliver critical prevention, early intervention and response services to address FDSV in high-needs First Nations communities | Minister for Social Services | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Extensions have been granted and executed. Activities continue to deliver critical FDSV services until 31 December 2026. |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|--|------------------|-------------|--|
| Finalise re-establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPA) Managers Network, to share knowledge relevant to land and sea management on Indigenous Protected Areas | Minister for the Environment and Water | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The IPA Managers Network was re-established with its first meeting held on 30 May 2025. |
| Expand the Indigenous Rangers Program (round 2) to create over 800 new jobs (including capacity-building grants of up to \$50,000 per year) | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Finalise funding agreements in the first half of 2026 supporting 800 new jobs by 2027 and keeping the government on track to double Indigenous ranger jobs by 2030. |
| Finalise plans with IPA managers to transition 8 IPA funds to community-controlled organisations, including a Registered Native Title Body Corporate | Minister for the Environment and Water | 31 December 2025 | In progress | 7 IPA activities have successfully transitioned to ACCOs, including 5 projects that moved from non-Indigenous organisations. One additional project has been delayed until 2026 at the request of Traditional Owner board members to allow for thorough planning and ensure a smooth transition. |
| Continue to progress work to develop a National Native Title Compensation Framework, working closely with the states, territories and National Native Title Council (targeting provision of the Framework to a Native Title Ministers Meeting and/or updates on work in progress) | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Paused | The Commonwealth's work with states, territories, and the National Native Title Council to progress development of a National Native Title Compensation Framework has been paused pending further discussion. |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|---|------------------|-------------|--|
| Monitor the progress of Australian Law Reform Commission review of the future acts regime in the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> | Attorney-General, with the Australian Law Reform Commission | 8 December 2025 | In progress | <p>The Terms of Reference for the Review of the Future Acts Regime were amended on 3 November 2025 by the Commonwealth Attorney-General to extend the deadline for the final report.</p> <p>The Australian Law Reform Commission will now provide its final report to the Attorney-General on 31 March 2026.</p> |
| Support Federal Court of Australia to commence expanding application of its First Nations-led case management and mediation model to assist the Court to work through native title claims according to the law and facts before Court | Attorney-General, with the Federal Court of Australia | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The Federal Court worked with parties and practitioners to apply the First Nations-led model, identifying several matters suitable for this approach. In 2026, the Federal Court will continue working with parties and practitioners to further the application of the First Nations-led model.</p> |
| Support National Native Title Tribunal to commence co-designed decision-making and dispute resolution processes with native title holders to enhance their capacity to leverage their native title rights and interests | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The development stage of the new case management module for section 60AAA of the Native Title Act has been added to the National Native Title Tribunal's case management application and data resulting from previous work under section 60AAA is being migrated into the application.</p> <p>The "Promoting Agreement" model is also being refined and promoted amongst Prescribed Body Corporates and Representative Bodies with 2 pilot studies now commenced.</p> |
| Support the Federal Court of Australia and the National Native Title Tribunal to commence digitisation and preservation of historically and culturally significant native title records, for completion in 2027 | Attorney-General | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The National Native Title Tribunal has digitised an initial 1,067 native title paper files and uplifted 700 boxes for digitisation in 2026.</p> <p>The Federal Court is progressively digitising paper files with this work set to continue into 2026.</p> |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|---|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Implement Aboriginal Water Entitlements Program, Murray-Darling Basin Enduring Water Holding Arrangements, and Cultural Flows Planning for Cultural Economies Program | Minister for the Environment and Water | 31 December 2025 | In progress | As at the 1 December 2025 36 contracts have been exchanged for 15.68 GL of water valued at \$57.5 million. |
| Develop a First Nations Water Strategy to inform Commonwealth actions under the proposed National Water Agreement and the Inland Waters target | Minister for the Environment and Water | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The department's internal First Nations Inland Waters Strategy is underway, with the development of a Placemat to establish shared understanding of the purpose and function of the Strategy. |
| Establish the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Climate Resilience Centre with regional leaders and Traditional Owners to create a coordinated regional response to climate change led by First Nations people | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Centre, co-designed with regional leaders and Traditional Owners, has progressed to implementation. Three grant agreements have been executed under the \$10.8 million grant program to support recruitment and training of Climate Resilience Officers, who will deliver practical climate adaptation projects. Ongoing priorities include project delivery and continued engagement with regional stakeholders. |
| Establish the First Nations Renewable Hydrogen Engagement Fund to support First Nations communities' capacity to engage with large-scale renewable hydrogen project developers, as part of the National Hydrogen Strategy | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 31 January 2025 | Complete | The fund has been established. Round one grant agreements have been executed for up to \$676,000 for 3 community-led projects. Initial payments have been made to all grant recipients, who are in the process of implementing their projects until 30 June 2026. |
| Establish a First Nations Advisory Group to provide advice to the Future Drought Fund on drought and climate resilience | Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | 31 March 2025 | Complete | The Advisory Group has been established and will continue to provide advice to the Future Drought Fund on drought and climate resilience until the end of their term on 30 June 2028. |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|--|
| Implement drought and climate resilience pilot program to facilitate place-based, First Nations-led activities to improve opportunities for Indigenous participation in Future Drought Fund activities | Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry | 31 December 2025 | In progress | The Strengthening Drought Resilience on Country grants program opened on 12 August 2025. Delivery Partners will co-design their projects with community from mid-2026. |
| Finalise National Collections Strategy for management of First Nations language materials held in community, state and private collections | Minister for the Arts | 31 December 2025 | In progress | First Languages Australia to complete a National Collections Strategy. |
| Finalise development of the 4th National Indigenous Languages Survey | Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | Complete | The development of the survey is complete. The survey will be open from November 2025 to February 2026. AIATSIS will continue to engage closely with the Languages Policy Partnership throughout the data collection, analysis, and reporting stages. |
| Finalise draft Languages SSP for consideration by Joint Council | Minister for the Arts | 30 June 2025 | In progress | The draft Languages SSP will be provided to Joint Council for endorsement. |
| Determine Indigenous Languages and Arts Program funding allocations | Minister for the Arts | 31 December 2025 | Complete | 29 activities from the 2025-26 open competitive grant opportunity have been funded to deliver community-based language conservation, revitalisation, and sustainability activities. |
| Review the Indigenous Languages and Arts program to embed Priority Reforms | Minister for the Arts | 31 December 2025 | Complete | Language Policy Partnership priorities and 'Voices of Country' themes have been mapped to ILA program objectives, with the purpose of revising and updating the objectives to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose to deliver outcomes against CtG Target 16 for Indigenous languages. |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|---|
| Commence grant activities under the First Nations Language Program | Minster for Education Minister for the Arts | 31 December 2025 | Complete | <p>The program supports 28 projects across the country, working with more than 46 language communities. The significant impact of the program is already evident with more than 70 schools involved and 120 trainee educators participating and more than 90 First Nations people employed.</p> <p>Implementation of these grant activities will continue throughout 2026.</p> |
| In partnership with First Nations people, develop national policy and deliver actions to reduce disaster risk and support culturally appropriate response and recovery | Minister for Emergency Management Minister for Indigenous Australians | 31 December 2025 | In progress | <p>National agreement to a framework guiding how all governments can appropriately work with First Nations communities before, during and after disasters will be sought through the Australia–New Zealand Emergency Management Committee by mid-2026. Implementation of projects from Round 3 of the Disaster Ready Fund benefiting First Nations communities will commence in 2026.</p> |
| Release <i>Commonwealth First Nations Clean Energy Strategy Implementation Plan 2025–26</i> | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 30 June 2025 | Complete | <p>The First Nations Clean Energy Strategy Progress Update Phase 1: 2025–2026 (formerly called the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy Implementation Plan 2025–26) will be published on the First Nations Clean Energy Strategy webpage in January 2026, now that it has received ministerial approval.</p> |

Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15A, 15B and 16)

| Action | Lead | Timeframe | Status | Comments |
|--|--|------------------|-------------|--|
| Administer the First Nations Clean Energy Futures Grants Program | Minister for Climate Change and Energy | 31 December 2025 | In progress | Grant delivery was postponed from the planned 2025 launch to allow for a Have Your Say consultation on grant design delivery. The Commonwealth is developing a comprehensive culturally responsive monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, with the first round of grants now expected in early 2026. |
| Deliver draft evaluation report for the Languages Policy Partnership | Minister for the Arts | 30 November 2025 | In progress | Final phase consultations, data collection, and reporting are progressing, with the draft evaluation report due in June 2026. |



Australian Government

Appendix F: Reconciliation of 2025 Implementation Plan Commitments



CLOSING THE GAP