National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment Joint Steering Committee Communiqué

**Meeting #2, Thursday 27 October 2022**

The Joint Steering Committee (JSC) of the Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) met in Darwin on Thursday 27 October 2022. This was the second meeting of the JSC.

The NTRAI Extension Agreement provides an additional $173.2 million for health, education, community safety and Aboriginal interpreter services in remote Northern Territory (NT) communities and ensures continuity for 400 jobs.

During the extension period, from 2022 to 2024, the Australian Government is working in partnership with Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) and the NT Government to design options for future investment in remote Aboriginal communities, consistent with the priority reforms identified in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

APO NT was represented by the Central Land Council, the Northern Land Council, the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT.

The NT Government was represented by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

The Australian Government was represented by the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Department of Health and Aged Care.

The JSC endorsed a reporting dashboard to monitor progress under the two year NTRAI Extension, building on the existing reporting requirements of the NTRAI Extension Agreement.

JSC noted future funding arrangements should strengthen Aboriginal self-determination and build the Aboriginal community-controlled sector. It should also increase access to services that are high-quality, culturally safe, appropriate and meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples in remote NT. The future investment should also bring to life the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms.

JSC noted specific progress of the design of future funding options, including:

* the facilitated workshop on Friday 14 October 2022 to agree the strategic vision and approach for future funding.
* timeframes and processes for seeking Australian Government decision on the future arrangements of remote Aboriginal investment through a two stage process.