

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

Rural Health West Conference
Celebrating Success, Reconnect, Reflect
Sunday 21 November 2021
Vicki O'Donnell – Chairperson, AHCWA



**Aboriginal
Health Council**
of Western Australia



Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we are gathered on today, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation.

I pay my respects to all Elders past, present and emerging and their spiritual connection to the land, rivers and sea.



Celebrating Success, Reconnect, Reflect

- This conference has been a celebration of Aboriginal people, services and culture
- We succeed because of the resilience and strength of our community controlled health services, and the partnerships we have developed over time
- We have never been equal partners with or genuinely shared decision making with governments but the future brings real opportunities for our people.



The National Agreement on Closing the Gap

The National Agreement was signed on 27 July 2020 by:

- The Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
- The Convener of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, Ms Patricia Turner AM
- All State and Territory First Ministers, including the Hon Mark McGowan MLA
- The President of the Australian Local Government Association



The National Agreement on Closing the Gap

- Is an ambitious and historic commitment that has equitable outcomes for Aboriginal people at its centre
- Is an essential long term reform in the way that governments across the country work with Aboriginal people
- Has been driven by a partnership between Aboriginal people and all Australian governments
- Must be the overarching framework for all Aboriginal Affairs policy activities into the future



The Role of the Coalition of Peaks

- The Coalition of Peaks is a representative body of over 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Peak Bodies.
- It came together in an act of self-determination to change the way governments work with Aboriginal people.
- The Coalition of Peaks is an equal partner with governments in all matters relating to Closing the Gap and the National Agreement.
- The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) is the sole WA representative on the Coalition.
- The Aboriginal Advisory Council of Western Australia, while not a member of the Coalition of Peaks, is closely consulted and updated on the National Agreement and its related activities.



Coalition of Peaks Members



Coalition
of Peaks

National Members

Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association

First Nations Media Australia

First Peoples Disability Network

Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Lowitja Institute

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

National Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Forum

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association

National Native Title Council

SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children

The Healing Foundation

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

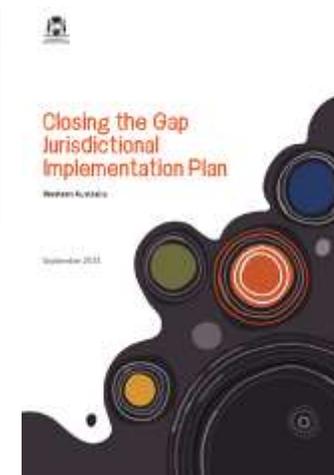
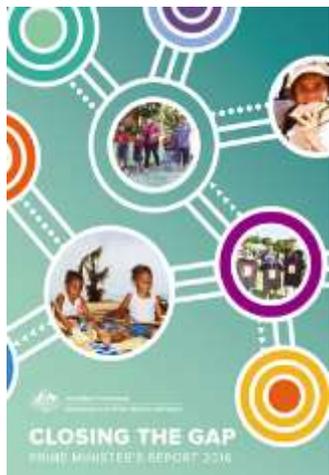
Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia Limited

Western Australian Member

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia



Closing the Gap Timeline



Priority Reforms for Closing the Gap

Priority Reform One:

Developing and strengthening structures so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share in decision making with governments on Closing the Gap

Priority Reform Two:

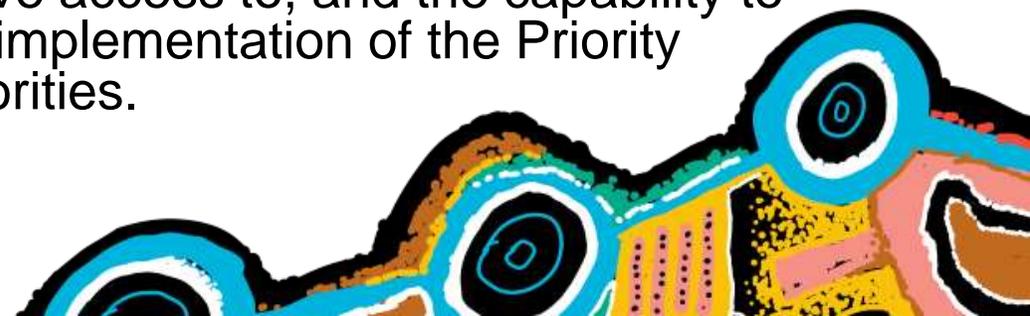
Building formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sectors to deliver Closing the Gap services.

Priority Reform Three:

Ensuring mainstream government agencies and institutions that deliver services and programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people undertake systemic and structural transformation to contribute to Closing the Gap.

Priority Reform Four:

Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to monitor the implementation of the Priority Reforms, the Closing the Gap targets and drive local priorities.



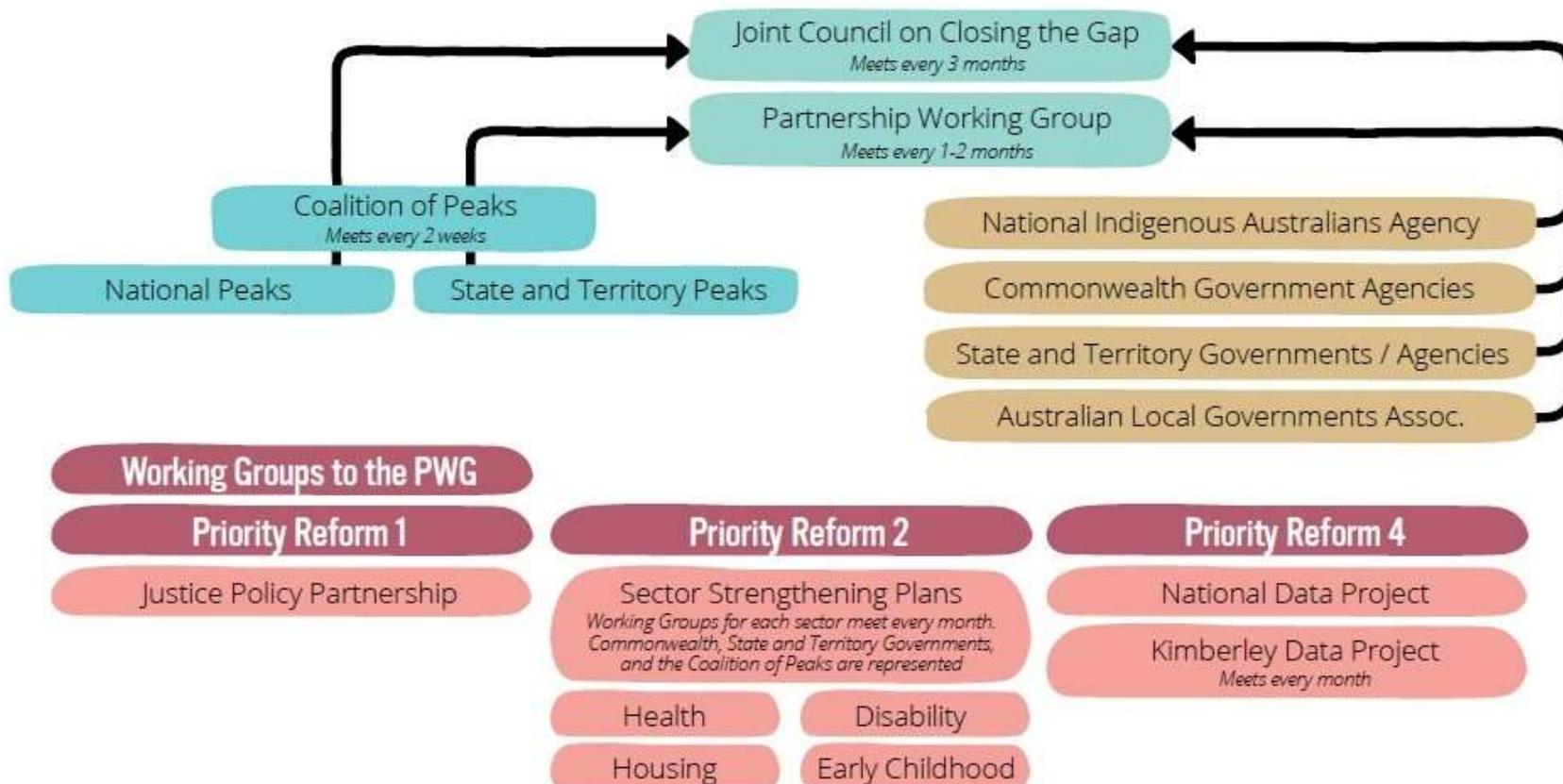
Targets

Seventeen (17) socio-economic targets relating to:

- Health
- Education
- Housing
- Family Wellbeing
- Early Childhood
- Employment
- Justice
- Suicide Prevention
- Aboriginal people's legal rights to land and sea
- Aboriginal languages and culture



The Governance Framework



Implementing the National Agreement in WA

- The WA Government has documented its formal commitments under the National Agreement in its Implementation Plan
- But, reforms must not be limited to the actions detailed in the WA Implementation Plan
- We are all responsible for implementing the National Agreement and for applying its principles to change the way governments work with Aboriginal people
- Genuine engagement with the National Agreement by all government staff, our non-government colleagues and Aboriginal people is required
- This is essential for any progress to be made towards closing the gap



AHCWA's Current Priorities

Communicating the National Agreement

Informing Aboriginal people, their communities and the Community Controlled Sector about the National Agreement - what it is and the benefits it brings

Establishing relationships with government and non-government partners

Working with key stakeholders to know their commitments and to remain accountable to Closing the Gap activities

National Agreement deliverables

- Priority Reform One – Justice Policy Partnership
- Priority Reform Two – Sector Strengthening Plans
 - Health, and Early Childhood Care and Development – due Nov 2021
 - Disability, and Housing – due Apr 2022
- Priority Reform Four – Kimberley Data Project



AHCWA's Current Priorities

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Peak Body Project

AHCWA has been commissioned by the WA Government to establish an ACCO Consortium which will most likely be an ACCO Peak Body

AHCWA recognises that, while it has longstanding experience as a peak body, it does not have expertise across the broader ACCO service sector.

We need to consult and partner with Aboriginal leaders and ACCOs to realise this vision.

Accessing additional funding for Closing the Gap activities

\$3.4m has been committed by the WA Government to Priority Reform Two with the aim of developing and building the ACCO sector; greater clarity on how this will be dispersed is required



Thank you & Questions

