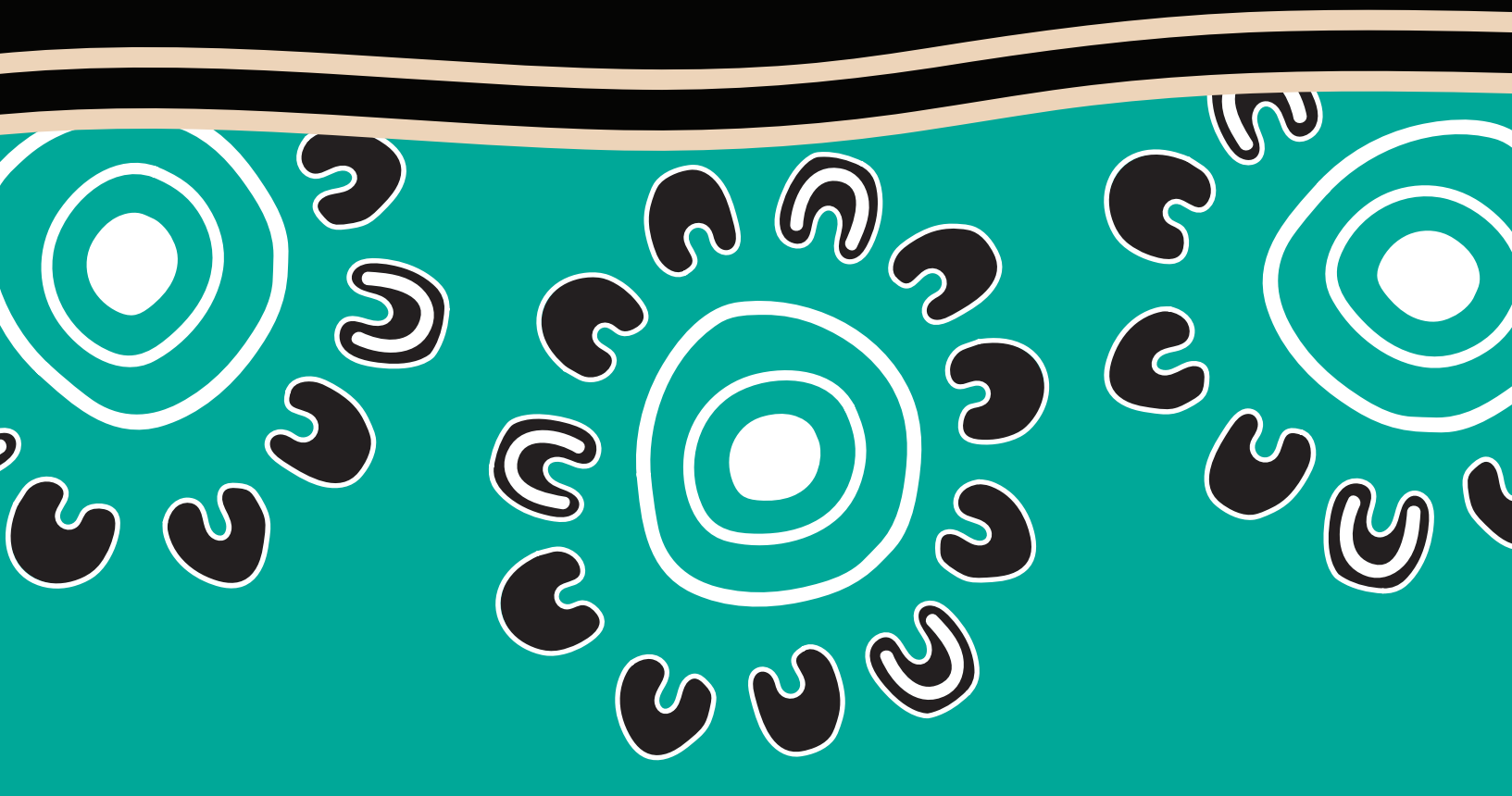


CLOSING THE GAP

NT Implementation Plan

2023-2024





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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Northern Territory Government respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and seas of the Northern Territory. We acknowledge and respect their continuing connection to their lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and peoples, their ancestors, their Elders, past and present, and to the leaders of today and future generations.

We recognise Aboriginal Territorians' diverse cultures and languages and the invaluable contributions and services of Aboriginal people to the Northern Territory.

STATEMENT ON USE OF TERMS

We recognise that Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples each have their own unique languages, beliefs, cultural practices, traditions and diversity within each culture.

This implementation plan uses the collective term 'Aboriginal' to reference and reflect the unique identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We respectfully acknowledge that Torres Strait Islander peoples are First Nations people living in the Northern Territory, and 'Aboriginal' Territorians should be read to include both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Territorians.

ACRONYMS

ACCHO	Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation	LDM	Local Decision Making
ACCO	Aboriginal community-controlled organisation	LGANT	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
ACPO	Aboriginal Community Police Officer	LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other sexuality,
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census	MECSH	Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting
AGD	NT Department of the Attorney-General and Justice	NAAJA	North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
AGMP	Aboriginal Governance and Management Program	NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
AHNT	Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory	NLC	Northern Land Council
AIS	Aboriginal Interpreter Service	NT PWG	Northern Territory Closing the Gap Partnership Working Group
ALC	Anindilyakwa Land Council	NTAHF	Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum
ALOs	Aboriginal Liaison Officers	NTECAA	NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs
AMSANT	Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory	NTG	Northern Territory Government
ANFPP	Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program	NTIBN	Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network
APO NT	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory	NT	Northern Territory
CFC	Child and Family Centre	NT JPP	Northern Territory Justice Policy Partnership
CHaDS	Childhood Health and Development Centres	NTPFES	Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services
CJC	Community Justice Centre	NTPS	Northern Territory Public Service
CLC	Central Land Council	PWC	Power and Water Corporation
CMC	NT Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	RATE	Remote Aboriginal Teacher Program
DCDD	NT Department of Corporate and Digital Development	RMO	Reform Management Office
DIPL	NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics	SEWB	Social and emotional wellbeing
DITT	NT Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade	TFHC	NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
DFSV	Domestic, family and sexual violence	TLC	Tiwi Land Council
DoE	NT Department of Education	TO	Traditional Owner
DoH	NT Department of Health	YBFS	Year before full-time schooling

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, the Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap 2019–2029 (Partnership Agreement) was signed by the Coalition of Peaks and all Australian governments to negotiate, implement and monitor a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement).

The National Agreement was agreed to and officially signed by all parties in July 2020, setting into motion a significant reform agenda based on a new approach to how governments will work differently with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to achieve equity for First Nations people.

In the Northern Territory (NT), the partners to the National Agreement are the NT Government, Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT (APO NT) and the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT). The NT partners on Closing the Gap have embarked on a new and focussed journey to achieve real improvement in the life outcomes of Aboriginal Territorians.

APO NT is an alliance of Aboriginal organisations and has a governing group comprising Aboriginal Chief Executive Officers and/or Chairs from the following member organisations:

- Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT)
- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT (AMSANT)
- Central Land Council (CLC)
- North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA)
- Northern Land Council (NLC)
- Northern Territory Indigenous Business Network (NTIBN)
- Tiwi Land Council (TLC)
- Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC), as an associate APONT member.

LGANT is the peak body representing local government councils in the NT.

The NT partners have worked in partnership to develop a comprehensive approach for the second Closing the Gap NT Implementation Plan (second CtG NT IP).

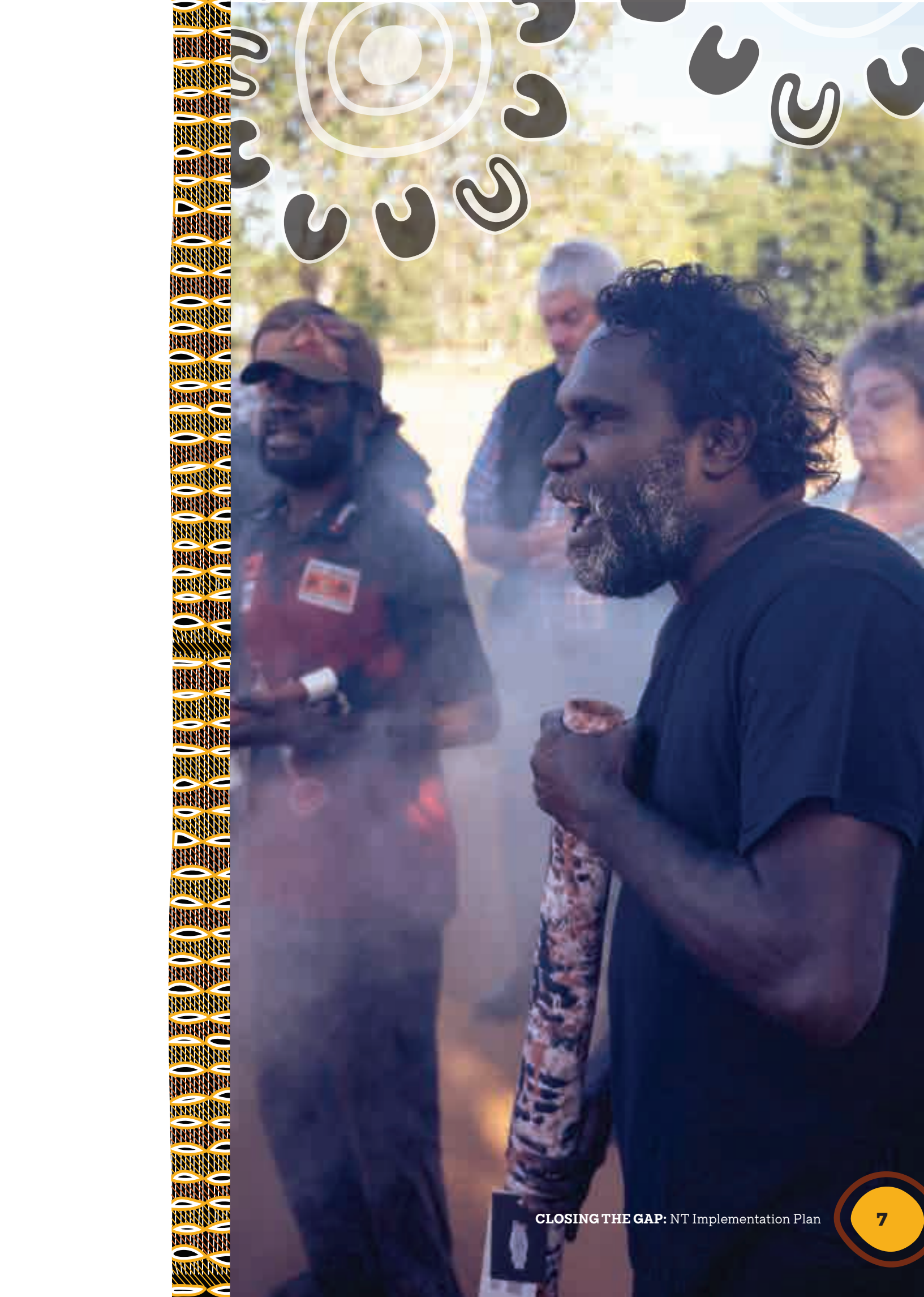
The second CtG NT IP provides detail on the new partnership approach, how governments are working differently, and how priority reforms are realised to effect systemic change, in addition to actions that address the socio-economic targets and outcomes of Closing the Gap.

In Section 1 of this plan, we detail the way in which governments and stakeholders are approaching a new way of working together, guided by the strong partnership elements detailed in the National Agreement. The partnership approach includes information on the various partnership arrangements that have been established to progress Closing the Gap in the NT.

Section 2 outlines how we as a partnership will regularly report on our progress and how partners will be held accountable for commitments to achieve Closing the Gap outcomes. This includes reporting timelines as a jurisdiction and our commitment to being accountable to Aboriginal people throughout the NT.

Section 3 builds on the work of the first implementation plan by providing actions that directly respond to the priority reform areas of the National Agreement to give effect to structural and systemic change.

Section 4 provides new, focussed actions against each of the 17 socio-economic outcomes in an effort to progress the NT towards achieving the Closing the Gap socio-economic outcomes and their targets.



NORTHERN TERRITORY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Joint Co-Chair statement

Dr. John Paterson, Governing Member of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations
Northern Territory

The Hon Selena Uiibo MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

On behalf of the NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (the Executive Council), we present the second Closing the Gap NT Implementation Plan.

This second plan details greater effort in embedding elements of the National Agreement now that the initial steps of establishing Closing the Gap processes and structures are well and truly underway in the Northern Territory.

In the first Closing the Gap NT Implementation Plan, we made a conscious effort to focus on systemic actions under the National Agreement's 4 priority reform areas, which helped us establish a solid foundation on which to support Closing the Gap in the NT. This second implementation plan starts us on our next phase of implementation of the National Agreement with the inclusion of new actions concentrated on addressing the 17 socio-economic targets and outcomes. The second implementation plan continues to recognise the importance of the priority reform areas through discrete actions and broad systemic reforms, which are pivotal to shifting change to improving outcomes for Aboriginal people and our communities.

The Executive Council, consisting of representatives from the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) and the three levels of government, reflects the strong partnership elements outlined in the National Agreement and, importantly, reflects

our shift in the way we partner and work together at the highest level. While our different organisations bring diverse perspectives to the table, we share a common commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal Territorians, of which the National Agreement provides us an important mechanism for giving effect to this commitment.

In order for the Northern Territory to make progress against the socio-economic targets, all parties to the National Agreement must continue to demonstrate leadership, coordination and cooperation – with our partnership, our resources and our efforts – in line with the priority reforms. But we must also empower the broader community, particularly those in regional and remote areas, to be a part of this journey and take ownership of the National Agreement in the Northern Territory.

The structures have been established to provide the NT with a strong foundation for working together, but now we must build on this momentum, and quickly, to enact real and tangible change for the benefit of Aboriginal Territorians.



Local Government Association of the Northern Territory statement

Lord Mayor the Hon Kon Vatskalis, President of the LGANT Board

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) is the peak body representing shire, regional and municipal councils in the NT. Nearly 90 per cent of regional local government council elected members in the NT are Aboriginal people.

Local government councils in the NT have a legislated function to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of local communities.

Local authorities – community groups established by regional councils – are also legislated in local decision making to allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality as well as policies for the area and the region and to take the views of local communities back to the council and act as advocates on their behalf.

These governance structures provide an effective way forward to support the achievement of a range of actions and objectives in the Northern Territory's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan.

Local government councils across the NT also have an integral role in supporting and fostering the broader community-controlled sector through engagement and partnership with other Aboriginal corporations to better meet the needs of Aboriginal people.

LGANT's primary role is to influence and develop public policy with and for its members and advocate for change, particularly where inequality exists. LGANT and its member councils will continue to focus on the priority reforms, increase urgency and improve coordination of efforts across all three spheres of government and partner organisations.





OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN

Introduction

The National Agreement commits to a fundamental shift in the relationship between all three levels of government and Aboriginal people, communities and organisations. This partnership aims to design, implement and track the monitoring of policies, programs and service delivery that impact on the lives of Aboriginal people and their communities, to enact real improvements for Aboriginal people in the NT.

In accordance with the National Agreement, the second Closing the Gap NT Implementation Plan (second CtG NT IP) has been developed in partnership between the NT Government, the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT and the Local Government Association of the NT. The objective of the second CtG NT IP is to give effect to the commitments in the National Agreement at the NT level. This includes the enabling and strengthening of partnerships and decision-making between governments, APO NT and Aboriginal Territorians.

This second CtG NT IP continues to set out actions for the NT Government and its partners to improve the life outcomes of Aboriginal Territorians. It has a deeper focus on the 4 priority reform areas that address systemic change, as well as new actions to progress the NT towards reaching the socio-economic outcomes and targets.

The second CtG NT IP builds on the foundational work undertaken and established in implementation plan 2021–2022, with new and/or carried over actions to strengthen the next implementation plan's approach.

The second CtG NT IP is a living document that may be varied on an annual basis through approval by the NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs. It will be updated to document additional or revised initiatives and reflect change and progress from previous NT implementation plans. The NT Partnership Working Group will develop an annual report consistent with the reporting requirements of the National Agreement.

Structure

The second CtG NT IP continues the NT’s momentum from its first implementation plan by embedding structural reform across governments and their platforms. In addition, the past years have seen significant effort placed on identifying new actions relevant to the socio-economic targets and outcomes.

The second CtG NT IP includes 4 sections:



SECTION 1

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IN THE NT



Strengthening the way we work

In the NT, we understand that shared decision-making through genuine and formal partnerships with Aboriginal people allows for better and allows for informed decisions and better outcomes for all Territorians. Working in partnership is central to driving community-led change, as is the integral role the Aboriginal community-controlled sector plays in the lives of Aboriginal Territorians.

All parties to the second CtG NT IP are deeply committed to its objectives and its approach to working together. This includes implementing all activities within this implementation plan in a way that takes full account of, promotes and does not diminish in any way, the cultures of Aboriginal Territorians.

NT Government's *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

The *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy (the strategy) and associated Performance and Reporting Framework was launched in March 2020 by the NT Government. It is a whole-of-government policy and includes 67 measures and 21 primary initiatives under 10 focus areas: truth and healing, language and culture, land and sea, children and families, housing and essential infrastructure, health, education, justice, safety, and jobs and economy.

The addition of the National Agreement alongside the strategy presents an opportunity for a comprehensive and unified strategic direction and monitoring framework for improving outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians.

From 2022, both the strategy and the CtG NT Implementation Plans have provided an annual reporting opportunity that delivers a comprehensive overview of the status of progress towards equity in life outcomes and opportunities for Aboriginal Territorians.



Our partnership approach to Closing the Gap

Agreed governance and partnership arrangements have been established that ensure the NT is embedding shared decision making with Aboriginal people and organisations in the NT. These foundations represent important means by which we improve government accountability and drive participatory and inclusive policy development.

National Joint Council on Closing the Gap

The National Joint Council on Closing the Gap (Joint Council) supports national leadership, coordination and cooperation on Closing the Gap and provides advice to Australian governments. The Joint Council is co-chaired by the Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians and the lead convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, which represents Aboriginal community-controlled peak organisations and its members.

NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs

The NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (the NTECAA) is a key decision-making group that oversees the implementation of Closing the Gap in the NT. The NTECAA provides executive leadership and oversight of the NT's coordination and implementation of the National Agreement, along with monitoring and providing strategic advice on the NT's performance against this implementation plan, its targets and actions under the priority reform areas. It provides a mechanism for structured and sustained high-level engagement between its members.

The NTECAA membership includes the NT Government, LGANT and APO NT, with the Australian Government electing to participate as an observer from National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

It is the role of the NTECAA, as determined by its terms of reference, to:

- Oversee the NT coordination and implementation on Closing the Gap and provide advice to the Joint Council as required.
- Have an ongoing role in monitoring the NT's

performance against the framework, targets and actions under the priority reform areas and socio-economic outcomes.

- Oversee the implementation of those aspects of the revised NT Government's *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy that council members agree are consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and agree a way to respond and bring other aspects of the *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy in line with the National Agreement (noting that the priority reforms apply to all NT Government policies and programs that have a significant impact on Aboriginal Territorians).
- Develop its work plan to deliver on the actions in the implementation plan
- National Agreement relating to partnership and jurisdictional actions.

The NTECAA is co-chaired by the NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and a governing member CEO of APO NT. Both of the co-chairs are also representatives on the Joint Council, providing a direct link between the groups.

It is important that the NT Government continues to ensure agencies and any existing overarching forums are not operating in isolation. The NTECAA will inform and be informed by forums that are already established, including the NT Aboriginal Health Forum, Tripartite Forum and Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership for Remote Housing NT.

NT Partnership Working Group

The NTECAA is supported by the NT Partnership Working Group (NT PWG), which is co-chaired by senior representatives from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CMC), and

APO NT. Membership also comprises of senior policy officers or representatives from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, APO NT member organisations, LGANT and the NIAA.

The NT PWG is guided by its terms of reference and meets regularly throughout the year to progress priorities of the NTECAA and actions outlined in the NT implementation plans.

Policy partnerships

The National Agreement, as part of priority reform 1, provides for the establishment of policy partnerships between governments and Aboriginal representatives across five identified priority areas. These partnerships are justice (adult & youth incarceration), social and emotional wellbeing (mental health), housing, early childhood care and development, and languages. The NT PWG may establish corresponding and additional policy partnerships where needed and specific to the NT context to help address priority areas for the NT.

Policy partnerships will identify priorities and opportunities to work in a joint effort across government agencies and Aboriginal organisations to improve outcomes under Closing the Gap.

NT policy partnerships that correspond to national policy partnerships will respond to the recommendations of the national policy partnerships by applying those recommendations to the NT context as appropriate, as well as identifying any further priorities.

Place-based Partnership and Community Data Project

As part of priority reform 1 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, parties agreed to establish six place-based partnerships across Australia. The purpose of place-based partnerships is to implement the National Agreement in a specific location, taking a long-term community development approach.

As part of priority reform 4 of the National

Agreement, parties have also agreed to establish community data projects in 6 locations across Australia by 2023. Community data projects involve developing community data portals that contain data on Closing the Gap targets at the local level. This will enable Aboriginal organisations to access and use location-specific data to support better outcomes for community.

The NT PWG collectively agreed to nominate Maningrida and its region, inclusive of homelands, as a dual place-based partnership and community data project site following consultation and agreement with community.

The nomination as a place-based partnership was endorsed by Joint Council on 3 December 2021. Maningrida as a community data project site has in-principle support from the Maningrida community.

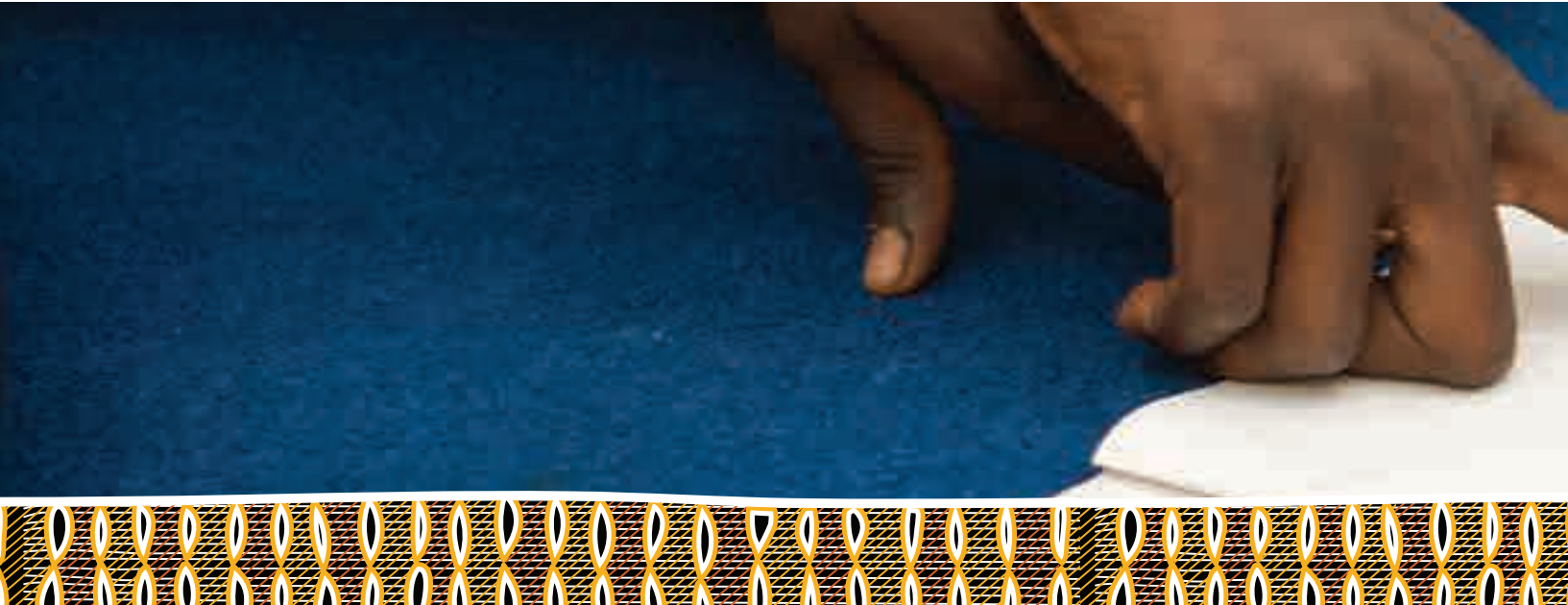
Work is ongoing to progress the establishment of the place-based partnership with the Maningrida community and for the NT PWG to provide support as identified and requested by the community.

Funding to support partnerships

APO NT has been provided \$1.5 million between 2021 and 2026 by the NT Government to support its ongoing establishment and work as a peak Aboriginal body in the Northern Territory.

The NT Government has committed an additional \$2 million over 4 years (2022 to 2025) to a national 'virtual funding pool for sector strengthening' in priority areas such as early childhood care and development, health, housing and disability. While this money is for expenditure in the Northern Territory only, it does form part of a national total of \$77 million from all state and territory governments and the Australian Government to address critical gaps across the Aboriginal community-controlled sectors in workforce, capital infrastructure, service provision and governance streams.

In addition, the NT Government has supported the initial establishment of the NT nominated



place-based partnership site and community data project site, Maningrida, with \$250 000 towards a Closing the Gap Project Coordinator to support this work with community, particularly in developing an appropriate governance model for the region.

The role of existing NT forums to deliver on Closing the Gap

The NT currently has a number of existing forums that provide coordinated and considered advice to the NT and Australian governments to implement their respective agendas. These forums, owing to the context of the NT, have either a sole or heavy focus on improved outcomes for Aboriginal Territorians. Their membership comprises NT and Australian governments and community sector representatives.

The forums include:

- the NT Aboriginal Health Forum
- the Children and Families Tripartite Forum
- the Joint Steering Committee to the National Partnership on Remote Housing NT.

These forums will provide leadership and strategic advice and coordinate information where required to the NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs about progress towards NT Closing the Gap socio-economic outcomes as relevant to their sector, including any alignments to the priority reforms. The NTECAA will keep these forums abreast of the NT implementation plans to ensure we continue to work towards a consistent goal to close the gap.

As per clause 36 of the National Agreement, these forums (and other partnership arrangements) will be reviewed to assess their alignment with the strong partnership elements under the National Agreement. Strong partnership elements outlined in the National agreement include standards for ensuring partnerships:

- are accountable and representative
- have strong formal agreements
- have decision-making that is shared between governments and Aboriginal people.

It is intended that once they are aligned in full with these elements and the priority reform areas, they will have oversight and take carriage of implementation plan actions. For example, as identified under Section 4 of this implementation plan, the Aboriginal Health Forum is identified as the lead for many health-related actions.

NT Government commitment to partnerships with Aboriginal people and organisations

It is the responsibility of all NT Government agencies and their business units to review and ensure their partnerships with Aboriginal people and organisations are consistent with the strong partnership elements outlined in the National Agreement.



Cross-cutting areas

The National Agreement provides the foundations to achieve reform across Aboriginal affairs. However, it is recognised in the NT that there are several cohorts and policy areas that are not explicitly referenced or considered in this fundamental reform. We recognise the unique and layered experiences of these groups of people who may find themselves experiencing disadvantage across multiple marginalised sections of the community in addition to their Aboriginality.

For this reason, it is imperative to ensure these voices are not lost. It is vital that when policies are developed and work is undertaken, the experiences of these cohorts and/or these policy areas are recognised and considered.

Climate change

- All spheres of government and communities will be affected by climate change in varying ways – people, culture, environment, health, housing, industry and the economy.
- The impacts of climate change are already being experienced across the NT, and we know that Aboriginal Territorians will be disproportionately impacted because of existing challenges and remote locations.
- Aboriginal Territorians are key in the development and delivery of actions and solutions to combat climate change through advocacy and caring for country.
- Aligned to the NT Government's response to climate change 'Towards 2050'. The partners will continue to work towards building the resilience of Aboriginal communities to withstand the impacts of climate change, form part of the solution and responses to climate change, and ensure the impacts on Aboriginal communities are considered as a priority in policy decisions.

Disability

- While the National Agreement provides for a national Disability Sector Strengthening Plan, it is important to highlight that disability is not just a health issue and is not specific to one sector.
- The NT must provide an environment that is liveable and safe for those with disability.
- Aboriginal people with disability are almost twice as likely to experience discrimination as non-Aboriginal people with disability.
- When the NT Government is considering and developing any policy, it must consider how it may impact a person with disability but particularly the unique experiences of Aboriginal Territorians with disability.
- APO NT and other relevant stakeholders will work with the NT Government to realise the areas for action within the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan.

Elderly Aboriginal people

- The number of Aboriginal Territorians over the age of 50 continues to increase, and we must ensure our older Aboriginal population is not left behind.
- Older Aboriginal Territorians play a vital role in the continuation and connection to culture for families as holders of knowledge. As Elders, they often play a central role in family units as financial providers and carers to younger generations.
- Elderly people's health needs increase with age, with Aboriginal people having more complex and chronic medical needs correlating to a lower life expectancy than the rest of the Australian population.
- As we move further into the digital age, Aboriginal people, particularly those in regional and remote areas of the NT, face issues of disconnection and isolation because of a lack of digital access. This experience is amplified for elderly Aboriginal people.
- The issues faced by elderly Aboriginal Territorians are not limited to those highlighted above. It must be recognised that many of these issues are compounded for those members of the Stolen Generations.
- Informed by the NT Seniors Policy 2021–26 and through the Closing the Gap NT partnership, the NT Government and other relevant stakeholders will work to ensure we continue to identify and address barriers and build on opportunities for elderly Aboriginal Territorians.
- The NT Government will work to ensure the needs of elderly Aboriginal people are represented across the spectrum of priority reforms.

Aboriginal LGBTQI+ community

- We recognise the large intersection of marginalisation, isolation and discrimination that the Aboriginal LGBTQI+ community experiences across the spectrum of service delivery and society.

- It is also acknowledged that Aboriginal LGBTQI+ people are under-represented in mainstream policy and service delivery design, contributing to those experiences of marginalisation, isolation and discrimination.
- The lack of data means we are unable to accurately gauge need or track progress against identified priorities.
- The NT partnership understands that much work needs to be undertaken to understand the experiences of the NT Aboriginal LGBTQI+ community and how best to reflect and respect their needs throughout the implementation of Closing the Gap.

Economic development

- NT Aboriginal businesses make invaluable contributions to the NT economy.
- Through real, self-determined and Aboriginal-led economic participation, Aboriginal business and the generation of wealth will be a game changer in Closing the Gap.
- Economic development has an impact across all targets in the National Agreement and will play a positive role in meeting these aspirations.
- We recognise the unique role that NT Aboriginal businesses, entrepreneurs and communities can play to take advantage of commercial opportunities to start and grow businesses, including through unlocking the NT's rich Aboriginal land and sea estate.
- It is vital that the NT Closing the Gap partnership maximises the potential for economic development that directly benefits NT Aboriginal people and works to grow the demand for Aboriginal businesses, products and services via appropriate policy shifts and partnerships.
- The NT partnership intends to focus further efforts on economic development initiatives in the development of future implementation plans.

SECTION 2 REPORTING, MONITORING & ACCOUNTABILITY







The National Agreement provides a framework on how jurisdictions will implement the agreement to ensure sustained effort over its 10-year term. This includes all jurisdictions developing implementation plans that respond to their local context.

As per the National Agreement, jurisdictional implementation plans will:

- be fully aligned with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and state that their purpose is to implement the agreement (cl.96)
- respond to the differing needs, priorities and circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia (cl.96)
- demonstrate a commitment to undertake all actions in a way that takes full account of, promotes and does not diminish in any way, the cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (cl.21 and 107)
- be whole-of-government plans, covering government agencies and statutory bodies (cl.108)
- be developed and delivered in partnership between governments, the Coalition of Peaks, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners (cl.108)
- set out how existing policies and programs will be aligned to the agreement (cl.104 and 108)
- set out actions to achieve the priority reforms and partnership actions (cl.108)
- set out actions to achieve the agreed outcomes and targets (cl.108)
- for transparency, include information on funding and timeframes for actions (cl.108)
- include the approach to annual reporting, including when they will release their public report (cl.108)
- include information on how the states and territories will work with local government to implement this agreement (state and territory implementation plans only) (cl.108)
- include data development actions identified in the Data Development Plan (cl.106)
- be published on the jurisdiction's website (cl.111).

How we will be accountable

Monitoring and reporting

The second CtG NT IP, all future implementation plans and all requirements under the National Agreement will be reported annually alongside the *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy, and released publicly. This reporting will form the NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' annual update to parliament on Closing the Gap and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly yearly, and published on the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, LGANT and APO NT websites.

Nationally, the Productivity Commission will undertake a comprehensive review of the National Agreement every 3 years. Within 12 months of these reviews, an Aboriginal-led review will also be carried out, with the National Joint Council on Closing the Gap agreeing its scope and conduct. Any review recommendations will then be considered by Joint Council for potential changes to the agreement.

In addition, in the NT, with the integration of the *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and Closing the Gap implementation plans, the commitment to a biennial review of the strategy will also apply to the implementation plan. The process for this will be determined by the NTECAA.

Accountability to community

The NT Closing the Gap partnership is committed to establishing and maintaining open and transparent communications with Aboriginal communities and organisations about our work and the progress across Closing the Gap. For Closing the Gap to succeed, it is critical that we are capturing the issues faced by Aboriginal Territorians and responding in a manner that is proportionate and appropriate to their needs. It is similarly important for the Aboriginal community of the NT to understand what Closing the Gap involves and how its elements, and the commitments made, can support and guide them.

The NT Closing the Gap partnership will do this through ongoing engagement with communities, organisations and ensuring all NT Government staff are advocates for the principles and outcomes of Closing the Gap. The NT PWG will collectively communicate and engage communities across the six NT regions (comprising of Darwin Palmerston & Litchfield, Top End, East Arnhem, Big Rivers, Barkly and Central Australia) and in a targeted manner.

The NT partners will continue to reflect on the joint communications strategy to ensure they are meeting this commitment to community.

SECTION 3

DELIVERING ON THE PRIORITY REFORMS



The National Agreement commits parties to four priority reforms, which are at the heart of transforming the way all three spheres of government work to accelerate improvements to the lives of Aboriginal people. The priority reforms respond to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal people.

The priority reforms are:

1. Formal partnerships and shared decision-making
2. Building the community-controlled sector
3. Transforming government organisations
4. Shared access to data and information at a regional level.

The National Agreement sets out partnership actions (actions to be undertaken by all parties) and jurisdictional actions (individual actions to be undertaken by governments) to implement the priority reforms. Each priority has a corresponding target and committed jurisdictional and partnership actions.

Embedding the priority reforms

The priority reforms have resulted from the partnership between governments and the Coalition of Peaks and were directly informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during the formal engagements on the National Agreement in 2019.

This second CtG NT IP maintains focus on the 4 priority reforms to ensure they continue to be a dedicated focus and embedded in our efforts to implement the National Agreement and, in turn, create tangible actions to support change in the NT. It is well-acknowledged and agreed that the priority reforms will underpin success across all Closing the Gap areas.

Measuring impact against the priority reform areas

Each priority reform area has a corresponding target and outcome to measure government action across all of them. Nationally, work is underway to develop trajectories and measurement frameworks for each of the priority reforms. This work is being led by the National Indigenous Australians Agency and undertaken by the Productivity Commission.

The NT continues to support the development of trajectories and a measurement framework for the priority reform areas.

Delivering on sector-strengthening plans

The National Agreement commits all parties to the development of an initial four sector-strengthening plans to advance a joint national sector strengthening effort across the following sectors:

- a. Early childhood care and development
- b. Housing
- c. Health
- d. Disability.

The co-development of these plans has been led by national Aboriginal organisational representatives as identified by the Coalition of Peaks. As part of this process, 4 separate national sector-strengthening plan working groups were established in April 2021 to progress the development of the plans. These working groups have been co-chaired by the Aboriginal national peak body and the relevant Australian Government agency representative. The NT Government's agency was represented on the working groups as well as members from APO NT or relevant Aboriginal sector organisations.

The sector-strengthening plans provide jurisdictions with guidance to enhance relationships, build the capacity of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and work collectively to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The sector-strengthening plans identify actions across 6 key areas, including:

- a. Workforce
- b. Capital infrastructure
- c. Service delivery
- d. Governance
- e. Consistent funding model
- f. Peak body.

The development of the sector-strengthening plans has been an Aboriginal-led process that requires the participation of governments to achieve their outcomes. This second implementation plan sees the local government sector included in the development of actions for the NT under these plans.

It is the responsibility of relevant NT Government agencies to work with relevant Aboriginal peak bodies, LGANT and other organisations to progress the actions within related sector-strengthening plans as they apply to the NT context.



Completed actions from the first NT Implementation Plan, 2021–22

The first Closing the Gap Implementation Plan (first CtG NT IP) provided an extensive list of new actions with an aim to achieving/working towards the priority reform targets. The initial actions reflect the optimism and commitment to reform. A list of completed actions are outlined below, and further detail on the first CtG NT IP can be found in the annual report.

PRIORITY REFORM 1: FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SHARED DECISION-MAKING

NUMBER	ACTION
JA1.1(1a)	Establishment of the NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs
JA1.1(1d)	Develop a Regional Governance Framework to provide clear and well-integrated governance and engagement arrangements across agencies, stakeholders, business, Traditional Owners and communities to provide a clear regional voice to government.
JA1.2(1)	NT Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs to determine terms of reference for partnership review
JA1.3	Guided by the Executive Council, annual reporting as per Clause 118 and 119 of the National Agreement will be made publically available and tabled in the NT Parliament.
PA1.2 (1)	Identify and nominate a site in the NT for a place-based partnership
PR 1.6	<p>The NTECAA will take into account the Public Accounts Committee’s inquiry and report on the implementation and future of the Local Decision Making (LDM) Framework.</p> <p>Following NTECAA consideration of the report, NT Government will work with APO NT and LGANT to review LDM in line with the strong partnership elements in priority reform 1 and all other priority reform areas.</p>

PRIORITY REFORM 2: BUILDING THE COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED SECTOR

NUMBER	ACTION
JA2.1(2b)	Prioritisation of funding to ACCOs for community-led family support services
JA2.1(2c)	Develop a Northern Territory disability strategy
JA2.2(1a)	Outline actions in Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and Closing the Gap reporting
PA2.1(1)	Contribute to national sector-strengthening plans, led by the Coalition of Peaks
PA2.2(1b)	Establish an Aboriginal procurement policy
PA2.3(1c)	List the number and types of Aboriginal organisations that have been allocated funding for the purposes of Clause 118d of the National Agreement

PRIORITY REFORM 3: TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

NUMBER	ACTION
JA3.1 & 3.2 (1c)	Implementation of the NT Government Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy
JA3.1 & 3.2(2b)	LGANT will prepare and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan and encourage those councils that have not already done so to implement their own Reconciliation Action Plans.
JA3.3(1a)	Evaluation of the Closing the Gap Impact Statement in Cabinet process
JA3.4(1b)	Establish the Northern Territory Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (NTECAA)
JA3.5(1d)	Establish a similar arrangement to the Regional and Remote Taskforce that was stood up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
PA3.1(1a)	Identify a range of options for an independent mechanism to support, monitor and report on priority reform 3

PRIORITY REFORM 4: SHARED ACCESS TO DATA AND INFORMATION AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

NUMBER	ACTION
PA4.1	Identify and nominate a data project site

Some of the following actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP, but given changes that have occurred over the past year, actions may be adapted to better suit current needs and environment. These modifications, if any, will be mutually agreed by partners and will be reflected as such in the annual report.

PRIORITY REFORM 1

FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SHARED DECISION-MAKING

Outcome

Shared decision-making: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.

Target

There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in each state and territory, enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives.

*NT Government lead:
whole-of-government priority*

*APO NT lead:
whole-of-APO NT priority*

*LGANT lead:
whole-of-LGANT priority*



This new and formal partnership builds on the progress over the past 10 years under Closing the Gap and is a commitment to fundamentally change the way that governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people work together in order to accelerate improved outcomes.

Preamble, Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.



Why is this important?

Aboriginal people in the NT need to be at the centre of decisions about policies, services and programs that have a significant impact on their lives. This will ensure government policies to close the gap are built around the aspirations, experiences, expertise and strengths of Aboriginal people in the NT.

In the NT, it is important to recognise that 30.3 per cent of the NT population is Aboriginal, and 77 per cent of our Aboriginal population live in remote areas. Recognising and supporting this through equal partnerships is fundamental to meeting the Closing the Gap targets, and is why priority reform 1 is critical to the NT's success.

Partnership actions from the National Agreement

The NT partnership is committed to the partnership actions under the National Agreement:

- A consolidated approach to five policy priority areas: justice (adult and youth incarceration), social and emotional wellbeing (mental health), housing, early childhood care and development, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- By 2024, six new place-based partnerships will be established across Australia, consistent with the strong partnership elements, and respond to local priorities and approaches to progress closing the gap.

Jurisdictional actions from the National Agreement

The NT partnership is committed to the jurisdictional actions identified in the National Agreement:

- Establishing policy and place-based partnerships within the NT that respond to local priorities.
- Reviewing partnership arrangements to assess how they meet the partnership elements of the National Agreement.



NT Actions to Support Priority Reform 1

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 1.1	Establish an Aboriginal-led NT justice policy partnership, which will build on recommendations of the national Justice Policy Partnership	APO NT
PR 1.2	The NT Government and APO NT will jointly establish a peak Aboriginal education body. Phase 1 is to establish an interim steering committee of Aboriginal educators to oversee the development of an Action Plan for the establishment of an Aboriginal education policy partnership and peak body.	APO NT, NT Government
PR 1.3	Establish a consultative mechanism for engagement on Aboriginal economic development	APO NT, NT Government
PR 1.4	The housing partnership and its priorities and membership will be reviewed by an Aboriginal-led process. Trial sites will be established for community-controlled housing in remote areas, with appropriate resourcing	APO NT
PR 1.5	<p>Review existing partnership arrangements to assess how they meet the partnership elements at Clauses 32 and 33 of the National Agreement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By 2022, undertake a review of existing partnership arrangements and provide a report to the Joint Council. By 2023, review and strengthen existing partnerships to meet the strong partnership elements Provide a report on this review, including the number of partnerships, changes made to existing partnerships, and which strong partnership elements are met and unmet for all partnerships to be considered by Joint Council 	NT Government
PR 1.6	<p>The NTECAA will take into account the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry and report on the implementation and future of the Local Decision Making (LDM) Framework.</p> <p>Following NTECAA consideration of the report, NT Government will work with APO NT and LGANT to review LDM in line with the strong partnership elements in priority reform 1 and all other priority reform areas</p>	NT Government





NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 1.7	Continue implementation of the place-based partnership and community data project in Maningrida and surrounding homelands	APONT, NT Government, LGANT, West Arnhem Regional Council, National Indigenous Australians Agency
PR 1.8	LGANT to work with the local government sector to maximise Aboriginal people in shared decision-making	LGANT

****Please note that some of these actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP.*



PRIORITY REFORM 2

BUILDING THE COMMUNITY-CONTROLLED SECTOR

Outcome

There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people across the country.

Target

Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal programs and services going through Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

*NT Government lead:
whole-of-government priority*

*APO NT lead:
whole-of-APO NT priority*

*LGANT lead:
whole-of-LGANT priority*



“The Parties acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services are better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are often preferred over mainstream services. Preamble, Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

”

Why is this important?

The National Agreement acknowledges that community control is an act of self-determination and sets out key elements for building the Aboriginal community-controlled sectors.

Priority reform 2 goes hand-in-hand with the first priority reform. Ensuring we have a strong community-controlled sector supports the ability for Aboriginal Territorians and organisations to participate in partnerships and shared decision-making, and vice versa. Strong Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) are integral to strong Aboriginal communities. They provide invaluable support and services aligning with community needs which lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Partnership actions from the National Agreement

The NT PWG is committed to a national joint effort to build a strong Aboriginal community-controlled sector to deliver Closing the Gap-related services and programs. This includes working with national and NT partners and the Joint Council to establish and implement, where appropriate, sector-strengthening plans across identified sectors. The first 4 sectors are early childhood care and development, housing, health and disability.

Jurisdictional actions from the National Agreement

The NT partnership is committed to building a strong Aboriginal community-controlled sector in the NT in line with the strong community-controlled sector elements of the National Agreement.

NT Actions to Support Priority Reform 2

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 2.1	Establish an NT Aboriginal justice peak body	APONT, NT Government
PR 2.2	Allocation of funding through the virtual funding pool, as recommended by the NT partners	APONT, NT Government
PR 2.3	Develop an Aboriginal grants policy	NT Government, APONT
PR 2.4	Review and identify current spending on Aboriginal programs and services	NT Government
PR 2.5	Identify third region to transition as part of 'Pathways to Community Control', which supports Aboriginal community control in the provision of primary health care services	Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum

***Please note that some of these actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP.





PRIORITY REFORM 3

TRANSFORMING GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Outcome

Improving mainstream institutions: governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.

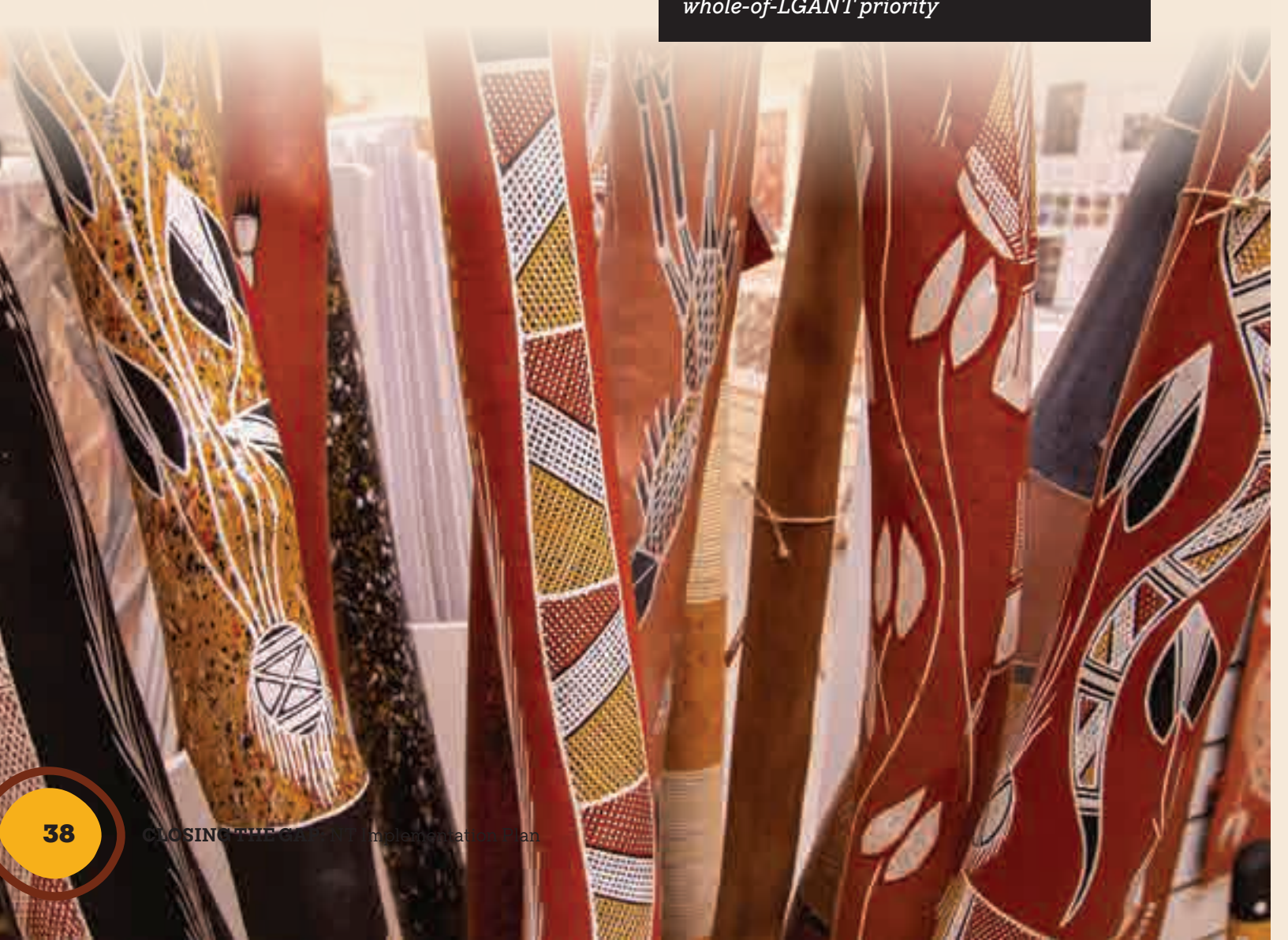
Target

Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.

*NT Government lead:
whole-of-government priority*

*APO NT lead:
whole-of-APO NT priority*

*LGANT lead:
whole-of-LGANT priority*





The Parties commit to systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government organisations to improve accountability and respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap.



Why is this important?

In order to achieve equity, all NT Government employees must have the skills to adequately serve all Territorians. This means having the knowledge and skills at the individual level to contribute to culturally aware and responsive workplaces and organisations. It's imperative that the Aboriginal context is understood so the mistakes of the past are not repeated. It's vital to acknowledge that Aboriginal staff represented at various levels of government is necessary to the success of this transformation.

Partnership actions from the National Agreement

The NT Government is committed to the full implementation of the systemic and structural transformation elements of the National Agreement. This includes doing the work to identify, develop or strengthen an independent mechanism, or mechanisms, that will support, monitor and/or report on the transformation of the NT Government.

Jurisdictional actions from the National Agreement

The National Agreement sets out a path towards reforming all 3 spheres of government and all their respective institutions. This priority reform area is critical to the success of the outcomes of the National Agreement.

NT Actions to Support Priority Reform 3

The National Agreement sets out a path towards reforming all 3 spheres of government and all their respective institutions. This priority reform area is critical to the success of the outcomes of the National Agreement.

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 3.1	Develop an NT Government cultural responsiveness framework and anti-racism strategy	NT Government, APO NT
PR 3.2	Increase Aboriginal representation on NT Government boards and committees	NT Government
PR 3.3	Additional support and resources for the Anti-Discrimination Commission	NT Government
PR 3.4	LGANT to implement and review its Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan	LGANT
PR 3.5	LGANT to support local government councils in developing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans	LGANT
PR 3.6	Evaluate the Closing the Gap Impact Statement in Cabinet process	NT Government
PR 3.7	Develop and implement an Aboriginal engagement model	NT PWG
PR 3.8	Publish engagement approaches to transformation elements through the CtG annual report (Clauses 59, 65)	NT PWG
PR 3.9	Improve NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES) engagement with Aboriginal people around emergencies	NT Government
PR 3.10	Improve engagement with Aboriginal people during the recovery phase from an emergency event	NT Government
PR 3.11	Establish roles for Aboriginal representation on local emergency committees to ensure appropriate cultural authority is represented	NT Government





NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 3.12	LGANT to strengthen its shared services procurement provider platform to enable filtering, including by Aboriginal businesses	LGANT
PR 3.13	LGANT to investigate the collection of information on cultural safety frameworks and/or awareness programs in councils	LGANT
PR 3.14	LGANT to work with the NT Government to roll out the Closing the Gap online training module to the local government sector	LGANT
PR 3.15	LGANT to finalise a workforce development strategy (in partnership with the sector) that will identify opportunities such as Aboriginal cadetships, graduate, apprentice, trainee, transition from school to work, mentoring, work experience and exchange programs	LGANT
PR 3.16	LGANT to support the sector in using the NT Government's Place Names Engagement Framework (if councils do not have their own policy)	LGANT
PR 3.17	LGANT to explore resourcing for a dedicated officer to lead and coordinate Aboriginal affairs matters across the local government sector	LGANT
PR 3.18	LGANT and the local government sector to support Australian Electoral Commission and Northern Territory Electoral Commission to increase Aboriginal enrolment, election participation and nominations	LGANT
PR 3.19	Analyse the range of options identified for an independent mechanism to support, monitor and report on priority reform 3	NT PWG

***Please note that some of these actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP.



PRIORITY REFORM 4

SHARED ACCESS TO DATA AND INFORMATION AT A REGIONAL LEVEL

Outcome

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

Target

Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

*NT Government lead:
whole-of-government priority*

*APO NT lead:
whole-of-APO NT priority*

*LGANT lead:
whole-of-LGANT priority*

“

Decisions made under the Partnership Agreement will be evidence based and underpinned by the transparent sharing of data.

Principle 14i, Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.

”

Why is this important?

Shared access to location-specific data and information will support Aboriginal communities and organisations to realise the first three priority reforms. This will occur through Aboriginal people participating as equal partners with government, driving their own development according to their own indicators of success, and determining transformation of government organisations.

Access to data and information will enable Aboriginal people and communities to better understand issues in their community or region and to make more informed decisions.

Partnership actions from the National Agreement

The NT partnership is committed to working with all NT partners and the Joint Council on Closing the Gap to establish up to six data project sites across Australia. These data projects have been designed to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to access and use location-specific data on the Closing the Gap outcome areas. The NT has worked with community to nominate Maningrida as one of the six sites. The NT partnership will work with Maningrida and its homelands to develop the project further as part of its place-based partnership.

NT Actions to Support Priority Reform 4

The National Agreement identifies the critical role that shared access to location-specific data and information plays in Aboriginal people being active participants, contributors and partners to governments in making decisions about their communities and lives. Access to shared data and information will support the achievement of the first three priority reforms.

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
PR 4.1	Engage Aboriginal media to share Closing the Gap data	NT Government
PR 4.2	Develop economic growth plans	NT Government, LGANT and APO NT
PR 4.3	Develop a digital inclusion strategy	NT Government
PR 4.4	Data sharing agreement between Australian Government (ORIC), APO NT/AGMP and NT Government to help build the capacity of Aboriginal organisations	APO NT/AGMP, NT Government

****Please note that some of these actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP.*



SECTION 4

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TARGETS

Parties to the National Agreement have agreed to focus reform efforts on 17 socio-economic outcomes and targets. These targets are designed to be met at a national level. Each jurisdiction has a different baseline, including the NT, which is a reflection of its unique demographics, history and context.

The NT partners will work towards the socio-economic targets by identifying new actions for each outcome area. The socio-economic target actions will be monitored as part of the implementation plan annual reporting process and reviewed as part of the development of future implementation plans, with new actions identified and included where necessary.

Each socio-economic target includes the Northern Territory's baseline data provided by the Productivity Commission.

In the next section, each of the socio-economic outcome areas includes the identification of key NT strategies, frameworks and/or forums that contribute to the progress of the national target and outcome, along with links to the *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy.

OUTCOME 01

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives.

Life expectancy provides a broader view of progress across other social factors. A gap in life expectancy is reflective of the health and socio-economic inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

National Target:

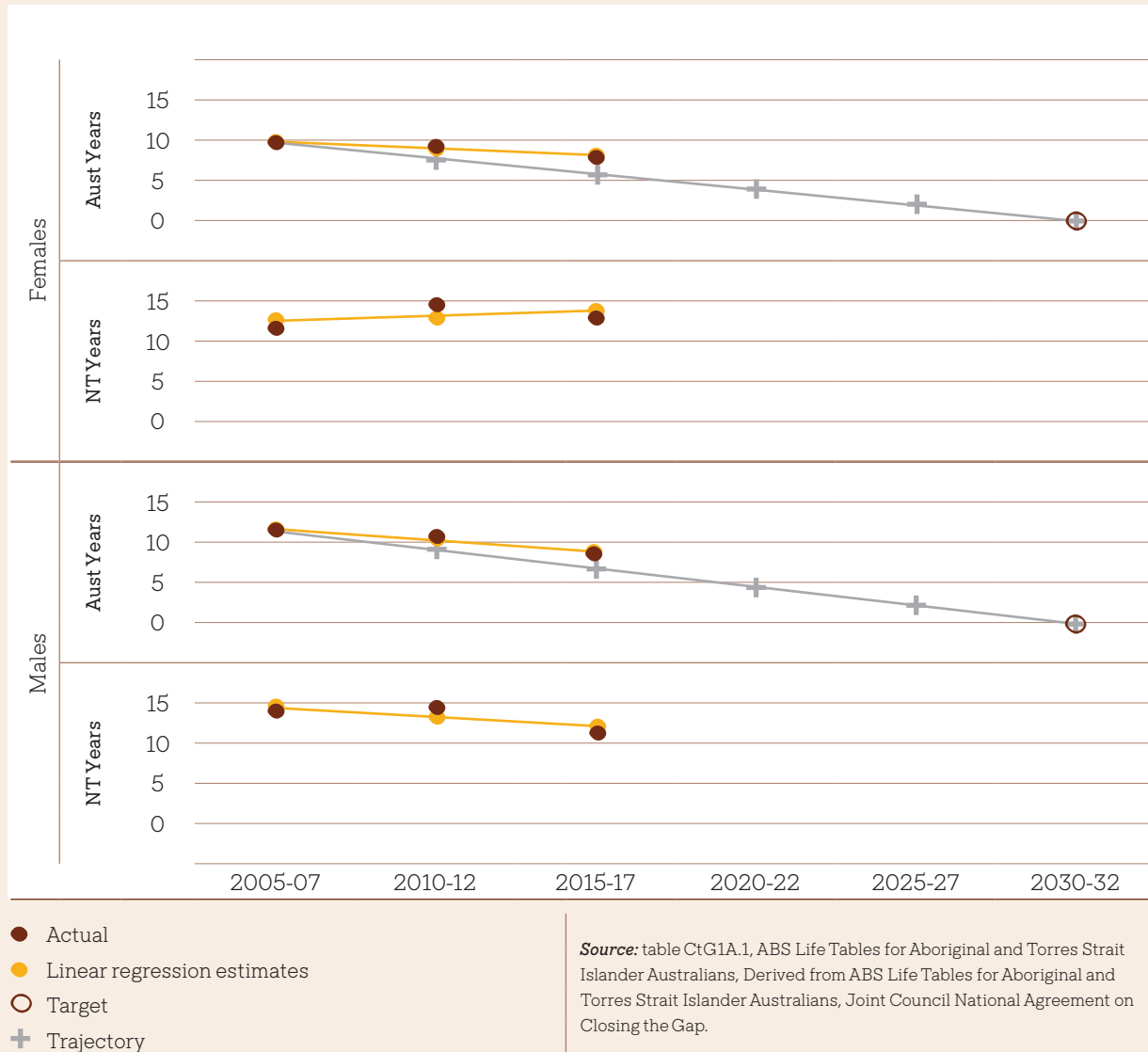
Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031

Lead Minister/ Agency:

Minister for Health/
Department of Health

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG1.1 Difference in estimated life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and non-Indigenous children at birth ^{(a), (b)}



(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

(b) Life expectancy estimates by Indigenous status are produced for NSW, Queensland, WA and the NT only.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks, strategies and forums that contribute progress towards the national target and outcome are:

- NT Aboriginal Health Forum (DoH)
- Transition of primary health care services to ACCHOs (DoH)
- NT Health Cultural Security Framework 2016–2026 (DoH)
- Towards Zero Action Plan (DIPL).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 1

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
1.1	Working with the Australian Government, develop an NT Remote Store Licencing program to support the viability of remote stores and increased individual store capacity to provide sufficient, affordable, quality food and grocery items for residents of remote communities.	CMC, NT Health
1.2	As the first step towards the long term goal of establishing an NT Aboriginal Disability Peak Body/Agency - Phase 1 – APO NT with the Office of Disability to map out organisations that provide and advocate for disability services for Aboriginal people, and establish a working group to coordinate engagement to inform the development of a Peak/Agency.	APO NT, TFHC, CMC
1.3	Operate appropriate workforce taskforces to address immediate workforce issues in the NT health sector, including but not limited to recruitment and retention of GPs, nurses and Aboriginal health practitioners	NTAHF
1.4	Develop a patient-focussed funding model for primary health care that reflects the population health needs in the NT (12 months)	NTAHF
1.5	Review the patient journeys and clinical pathways in and out of selected sample sites (at least one hospital and one primary health care facility) to identify strengths, challenges and potential improvements (24 months)	NTAHF
1.6	Review specialist outreach models to match to health needs through improved planning mechanisms and improve referral pathways/access, particularly for remote communities	NTAHF
1.7	Monitor the impact of alcohol policy amendments through quarterly review of available and accessible data by region (indicators to be agreed)	NTAHF, NT Health

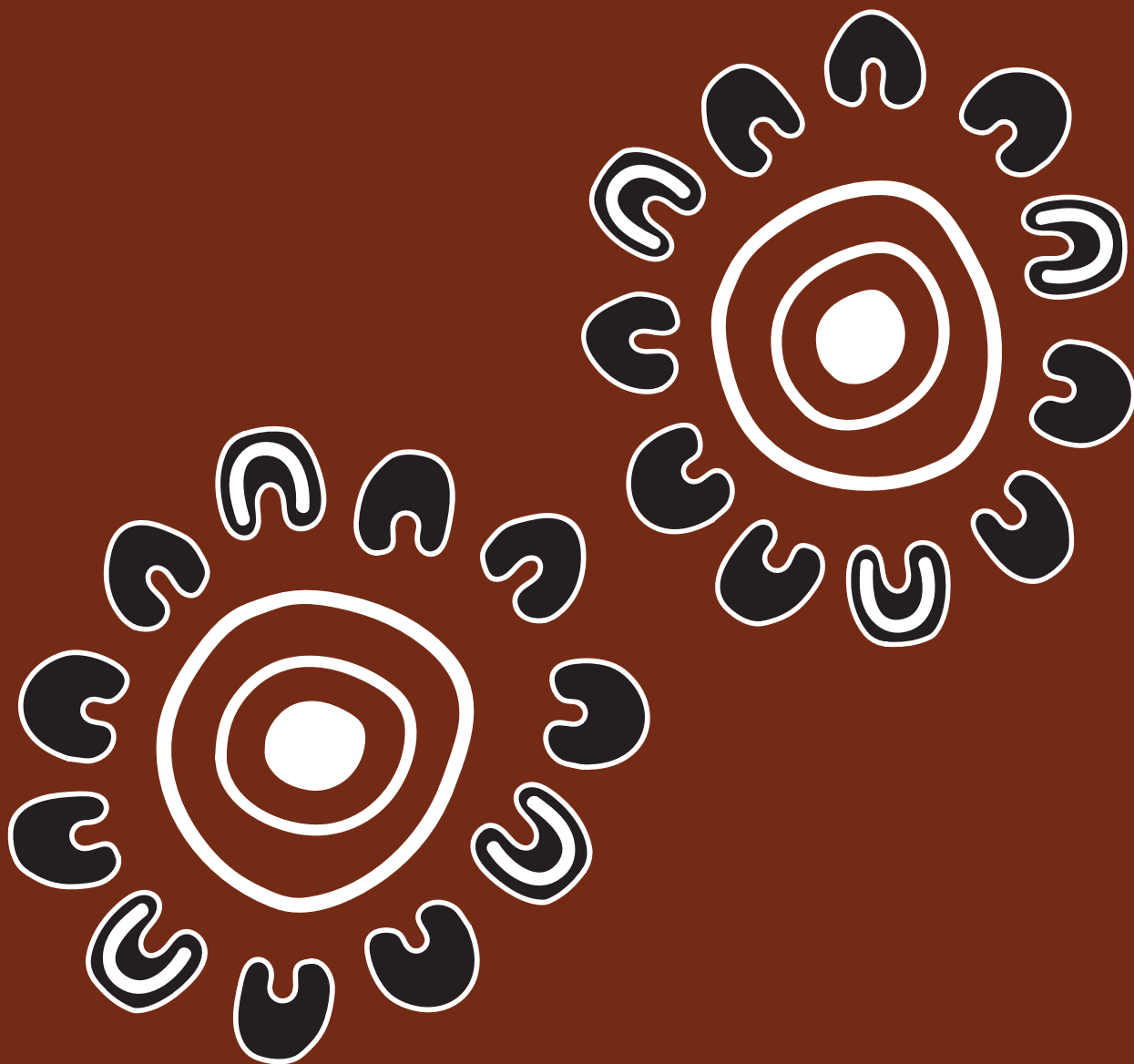
***Please note that some of these actions have been carried over from the first CtG NT IP.

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
6.4	Increase the number of services delivered by Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations (ACCHO) to Aboriginal Territorians	ON TRACK
6.6	Improve the cultural safety and responsiveness of NT Health services	ON TRACK
8.3	Reduce the number of Aboriginal Territorians who have died or been seriously injured on NT roads	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report



“

The Parties commit to systemic and structural transformation of mainstream government organisations to improve accountability and respond to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

”



OUTCOME 02

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong.

Birthweight is a determinant of a baby's future health. Being born at a healthy birthweight sets the positive foundations for experiencing better health outcomes throughout their life.

National Target:

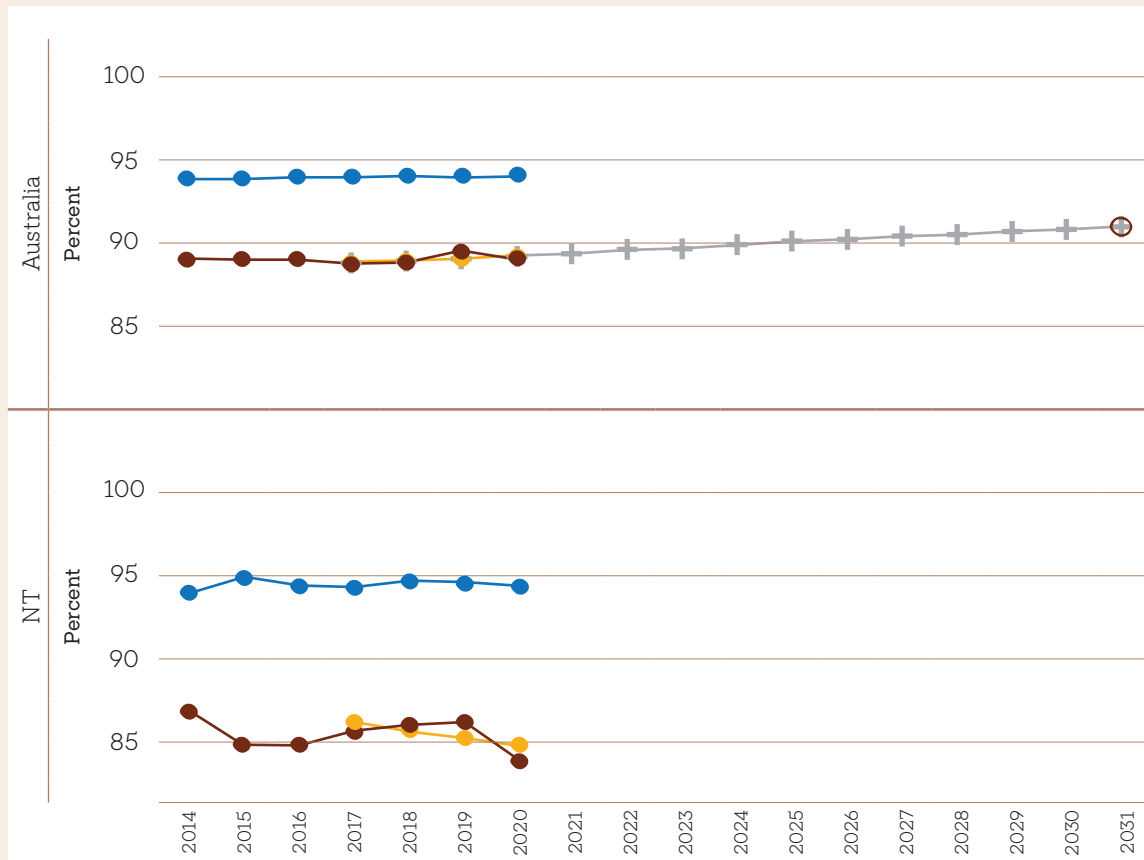
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%

Lead Minister/ Agency:

Minister for Health/ Department of Health

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG2.1 Live-born singleton babies of healthy birthweight (2500-4499g) ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Target
- ⊕ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous children, Actual

Source: table CtG2A.1, AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection, Derived from AIHW (unpublished) National Perinatal Data Collection, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks, strategies and forums that contribute progress towards the national target and outcome are:

- Early Childhood Development Plan (RMO)
- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* (RMO)
- NT Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting program (DoH).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 2

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
2.1	NT Health to work with ACCHOs and the university sector to support development of midwifery group practices	APO NT, NT Health
2.2	Expand evidence-informed parenting and family support programs such as the Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program (ANFPP) and the Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home Visiting program (MECSH).	NTAHF, NT Health

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE	TRACKING*
6.1 Percentage of mothers who have had their first antenatal visit within 13 weeks	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 03

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years.

National Target:

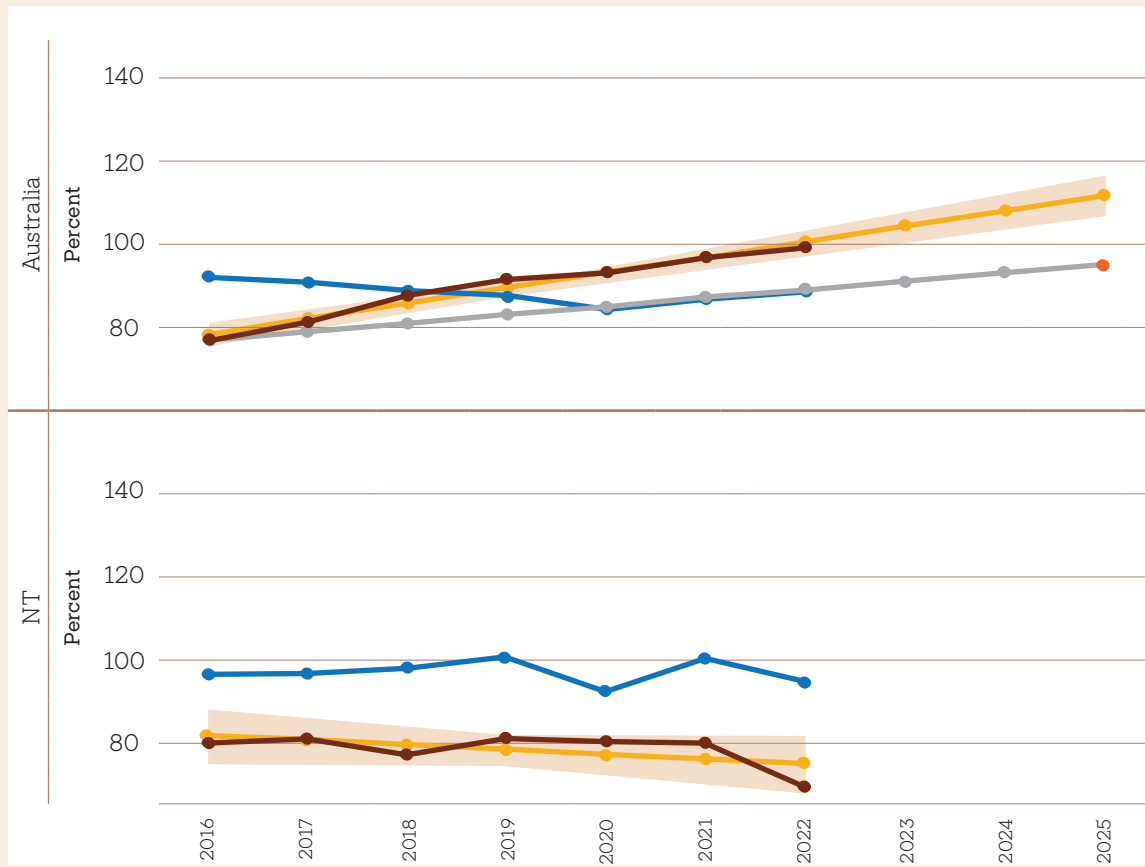
By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in year before full-time schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education/
Department of Education

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG3.1 Children in the state-specific YBFS age cohort who are enrolled in a preschool program ^{(a), (b)}



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Target
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous children, Actual

Source: table CtG3A.1, ABS (unpublished) Preschool Education Australia, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Preschool Education Australia, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

(b) Enrolment proportions may exceed 100 per cent for some jurisdictions due to the numerator and denominator being from different sources.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* (RMO).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 3

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
3.1	DoE to provide place-based cultural responsiveness training for early childhood education staff within the government sector	DoE
3.2	Extend access to quality early learning, following an evaluation of Families and First Teachers and a review of preschool, which will consider opportunities for strengthening and contemporising early childhood education and care	DoE
3.3	DoE to work with communities to develop localised strategies to increase attendance in YBFS.	DoE

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
4.1	Increase the participation of Aboriginal children enrolled in the Families as First Teachers program	NOT ON TRACK
4.5	Increase the number of child and family centres across the NT	ON TRACK
7.3	Increase the number of Aboriginal children enrolled in preschool	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 04

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years.

National Target:

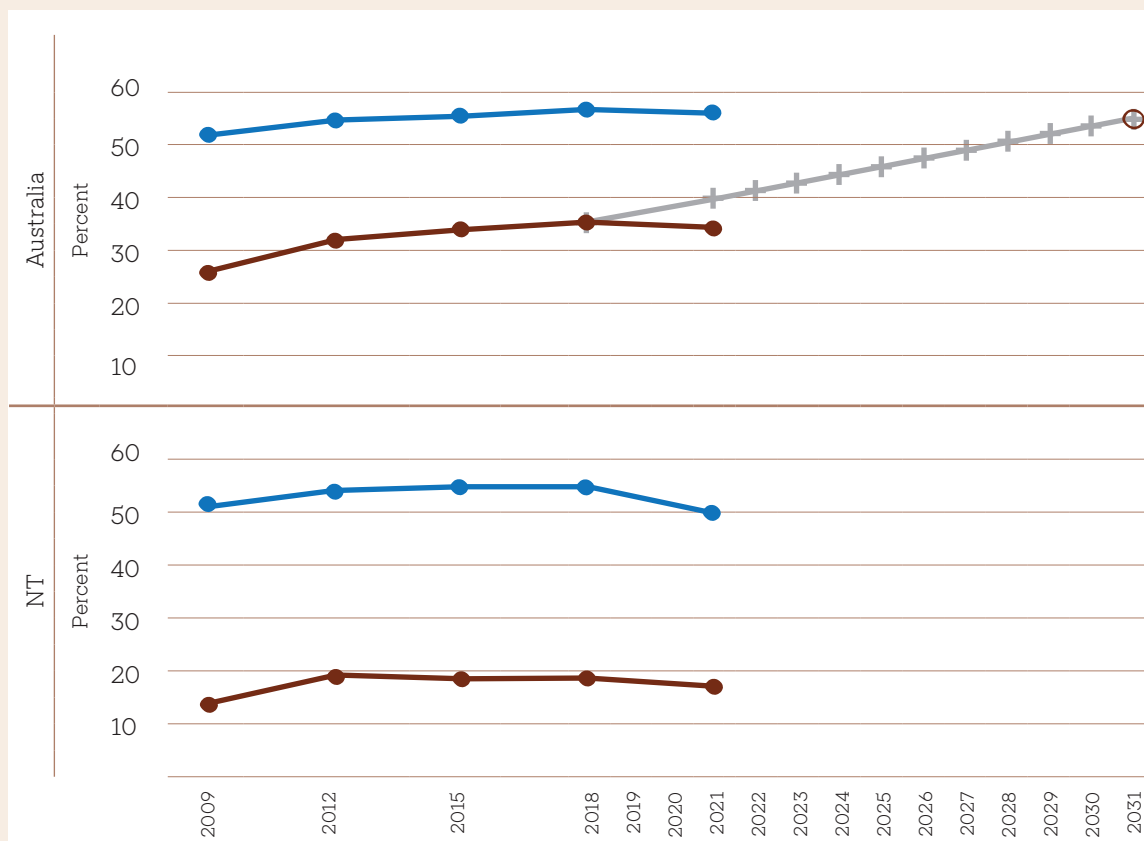
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education and Minister for Health/
Department of Education and Department of Health

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG4.1 Children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Target
- + Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous children, Actual

Source: table CtG4A.1, Australian Government Department of Education Skills and Employment Australian Early Development Census, Derived from Australian Government Department of Education Skills and Employment Australian Early Development Census, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- NT Education Engagement Strategy 2022-2031 (DoE)
- NT Indigenous Education Strategy 2015–2024 (DoE)
- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong*: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory (RMO).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 4

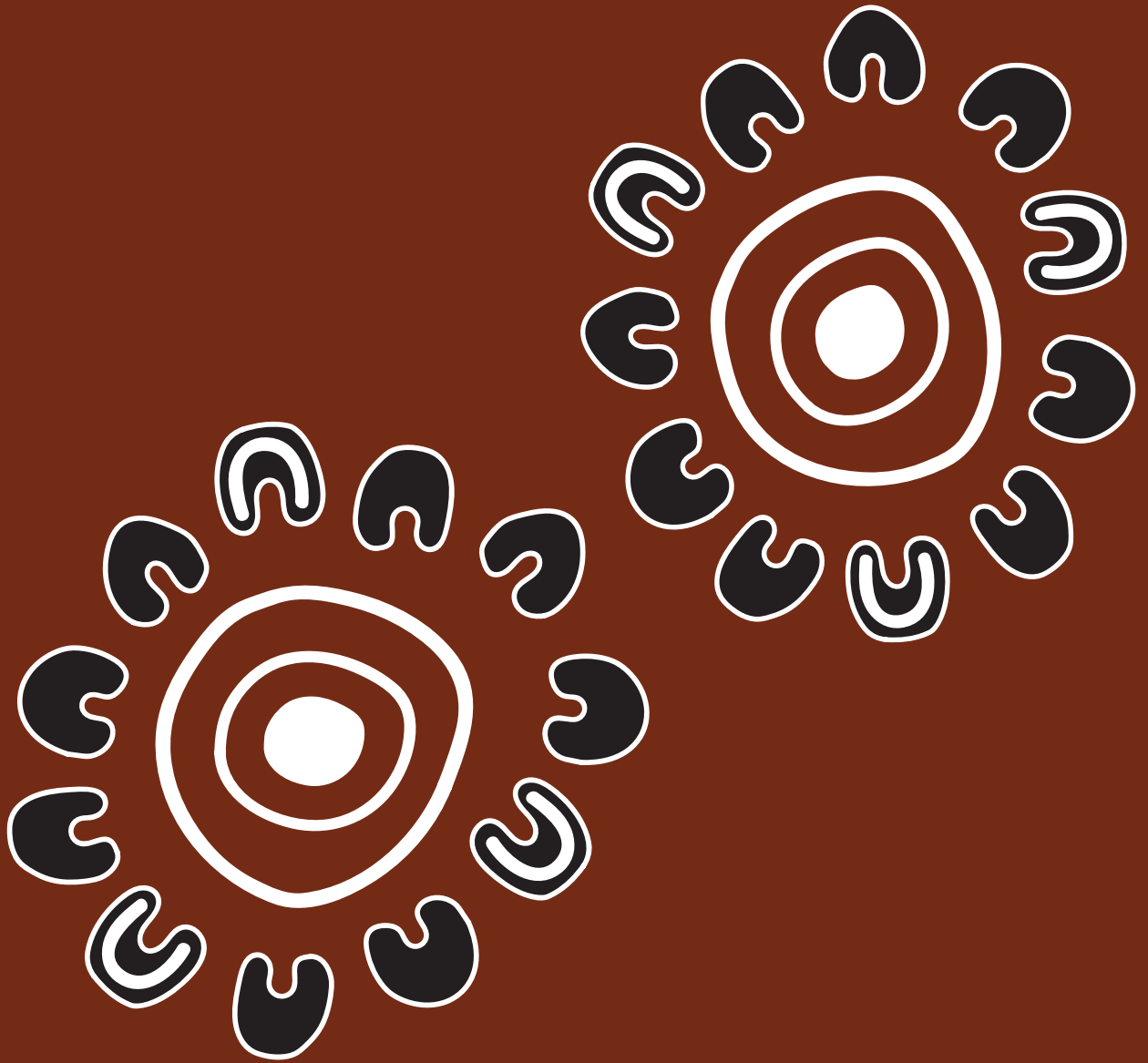
NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
4.1	DoE to mandate all NT schools provide staff with culturally responsive training in trauma-informed care for Aboriginal children where available (12 months)	DoE
4.2	Build the ability of NT schools' early years staff and principals to identify developmental delays and/or disability and conduct culturally safe conversations with parents and carers	DoE
4.3	Resource all NTG Primary Health Care Services and Child and Family Centres/Childhood Health and Development Centres (CFCs/CHaDS) to monitor progress of all children under 5 years old through the use of ASQ Trak screening	NT Health
4.4	DoE and NT Health to work together to identify gaps in services supporting early childhood development across the NT and report back to NTAHF and APO NT	DoE, NT Health
4.5	Phase 1: Using a range of available data from the AEDC, health, housing, child protection and police sectors, along with the strength of the local sector and community leadership and in consultation with the Children and Families Tripartite Forum, identify communities within which to establish a CFC or CHaD site. Phase 2: Scope the potential to increase the number of CFCs and/or CHaDs	TFHC
4.6	Work to ensure better access to key evidence-based early childhood programs and services to promote healthy development and school readiness and assist with school attendance and outcomes, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting annual ASQ-Trak developmental screening for children under 5 with referral to NDIS Early Childhood Services (ECS) as needed • developing a new Aboriginal Health NT Key Performance Indicator to monitor completed ASQ-Traks by age as well as referrals to the NDIS ECS 	NTAHF

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
6.2	Number of children between 6 months and 5 years who have been tested for anaemia	NOT ON TRACK
6.3	Increase early screening and treatment for conductive hearing loss of Aboriginal children	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report



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In order to effect real change, governments must work collaboratively in a genuine, formal partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples because they are the essential agents of change.

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

”



OUTCOME 05

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential.

National Target:

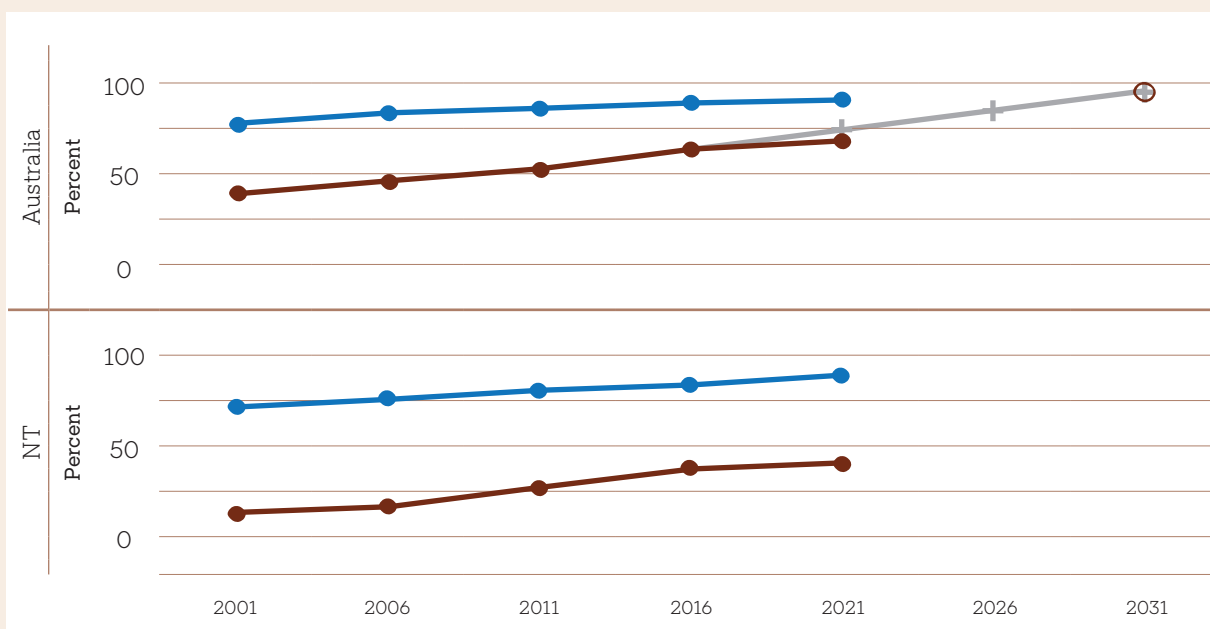
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education/
Department of Education

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG5.1 Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent; or a non-school qualification at Certificate level III or above, 20-24 years old^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- + Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG5A.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks, strategies and forums that contribute progress towards the national target and outcome are:

- NT Education Engagement Strategy 2022-2031 (DoE)
- NT Indigenous Education Strategy 2015–2024 (DoE)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 5

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
5.1	Phase 1: DoE, through Local Decision Making, to develop an approach that empowers communities to lead a process to incorporate bilingual options into the NT curriculum DoE to work with Aboriginal stakeholders to define bilingual schooling/education Phase 2: Increase the number of schools providing bilingual education	DoE, APO NT
5.2	Review of outcomes from governance support and training to remote schools	DoE, APO NT, AGMP

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
2.3	Increase the participation in Learning on Country education programs	NOT ON TRACK
7.1	Number of Aboriginal Territorians completing the Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 06

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways.

National Target:

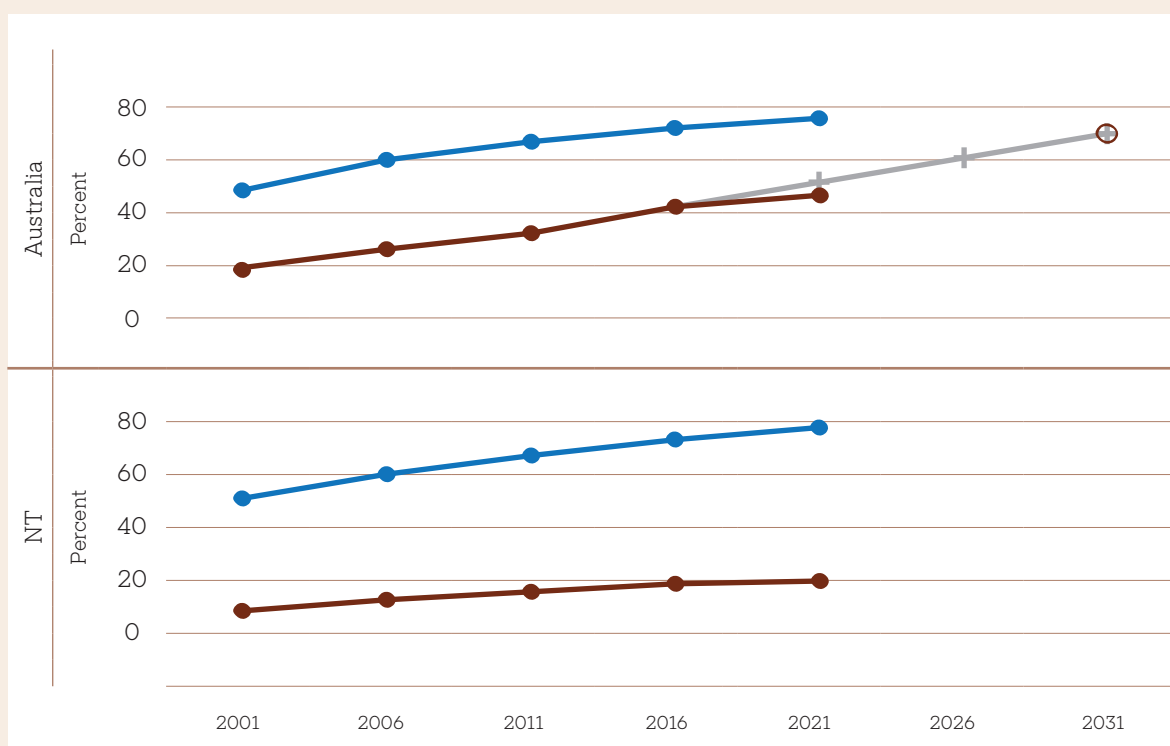
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education and Minister for Business, Jobs and Training/Department of Education and Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG6.1 Completion of non-school qualifications of AQF Certificate level III or above, 25-34 years old ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- ⊕ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG6A.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks, strategies and forums that contribute progress towards the national target and outcome are:

- NT Education Engagement Strategy 2022-2031 (DoE)
- NT Indigenous Education Strategy 2015–2024 (DoE)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 6

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
6.1	Once developed, Aboriginal Education Peak to develop further opportunities and pathways that promote tertiary qualifications	APO NT
6.2	Provide employment opportunities through the Aboriginal Teacher Education Scholarship as an education pathway to support Aboriginal Territorians to achieve and complete a teaching qualification, and pursue a career as a teacher and educator, and gain employment in a Northern Territory school	DoE
6.3	Expand the Remote Aboriginal Teacher Education (RATE) program to build a sustainable and effective approach to support Aboriginal educator career development and contributing to the increase of Aboriginal Classroom Teachers across the NT	DoE
6.4	Based on the CDP reform and in line with the National Partnership Agreement on Skills, NTG and APO NT to work with the Australian Government to develop Aboriginal-led Language, Literacy and Numeracy solutions adapted for remote communities (24 months)	NTG, APO NT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
10.5	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal Territorians training in higher-level vocational education and training qualifications (e.g. Certificate III and above)	NOT ON TRACK
7.6	Develop an English language, literacy and numeracy policy position to improve Aboriginal adult literacy in the NT	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 07

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education.

National Target:

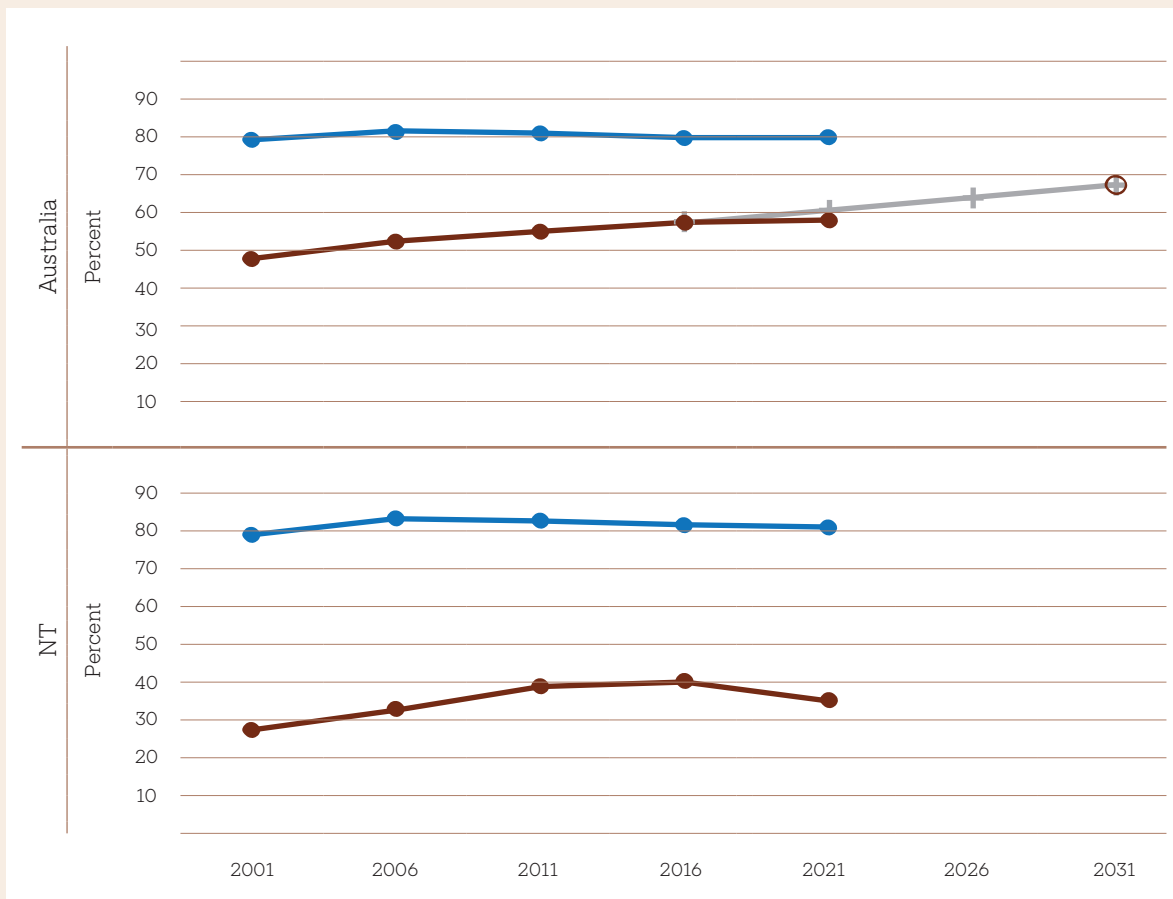
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67 per cent.

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education and Minister for Business, Jobs and Training/Department of Education and Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG7.1 People aged 15 to 24 years who are fully engaged in employment; education or training ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- ⊕ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG7A.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks, strategies and forums that contribute progress towards the national target and outcome are:

- Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy 2021–2025.

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 7

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
7.1	NTG and APO NT to work with the Commonwealth Government to expand and enhance education and training infrastructure in line with regional plans and Local Decision Making	NTG, APO NT
7.2	APO NT to explore “transition from school to work” opportunities in their member organisations	APO NT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
7.2	Increase the number of Aboriginal students and adults engaged in vocational pathways	ON TRACK
10.1	Increase the number of Aboriginal employees in NTPS employment programs	NOT ON TRACK
10.5	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal Territorians training in higher-level vocational education and training qualifications (e.g. Certificate III and above)	NOT ON TRACK
10.7	Increase the number of trainees/apprentices directly employed through department-issued contracts for tourism projects	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 08

Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

National Target:

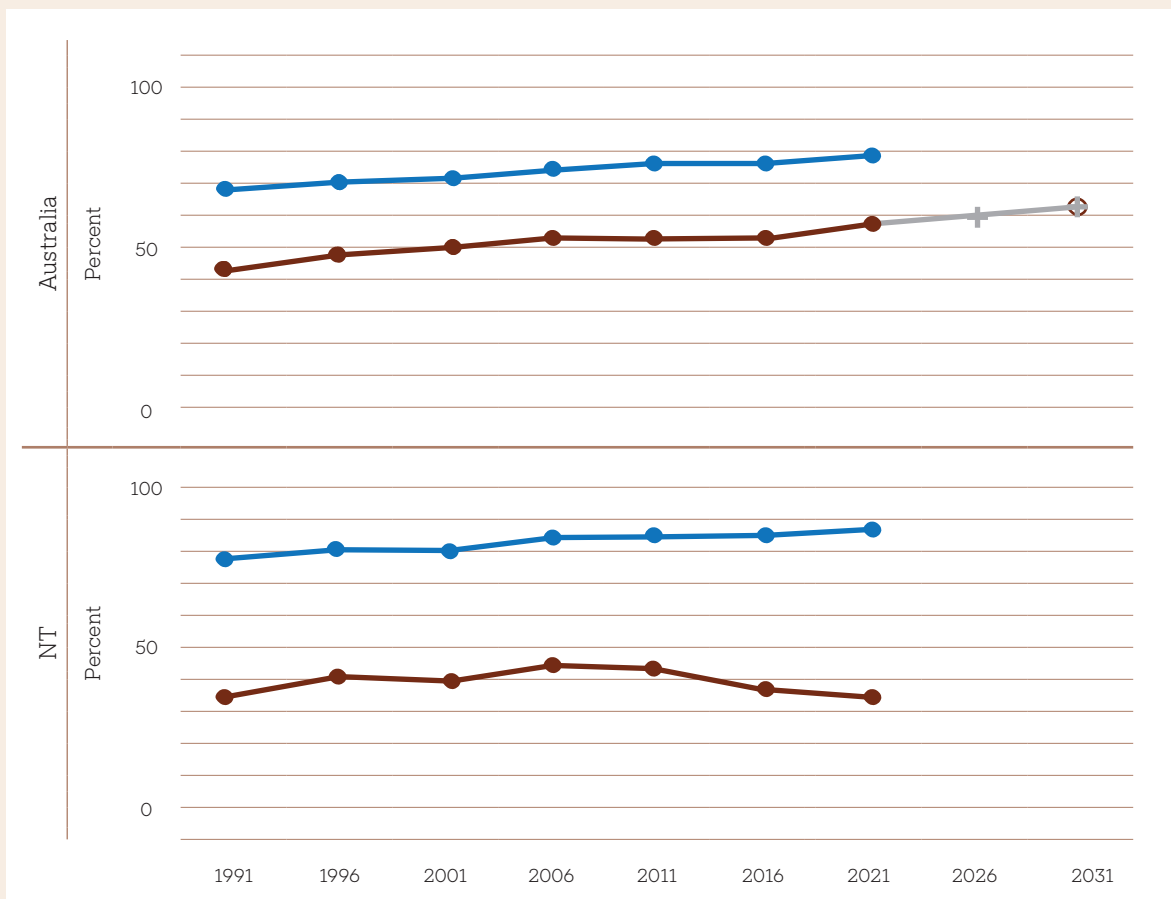
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Education and Minister for Business, Jobs and Training/Department of Education and Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG8.1 People aged 25 to 64 years who are employed ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- ⊕ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG8A.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Aboriginal Economic Participation Framework (CMC)
- Aboriginal Procurement Policy (DITT)
- Aboriginal Grants Policy (under development) (CMC)
- Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy (OCPE)
- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* (Action 11) (RMO)
- Northern Territory Creative Industries Strategy 2020-24 (TFHC)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 8

These actions have been identified as important over the next 12 months to progress the NT towards the national target and to achieve the outcome:

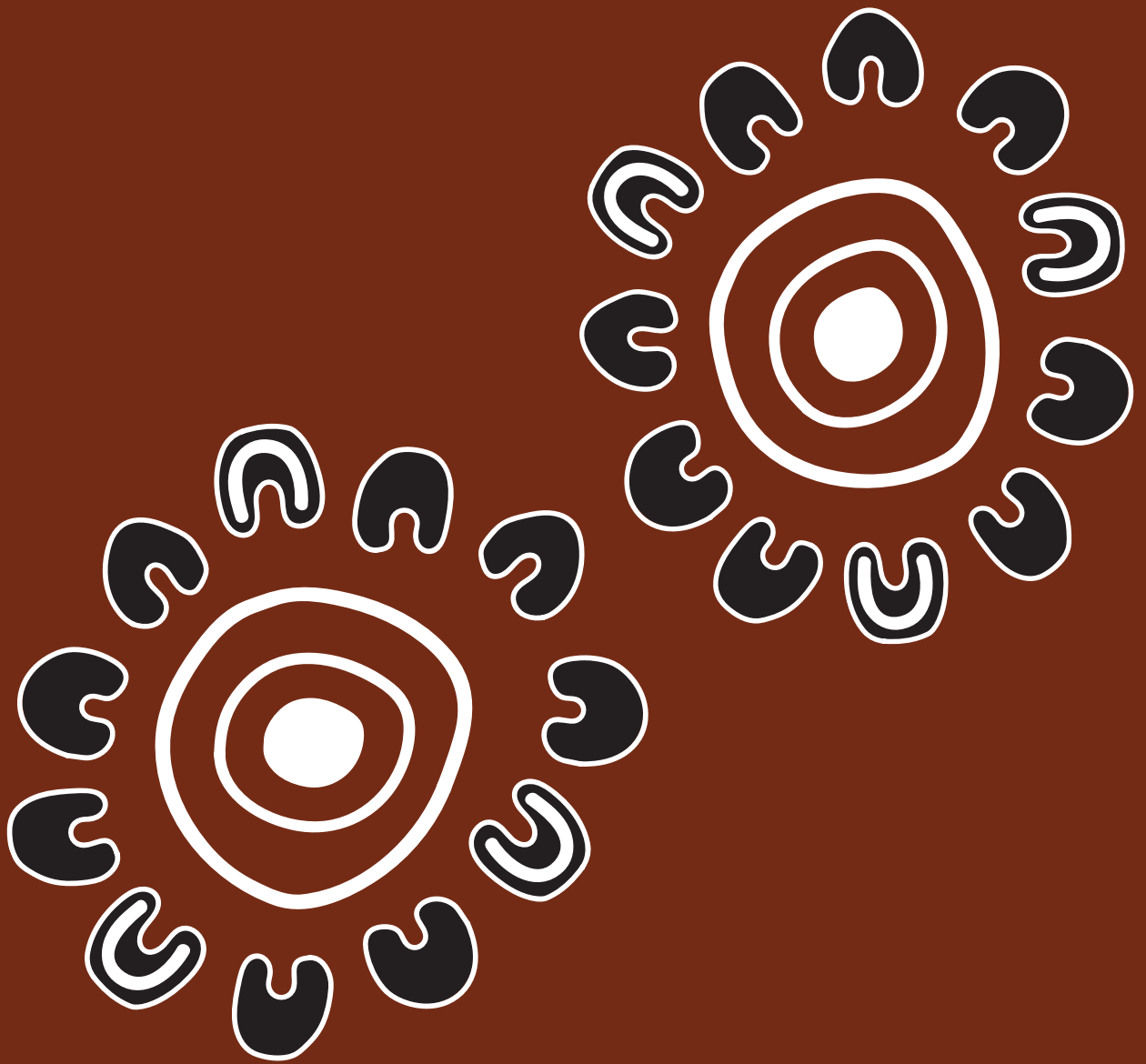
NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
8.1	Develop regional workforce plans with key stakeholders with a focus on increasing Aboriginal participation and improving employment outcomes	CMC
8.2	Continue NT-specific evidence-building around employment reform, especially remote jobs, including economic analysis of alternatives to CDP	APO NT, CMC
8.3	Phase 1: NT Government to engage Aboriginal organisations including APONT/NTIBN on Aboriginal Business Grants and Programs, in line with CTG, including meaningful consultation on new grants and program review. Phase 2: In recognition of priority reforms 1 and 3 - delivering of services in partnership with Aboriginal organisations and increasing accountability through transparent funding allocations – the NT Government to explore models of partnership with NTIBN for the joint assessment of Aboriginal Business grants through the iNDiSTRY North Hub or other Aboriginal organisations	DITT, APO NT
8.4	As part of the consultative mechanism mentioned at Priority Reform action 1.3. (Engagement on Aboriginal Economic Development), APO NT to work with CMC on: a) Tracking Implementation of Aboriginal Procurement Policy across all NTG agencies with a specific focus on increasing contracts awarded to local majority owned Aboriginal businesses, and setting a long-term target over the life of the National Agreement b) Finalising the Aboriginal Grants Policy	CMC, APO NT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
7.6	Develop an English language, literacy and numeracy policy position to improve Aboriginal adult literacy in the NT	NOT ON TRACK
10.1	Increase the number of Aboriginal employees in NTPS employment programs	NOT ON TRACK
10.2	Number of projects completed under regional economic development plans	IN PROGRESS
10.3	Increase the number of Aboriginal tourism ventures	ON TRACK
10.4	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal Territorians commencing an apprenticeship, traineeship or cadetship	ON TRACK
10.6	Increase the economic development opportunities of Aboriginal resources	ON TRACK
10.7	Increase the number of trainees/apprentices directly employed through department-issued contracts for tourism projects	NOT ON TRACK
10.8	Number of Aboriginal people employed in the NTPS (ongoing, part-time and casual) by region	NOT ON TRACK
10.10	Increase the proportion of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses and organisations	ON TRACK
3.3	Increase the number of Aboriginal Territorians employed as rangers and in ranger training programs	ON TRACK
3.6	Enhance the legal powers of Aboriginal rangers to protect and manage traditional lands	IN PROGRESS
5.4	Increase the number of Aboriginal business enterprises engaged in property maintenance in town camps	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE
5.5	Increase the number of contracts awarded to Aboriginal businesses and organisations relevant to government and essential infrastructure (housing, civil and transport infrastructure projects) operating in the NT	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report



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

National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

”



OUTCOME 09

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.

National Target 9a:

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%

National Target 9b:

By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households:

- i. within discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities¹ receive essential services² that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard³
- ii. in or near to a town receive essential services that meet or exceed the same standard as applies generally within the town (including if the household might be classified for other purposes as a part of a discrete settlement such as a 'town camp' or 'town-based reserve').

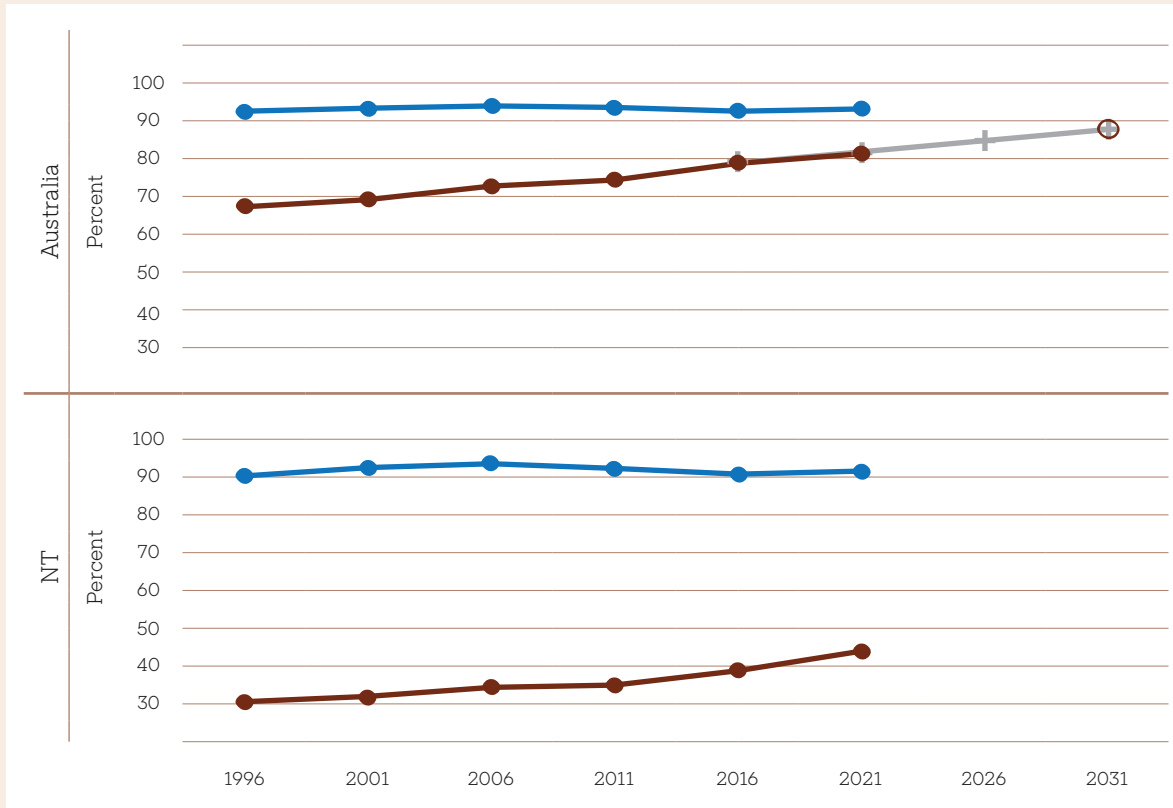
Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Housing and Homelands and Minister for Local Government/Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics and Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

1. The definition of a discrete community from ABS 2016 Census dictionary: "A discrete community is a geographic location, bounded by physical or legal boundaries, which is inhabited or intended to be inhabited predominantly (i.e. greater than 50% of usual residents) by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples, with housing or infrastructure (power, water, sewerage) that is managed on a community basis. Discrete communities have populations of (but not limited to) 50 or more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
2. Essential services include: power, water, wastewater and solid waste management only.
3. Relevant jurisdictional standard: Applicable standards may differ between places within a jurisdiction according to population size or other relevant criteria but not on criteria linked to the settlement's status as a discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community.

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG9.1 People living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) dwellings ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- + Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG9A.1, ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Derived from ABS (unpublished) Census of Population and Housing, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes. Remote housing investment package (TFHC)
- NT Housing Strategy 2020–2025 (TFHC)
- Building our communities, together – Town Camps Reform Framework 2019–2024 (TFHC)
- NTG Homelands policy and program review (TFHC).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 9

Target 9a

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
9a.1	<p>Phase 1: Within 3 months, update the Terms of Reference of the Joint Steering Committee on Remote Housing to fully align with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including all strong partnership elements, in partnership with Land Councils and Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory</p> <p>Phase 2: The Joint Steering Committee will share decision-making in the development of future national agreements and advocate for a coordinated approach, including for homelands and community infrastructure, to addressing Targets 9a and 9b.</p>	TFHC, APO NT

Target 9b

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
9b.1	Joint Steering Committee, NTG, and the Power and Water Corporation to work together to develop a plan to improve Indigenous Essential Services accountability and transparency, including improved Aboriginal participation in decision-making (24 months)	TFHC
9b.2	Complete infrastructure assessments and develop a prioritised list of infrastructure requirements and a capital infrastructure action plan to support Target 9b	TFHC
9b.3	Through the Territory Water Plan, establish a framework for community drinking water management plans	DEPWS
9b.4	Improve transparency by presenting and sharing information on drinking water safety management and plans by service providers (PWC and Homeland Service Providers) for Aboriginal stakeholders	TFHC

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
9b.5	Develop and make publicly available an annual Plain English summary report on infrastructure, including water security status in and for remote communities	TFHC
9b.6	Develop a meaningful customer charter/contract for essential services delivery with consumers in and for remote Aboriginal communities	TFHC

** Target 9b actions will be implemented in communities under the NT Government's Indigenous Essential Services program in the first instance. This program services 72 remote Aboriginal communities, 79 homelands, and approximately 39,000 customers. As the actions are implemented, parties will also look for opportunities to apply these actions more broadly to additional Homelands that fall within the 9b definition.*

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
5.1	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal Territorians living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing	ON TRACK
5.2	Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal Territorians needing access to specialist homelessness services	ON TRACK
5.3	Increase the number of housing services delivered by Aboriginal business enterprises, including across homelands and outstations	ON TRACK

** Tracking as provided in the 2022 Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report*

OUTCOME 10

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

National Target:

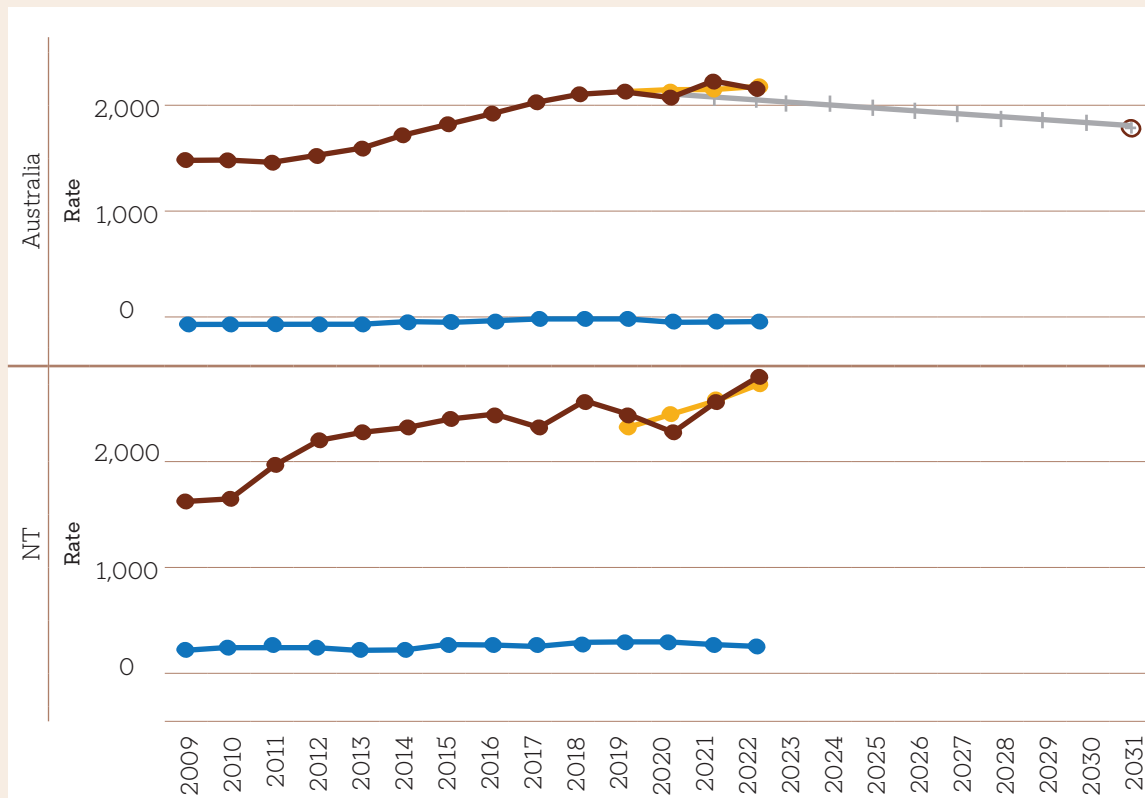
By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice/
Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG10.1 Age-standardised imprisonment rate per 100 000 adult population at 30 June ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- + Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG10A.1, ABS Prisoners in Australia, Derived from ABS Prisoners in Australia, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AGD).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 10

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
10.1	<p>Increase on-country mediation, dispute resolution and restorative justice practices as an early intervention mechanism (overarching action)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Establish a partnership between Aboriginal organisations and the Community Justice Centre to develop a proposal (6 months) • Phase 2: Develop a framework that can be adapted to unique place-based settings (12 months) • Phase 3: Provide training and capacity building, and establish referral pathways for NT Government agencies and other services (24 months) 	CJC, APO NT
10.2	NTPFES to partner with CJC to provide mediation training to ALOs and ACPOs	NTPFES, CJC

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
9.1	Establish and support Aboriginal law and justice groups	ON TRACK
9.2	Number of community courts established	IN PROGRESS
9.3	Reduce the imprisonment rate of Aboriginal Territorians	NOT ON TRACK
9.4	Reduce the recidivism rate of Aboriginal Territorians	ON TRACK
8.4	Increase the number of Aboriginal Territorians who attain a drivers licence through the DriveSafe program	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 11

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

National Target:

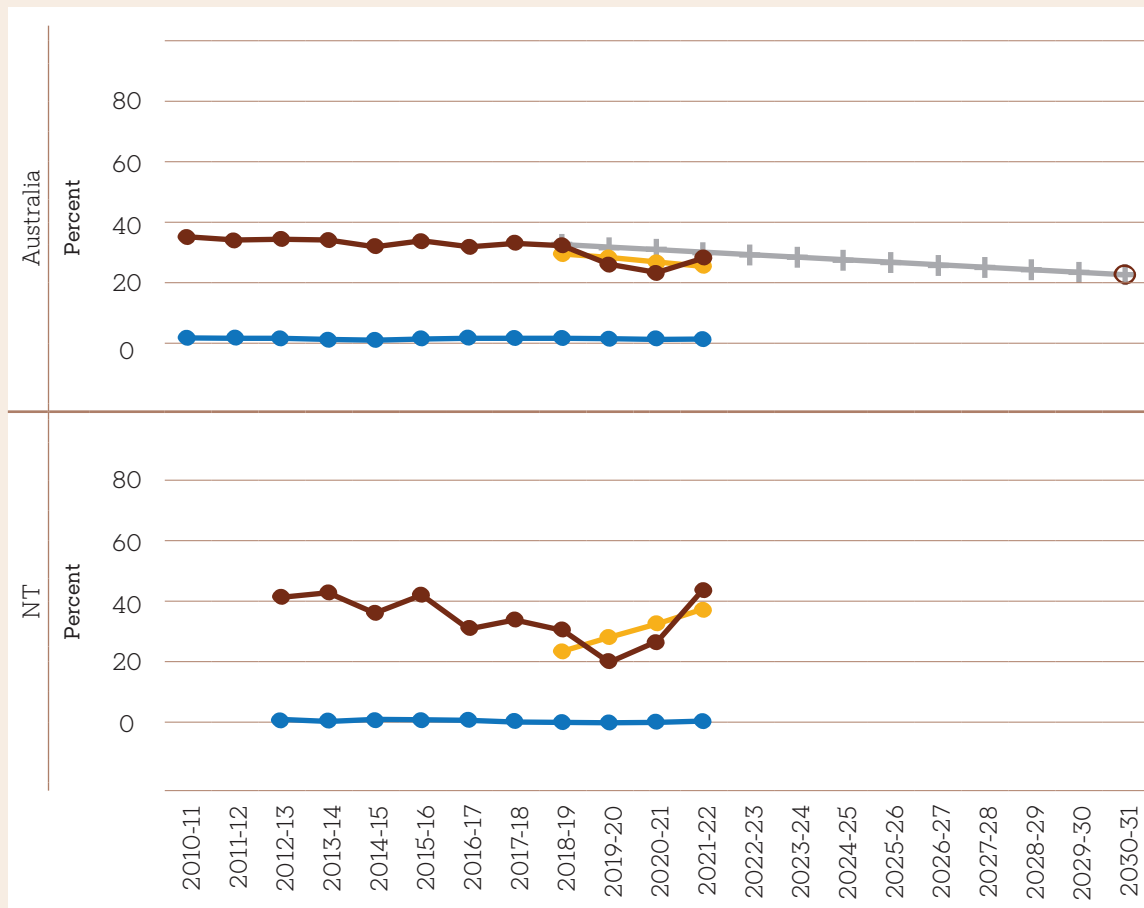
By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Territory Families/Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

NT Baseline:

Young people in detention on an average day, Rate per 10 000 young people ^{(a), (b)}



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Target
- ⊕ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous people, Actual

Source: table CtG11A.1, AIHW Youth justice in Australia, Derived from AIHW Youth justice National Minimum Dataset, ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, ABS Estimates and Projections, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

(b) See data table CtG11A.1 for information on non-publication of data on people in detention for individual jurisdictions.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* (RMO)
- Northern Territory Youth Detention Centres Model of Care (TFHC)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 11

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
11.1	Youth Justice Advisory Committee to be included in the NT Government partnership review process to ensure its alignment with the National Agreement	TFHC, CMC
11.2	Establish a Community of Practice with Aboriginal stakeholders to assist in guiding the implementation of the Model of Care for young people in detention, and consider any applicable service improvements in the youth diversion space	TFHC

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
9.5	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal young people who successfully complete a youth diversion program	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 12

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system.

National Target:

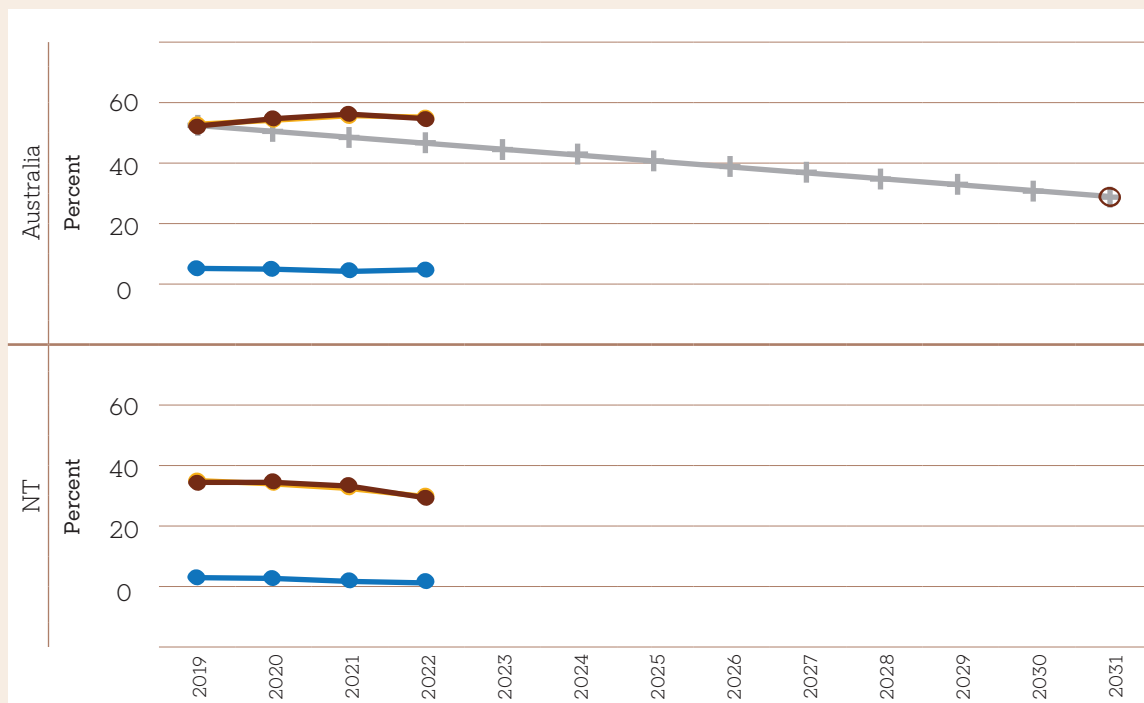
By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45%

Lead Minister/Agency:

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Territory Families/Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and Department of the Attorney-General and Justice

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG12.1 Children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care at 30 June, Rate per 1000 children ^(a)



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Actual
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Linear regression estimates
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Target
- + Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Trajectory
- Non-Indigenous children, Actual

Source: table CtG12A.1, State and territory governments (unpublished), Derived from ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, ABS Estimates and Projections, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory* (RMO)
- *Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018-2028* (TFHC)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 12

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
12.1	Establish a Community of Practice with partnering Aboriginal service providers to assist in examining and improving practice and application of the <i>Care and Protection of Children Act 2007</i> and relevant placement requirements	TFHC, APO NT
12.2	TFHC, the Children and Families Tripartite Forum and APO NT to work towards establishing an NT Aboriginal Child and family services Peak body	TFHC, APO NT
12.3	The Children and Families Tripartite Forum will review its partnership and administrative arrangements to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people share decision-making authority with governments in the work of the forum, in line with the strong partnership elements of the National Agreement	TFHC
12.4	The planned evaluation of the Child Wellbeing and Safety Framework (formerly Multi Agency Community and Child Safety Framework) to include clear links to fulfilment of all five elements of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principles, and how the Child Wellbeing and Safety Framework in practice demonstrates the National Agreement's priority reform areas	TFHC, APO NT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
4.2	Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal children who are in and who enter out-of-home care per year	NOT ON TRACK
4.3	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care who are placed with a kinship carer or with an Aboriginal carer	NOT ON TRACK
4.4	Increase the number of family reunifications	NOT ON TRACK
8.2	Reduce the proportion of child protection notifications and substantiations	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 13

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe.

National Target:

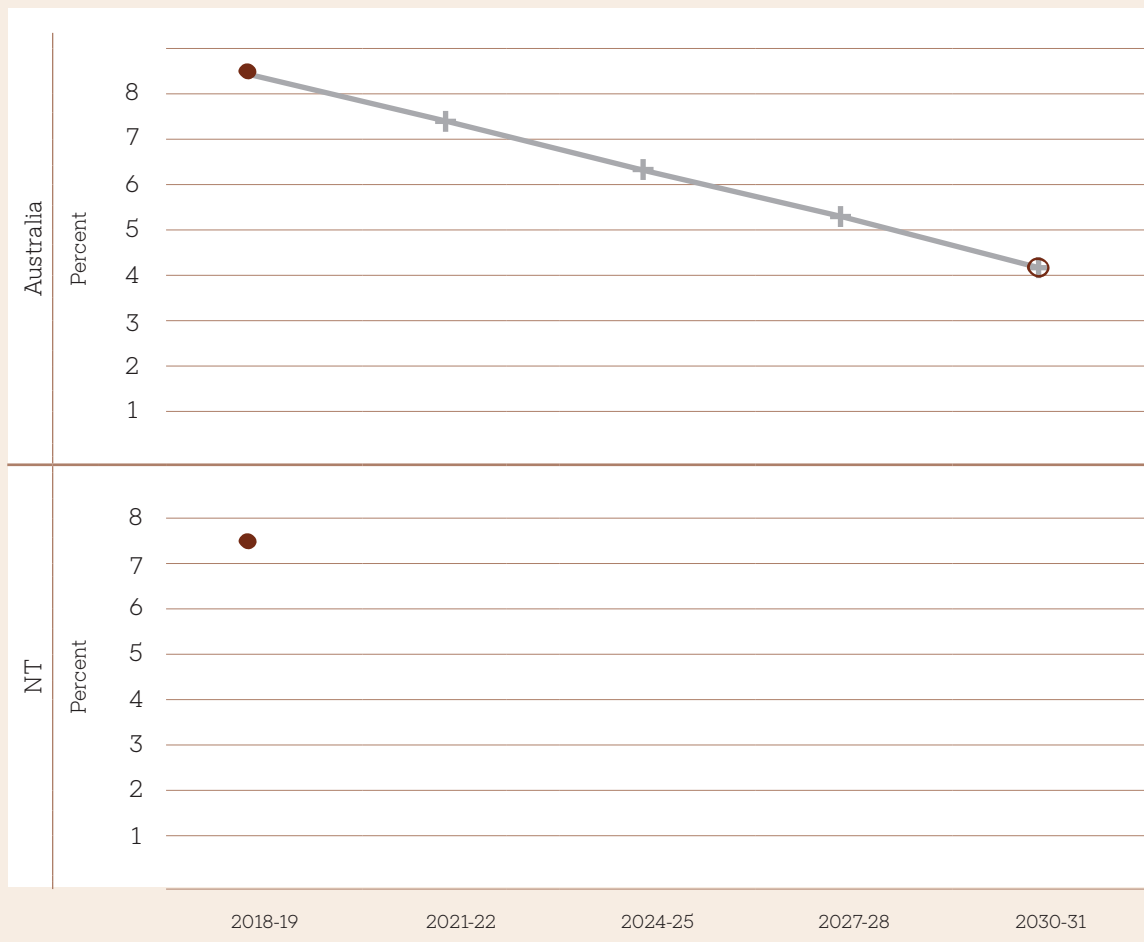
By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero

Lead Minister/Agency:

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence/Department of the Attorney-General and Justice and the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG13.1 Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females 15+ years old who experienced domestic physical or threatened physical harm ^(a)



- Actual
- Target
- + Trajectory

Source: table CtG13A.1, ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Derived from ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018–2028 (TFHC)
- Child Wellbeing and Safety teams (TFHC)
- *Kids Safe, Family Together, Community Strong*: 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory (RMO)

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 13

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
13.1	DoE and NT Health with consideration by the NTAHF, to engage ACCHOs to deliver culturally appropriate healthy relationships education for young people in schools	DoE, NT Health
13.2	The DFSV Aboriginal Advisory Board to be included in the NT Government partnership review process to ensure its alignment with the principles and partnership elements of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	TFHC, APO NT
13.3	Review and expand Risk Assessment and Management Framework for its adherence to cultural safety and suitability for remote communities	TFHC, APO NT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE	TRACKING*
8.1 Reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence for Aboriginal Territorians	NOT ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 14

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

National Target:

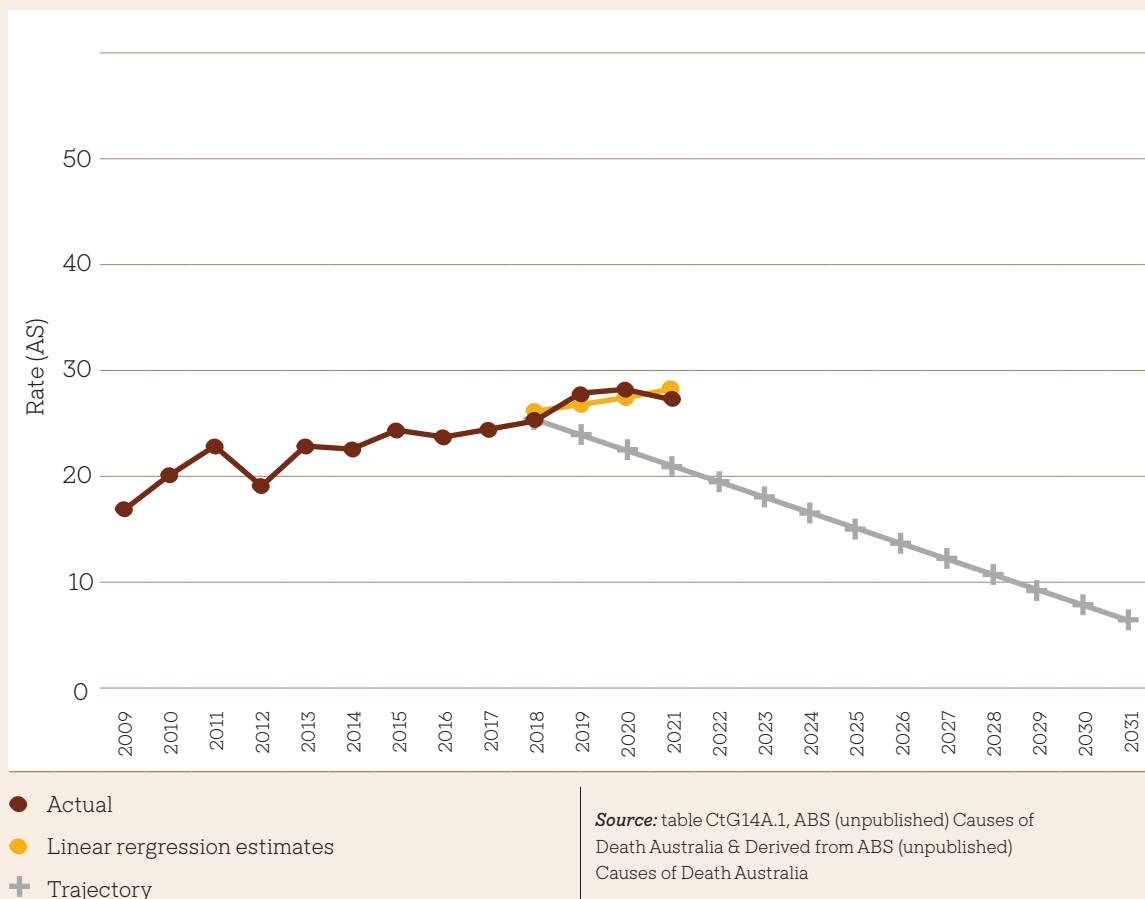
Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Minister for Health/ Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities and the Department of Health

Baseline (not disaggregated by jurisdiction):

Figure CtG14.1 Mortality due to suicide, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people age-standardised rate per 100 000 population, Total (NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT) ^(a)



(a) Data and indicative reduction trajectories are only available nationally. See the Data quality considerations section in the Target data specifications tab below for further information.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework Implementation Plan 2023 -2028 (DoH)
- NT Health Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework 2016–2026 (DoH)
- Gone Too Soon: A report into Youth Suicide in the Northern Territory 2012 (NT Legislative Assembly).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 14

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
14.1	NT Health to work with AMSANT and the NT Primary Health Network working with Aboriginal communities and organisations to co-design and co-implement integrated regional approaches to suicide prevention	AMSANT, NT Health
14.2	AMSANT to explore options through the NT Primary Health Network to resource the AMSANT SEWB team to implement training programs and establish a network of Aboriginal SEWB practitioners, with ongoing cultural supervision	AMSANT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
1.4	Increase the delivery of grief counselling and trauma-informed services to Aboriginal Territorians	ON TRACK
6.5	Increase access to targeted suicide prevention awareness and capacity training for NT Health staff	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 15

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters.

National Target 15a:

By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests

National Target 15b:

By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea

National Target 15c (draft):

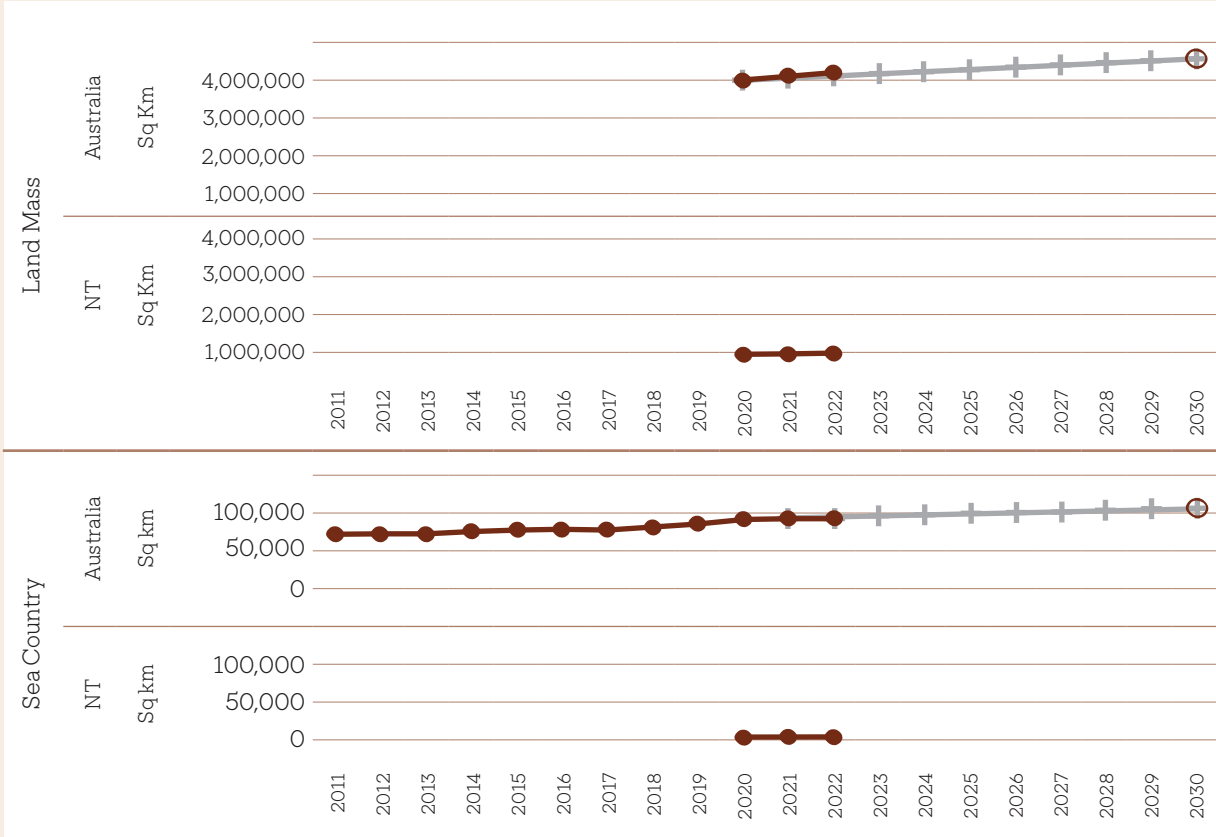
By 2031, the volume of water access entitlements allocated under state and territory water rights regimes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporations is 3% of the total volume of water access entitlements

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security/
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security

NT Baseline:

Figure CtG15.1 Area of Land mass and Sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s legal rights or interests at 30 June ^{(a), (b)}



- Actual
- Linear regression estimates
- Target
- + Trajectory

Source: tables CtG15A.1 & CtG15B.1, Derived from NNTT (unpublished) Native Title Determinations Outcomes Indigenous estate & NNTT (unpublished) Native Title Determinations Outcomes Indigenous estate

(a) Data, targets and trajectories are only available nationally.
 (a) Aus Gov (Commonwealth jurisdiction) only applicable to sea country.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan (CMC)
- NT Aboriginal Tourism Strategy 2020–2030 (DITT)
- NT Aboriginal Carbon Industry Strategy (DEPWS)
- Strategic Aboriginal Water Reserves Policy Framework (DEPWS).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 15

Target 15a

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
15a.1	<p>Within six months, the NT Government will commence work with NT land councils to review and develop the Joint Management Agreement of NT parks and reserves and establish and resource the necessary governance structures that provide Traditional Owners with a direct voice to decision-makers as equal partners in joint management.</p> <p>Within 12 months, commence a comprehensive independent review of the joint management of NT parks and reserve operations arrangements to date, with the intent to inform improved operation into the future</p>	DEPWS, Land Councils

Target 15b

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
15b.1	NT Government to work in partnership with NT Land Councils to develop a Native Title sea country native title determination template to facilitate timely resolutions.	CMC
15b.2	APO NT to work with the NT Government to further develop the Aboriginal Ranger programs consistent with Action 7 of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan 2022-2024	APO NT, NTG

Target 15c

While Target 15c has not yet been formally agreed at the national level, the NT has agreed to progress actions that support the intent of the target.

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
15c.1	In the next 12 months hold an Aboriginal water forum to include water security, safe drinking water, cultural water and economic advancement through water rights	DEPWS, APO NT, CMC
15c.2	Following the water forum outlined in Action 1, establish an NT-wide Aboriginal strategic water group to provide advice and inform decisions on policies, planning, management and use of water. The Terms of Reference for the body will be co-designed with stakeholders, including Land Councils and APO NT, in line with the National Agreement The group will also work together to: - Ensure Aboriginal representation in decision-making on water issues - Ensure processes allow for input from Aboriginal stakeholders - Support the development of an Aboriginal workforce for water assessment and monitoring	DEPWS, APO NT, CMC
15c.3	Develop a framework and methodology for cultural values assessment and monitoring across both water allocation planning and water licence applications, including roles for TOs and Aboriginal rangers	Land Councils, DEPWS
15c.4	Support Aboriginal people to make informed decisions about their water entitlements, and increase opportunities for Aboriginal social and economic benefit	CMC, DITT

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
2.1	Total number of sacred sites protected/recorded under the <i>Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act 1989</i>	ON TRACK
3.1	The number of resolved land claims subject to the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976</i> and the <i>Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)</i>	ON TRACK
3.2	The number of land and sea economic development projects underway or delivered under the Land and Sea Action Plan	ON TRACK
3.3	Increase the number of Aboriginal Territorians employed as rangers and in ranger training programs	ON TRACK
3.4	Completion of the NT Government Native Title Policy Framework	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing.

National Target:

By 2031, there is a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage/Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities

NT baseline:

Figure CtG16.1 Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken and number of strong languages spoken ^{(a), (b)}



- Actual
- Target
- + Trajectory

Source: table CtG16A.1, AIATSIS National Indigenous Languages Survey, Derived from AIATSIS National Indigenous Languages Survey, Joint Council National Agreement on Closing the Gap

(a) Targets and trajectories are only available nationally.

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Keeping Indigenous Languages and Cultures Strong: A Plan for Teaching and Learning of Indigenous Languages and Cultures in NT Schools (DoE)
- Northern Territory Creative Industries Strategy 2020-24 (TFHC).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 16

NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
16.1	Increase number of Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recruitment program (12 months) • Develop career pathways into specialised areas (i.e. health, law) (24 months) 	CMC
16.2	Increase utilisation of AIS staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on AIS usage data, target training and information to departments and other stakeholders (eg. LGANT and APO NT) to increase their engagement with AIS (12 months) 	CMC

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
2.2	Increase the number of NT public schools delivering the Language and Culture curriculum	ON TRACK
2.4	Increase the number of Aboriginal place names for public spaces (e.g. parks, suburbs, towns and infrastructure)	ON TRACK
2.5	Increase the number of qualified Aboriginal interpreters employed on a full-time basis	ON TRACK
2.6	Number of times agencies have accessed the Aboriginal Interpreter Service per year	NOT ON TRACK
2.7	Increase work undertaken to support the preservation and celebration of Aboriginal cultures	ON TRACK

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report

OUTCOME 17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives.

National Target:

By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion

Lead Minister/Agency:

Minister for Corporate and Digital Development/Department of Corporate and Digital Development

NT baseline:

Table CtG17.1 Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who accessed the internet in the last 12 months, 15+ years old, 2014-15^(a)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Aust
Internet accessed at home	79.9	89.5	76.1	66.0	73.4	85.0	91.1	40.9	73.5
%	± 2.8	± 2.5	± 4.5	± 4.9	± 5.2	± 3.2	± 3.2	± 5.6	± 1.7

Source: table CtG2A.1, ABS (unpublished) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

Key NT strategies

Key NT Government frameworks and strategies that contribute progress towards the national target are:

- Digital Territory Strategy (DCDD).

NT Actions to Support Socio-economic Outcome 17

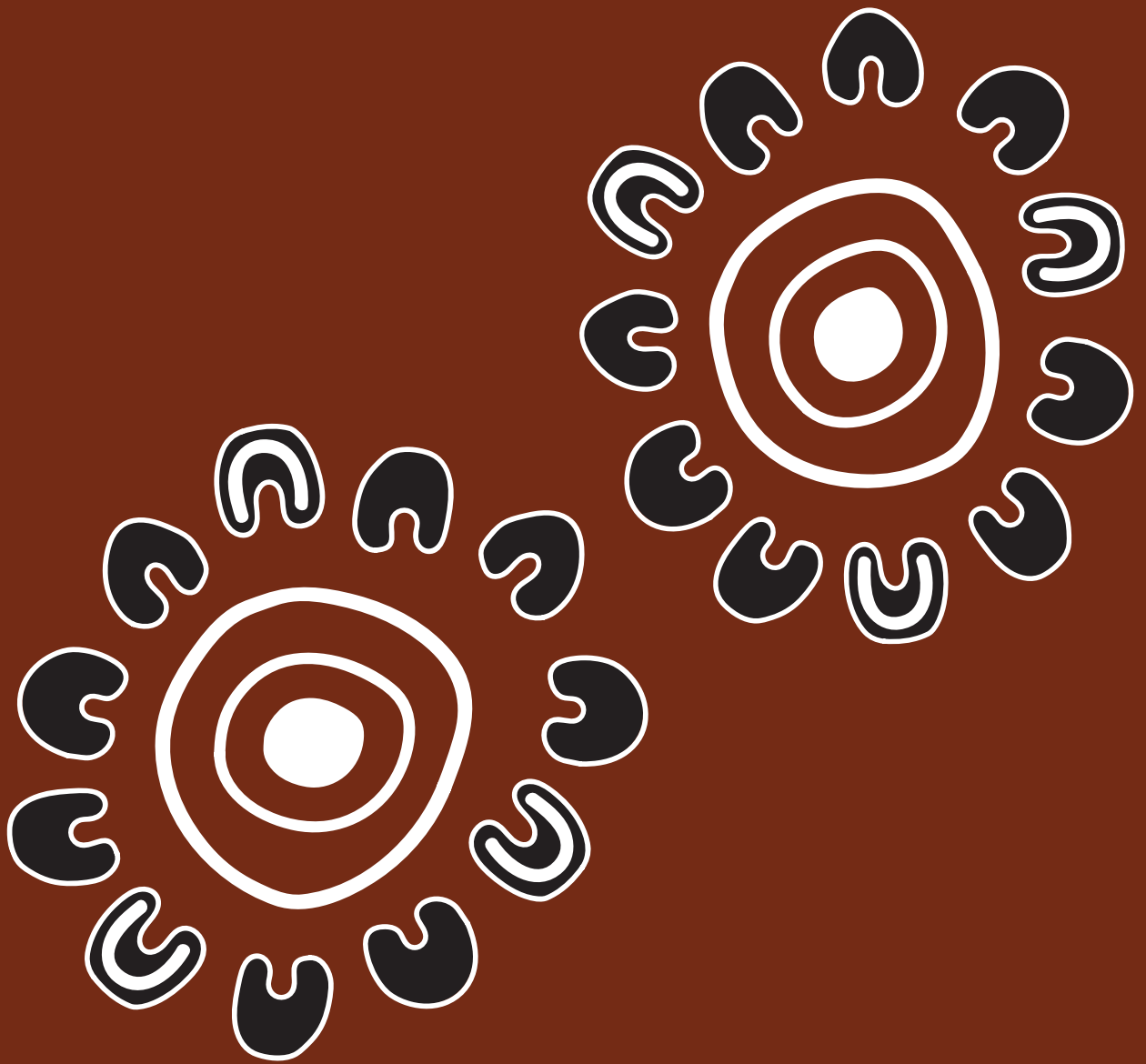
NUMBER	ACTION	LEAD
17.1	Expand regional data portals to provide regional data for all socio-economic targets	CMC
17.2	APO NT and NTG to develop NT principles of data sovereignty	APO NT, CMC
17.3	NT Government to work with the Australian Government and other stakeholders to increase telecommunications and digital infrastructure and redundancy in remote communities	CMC

Links to *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy

Related *Everyone Together* measures that reflect improvements that achieve progress towards the national target.

MEASURE		TRACKING*
5.6	Increase the number of Aboriginal communities, homelands and outstations with access to stable mobile and internet services	ON TRACK
5.7	Increase the amount of telecommunications infrastructure in remote communities	ON TRACK
5.8	Develop a Northern Territory Digital Inclusion Program	NOT ON TRACK
10.9	Regional footprint report (includes investment, scope and level of government services)	NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE

* Tracking as provided in the 2022 *Everyone Together* Aboriginal Affairs Strategy Progress Report



“

Shared access to location specific data and information will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to support the achievement of the first three Priority Reforms...

National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

”



COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The Northern Territory will align communications and engagement about Closing the Gap to Clause 133 of National Agreement and its ongoing Joint Communication Strategy agreed by Joint Council.

The following actions, which have been taken from the strategy, will be adapted to the Northern Territory context and included in annual reporting. Annual reporting will include information on the use of Aboriginal organisations, particularly community-controlled organisations (Clause 118d). The Closing the Gap logo and branding will be incorporated in communications materials for actions related to the Closing the Gap Implementation in the NT.

COMMUNICATION MEDIUM	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Media	The Aboriginal media sector in the NT will be engaged to deliver information about Closing the Gap. This will inform Aboriginal Territorians about the data available to them, particularly through Closing the Gap reports and the Productivity Commission dashboard. The Aboriginal Interpreter Service will be involved in ensuring content is as accessible as possible to a wide variety of NT language groups.	1 st quarter, 2023	APO NT and CMC
Face-to-face engagements / events	A NT Closing the Gap Roadshow will be planned for maximising opportunities with other events, such as the annual Aboriginal Leadership and Governance Forum. The aim of the roadshow will be to increase awareness of the National Agreement and the CtG NT Implementation Plan, and to share information on data related to the agreement and how to access it. The roadshow will be put together consistent with Clause 59f of the National Agreement to improve engagement with Aboriginal People.	Ongoing	APO NT and CMC
Social media	NT PWG members to share information through their social media channels on the above information and encourage members and stakeholders to on-share to their networks.	Ongoing	NT PWG
Websites	The CtG NT Implementation Plan will be published on the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, LGANT and APO NT websites, as well as links to the Closing the Gap website and Productivity Commission dashboard. The NT Government will work with the Aboriginal Interpreter Service to make the site more culturally appropriate and accessible to Aboriginal Territorians.	Ongoing	CMC, APO NT, LGANT
Government	The NT Government will share information on Closing the Gap and shared responsibilities across all government agencies.	Ongoing	CMC

In line with the agreement principles, the National Agreement will be publicly acknowledged when actions are taken to implement the agreement's outcomes. The NTECAA will develop further strategies to build awareness and support from non-Aboriginal Australians.

APPENDICES



APPENDIX 1: LINKAGES WITH RELATED INITIATIVES

The NT Government is working to ensure that actions relating to Aboriginal affairs in the Northern Territory are aligned and do not duplicate effort. Key initiatives relating to Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory are outlined below, noting this is not an exhaustive list.

Everyone Together Aboriginal Affairs Strategy – The Northern Territory’s Aboriginal Affairs Strategy captures key pieces of work, and measures the challenges, progress and improvements across 10 focus areas. This strategy will be reviewed to bring it in line with the National Agreement.

Aboriginal Justice Agreement – Agreed in principle by the NT Government, this is a partnership between the NT Government, Aboriginal Territorians and aligned Aboriginal organisations. It outlines how the NT Government and Aboriginal Territorians will work together to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Kids Safe, Family Together Community Strong: 10 Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory – The Generational Strategy sets out a shared vision and policy framework to improve services for the wellbeing and safety of all children, young people and families in the Northern Territory. The framework describes strengthened collaboration and coordination between local communities, service providers and governments.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework 2018–2028 – The Framework represents the Northern Territory Government’s 10-year strategy to reduce domestic, family and sexual violence. It builds on the achievements of the Northern Territory Government’s previous domestic and family violence strategy – Safety is Everyone’s Right. The Framework reflects our combined efforts, knowledge and ideas to reduce violence and work together to achieve safer homes, communities, workplaces and schools.

Indigenous Education Strategy 2015–2024 – The strategy focusses efforts of schools to deliver clear and effective programs that are proven to make a difference for Aboriginal students. The strategy drives policy and programs in the areas that will make the most difference for Aboriginal students so they achieve education outcomes equal to or better than other students across Australia.

Aboriginal Employment and Career Development Strategy – The objective of the strategy is to increase and encourage Aboriginal employment, participation and capability at all levels of the NT Public Service, as well as aiming to enhance professional development and career opportunities for Aboriginal employees, to enable them to determine their own employment and career paths.

Building our Communities Together – Town Camps Reform Framework 2019–2024 – The framework’s vision is to support the development of sustainable models for town camps that emphasise local decision making and connections to family, culture and country while recognising the fundamental importance of safe and suitable housing to the social and economic development of Aboriginal Territorians.

Aboriginal Land and Sea Action Plan – The plan, relating primarily to the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* and the *Native Title Act 1993*, aims to ensure that land and sea ownership delivers on the economic and social aspirations of Aboriginal Territorians.

Local Decision Making Policy Framework – Local Decision Making facilitates a new working relationship between Aboriginal communities and government agencies to support community aspirations and self-determination.

Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021–2031 – The Safe and Supported framework sets out how all governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and the non-government sector will work together to help children, young people and families in need of support.

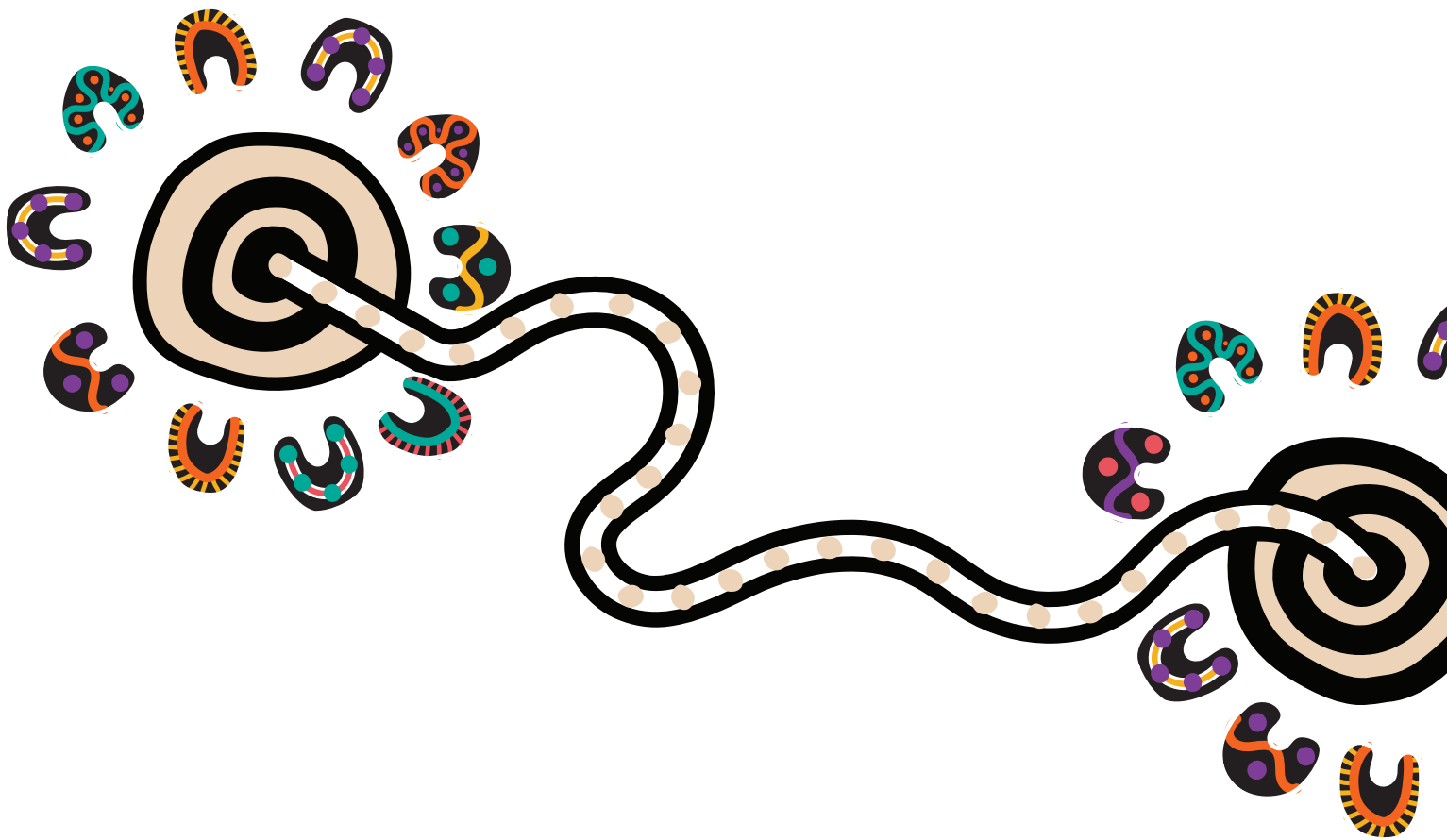
The National Plan to end Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032 – The National Plan is the overarching national policy framework that will guide actions towards ending violence against women and children over the next 10 years.

Northern Territory Youth Strategy 2023–33 – The NT Government has released the Northern Territory Youth Strategy 2023 to 2033 to identify programs, services, and infrastructure that can respond effectively to issues affecting young people in the Territory.

Northern Territory Disability Strategy – The Northern Territory Disability Strategy 2022-2032 and the associated 3-year Action Plan demonstrates the NT Government’s responsibility and accountability to all Territorians with disability.

NT Seniors Policy 2021–2026 – The NT Seniors Policy outlines four priority areas and a range of actions to provide future directions to address the demands of our ageing population, helping older people remain in the workforce, and providing a range of services to support the increased cost of living.

Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy – The strategy aims to improve the way the NT Government coordinates its services and engages with remote Aboriginal community members. Joint actions or outcomes will be further outlined in the implementation plans.



APPENDIX 2: APO NT Partnership Principles for organisations working with Aboriginal organisations and communities in the NT

The APO NT Partnership Principles are designed to guide the development of a partnership-centred approach for non-Aboriginal organisations engaging in the delivery of services or development initiatives in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory.

Development of these principles is underpinned by the strong aspiration of Aboriginal community-controlled peak organisations in the Northern Territory to work with and secure the support of non-Aboriginal organisations towards the essential goal of strengthening and rebuilding an Aboriginal-controlled development and service sector in the Northern Territory. Central to this is putting Aboriginal people back in the driver's seat.

These principles embody the spirit and substance of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. They have been developed through an understanding that a fundamental shift is required in policy approaches towards Aboriginal communities from a narrow service delivery focus to one based on a development approach. It is understood that to be effective, these principles require a corresponding commitment from government to provide an enabling environment to properly support and resource action under the principles.

In supporting the APO NT Partnership Principles, non-Aboriginal non-government organisations (NGOs) agree to undertake to:

1. Consider their own capacity: Non-Aboriginal organisations shall objectively assess whether they have the capacity (either in service delivery or development practice) to deliver effective and sustainable outcomes in the Northern Territory context.
2. Recognise existing capacity: Non-Aboriginal organisations will recognise the existing capacity and particular strengths of Aboriginal NGOs and identify how they can contribute to further developing this capacity.
3. Research existing options: Non-Aboriginal organisations shall thoroughly research existing Aboriginal service providers and development agencies before applying for service delivery contracts or prior to considering community development projects.
4. Seek partnerships: Where there is an Aboriginal NGO willing and able to provide a service or development activity, non-Aboriginal organisations shall not directly compete with the Aboriginal service provider, but will seek, where appropriate, to develop a partnership in accord with these principles.
5. Approach to partnership: Non-Aboriginal organisations will be guided by the priorities of the Aboriginal NGO in developing a partnership. Partnerships will be based on building and strengthening, rather than displacing, Aboriginal organisational capacity and control. Processes for developing partnerships will need to recognise the inherent power imbalance between large non-Aboriginal organisations and small Aboriginal organisations, and will need to allow sufficient time for partnership development.
6. Recognise, support and promote existing development practice: Non-Aboriginal organisations acknowledge that many Aboriginal organisations already have robust and effective development practices embedded in a cultural framework, although some of this may be implicit and undocumented. Non-Aboriginal organisations agree to recognise and support these practices, including through partnership arrangements.



