



ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019—2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

SIGNIFICANT FOCUS AREA: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES HAVE EQUITY IN HEALTH AND WELLBEING OUTCOMES AS ANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME BY FOCUSING ON:

- Recognising the value and need for culturally based healing programs in the ACT that acknowledge the significance of community connectedness.
- The importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers in the provision of services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Facilitating access to health and wellbeing services and programs for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to undertake activities on Country to promote health and wellbeing.
- Providing information and early support to enable informed decision making.
- Implementing *S.27 Human Rights Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* to improve health and wellbeing of Traditional Custodians.

TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME

These targets are indicative and may be updated following the Closing the Gap refresh.

Targets will be monitored and reviewed periodically throughout the implementation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028*:

Closing the Gap

- Close the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation, by 2031.
- By 2028, 90-92 per cent of babies born to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers have a healthy birthweight.

ACT

- Strengthened support for Mental Health and Suicide prevention.
- Reduced transmission of sexually transmitted disease and bloodborne viruses and reduction in related social impacts.
- Increased vaccination coverage rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in at least two of the following three cohorts: 12 to \leq 15 months; 24 to \leq 27 months; and 60 to \leq 63 months, relative to the baseline until a coverage rate of \geq 95 per cent is achieved.



TARGETS TO ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME (CONT.)

- Continued commitment to and development of the Ngunnawal Bush Health Healing Farm including undertaking a review to inform continued improvements of governance and program development.
- Continued partnerships for the development of culturally appropriate rehabilitation and detox options in Canberra for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Demonstrated enhancement of therapeutic relationship between consumers, carers and staff.
- Demonstrated enhancement of experience of holistic health care.
- Demonstrated engagement with transport initiatives such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander bus and active travel initiatives in line with community expectations.
- Ninety per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the care of the Director-General have a therapeutic assessment finalised within 16 weeks of entering out-of-home care.
- Students complex and challenging behaviours will be supported in accordance with the Safe and Supportive Schools Policy and Procedures.
- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees accessing Prison to Work initiatives.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The Priority Actions will be progressed during the first 18 months of the Agreement. Further actions will be determined over the course of the Agreement.

- Implement the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023*.
- Proactively support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access to Country to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and other stakeholders to determine specialist AOD implementation priorities, including residential rehabilitation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Deliver Ear, Nose and Throat surgery for at risk Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, children and young people.
- Develop and implement a strategy to enhance living infrastructure in the Territory.
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the care of the Director-General have a Therapeutic Assessment.
- Schools develop a Positive Behaviour Support Plan for students with complex and challenging behaviour.
- Develop the ACT Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workforce Action Plan.
- Enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to connect with people and services through active travel opportunities.
- Provide an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership opportunities in mental health sector.
- Implement the recommendations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific National Health Partnership Agreements.
- Work to enhance Boomanulla Oval for use as a sporting facility and transition to be under the management of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Work to enhance the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm as a culturally based healing program.
- Through the implementation of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, the ACT health system will design, measure and evaluate healthcare in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.
- Work in partnership with agencies and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to develop and implement tailored health and wellbeing initiatives for Alexander Maconochie Centre detainees.