

# National Agreement on Closing the Gap

South Australia's Annual Report 2024-25



Government of South Australia



**SAACCON**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL  
COMMUNITY CONTROLLED  
ORGANISATION NETWORK



**CLOSING THE GAP**

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> people as the state's First Peoples that formed First Nations, and recognise Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and occupants of lands and waters in South Australia.

We recognise:

- the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal people come from their connection to traditional lands and waters
- maintaining cultural heritage beliefs, languages and laws are of ongoing importance to Aboriginal people today
- Aboriginal people have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to South Australia.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters and the effects of such injustice and dispossession are still felt today.

<sup>1</sup> In South Australia, the term Aboriginal is adopted to refer to people who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.



## About South Australia's Closing the Gap artwork

The artwork in this report was created by Brooke Rigney-Lively, a proud Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna woman and mother, musician and artist. Brooke is passionate about working in and with community, and many of her works depict her personal journey, family and connection to Country and Waters.

Jointly commissioned by the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) and South Australia's Attorney-General's Department (AGD) Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation division, the artwork represents the partnership between SAACCON and the South Australian Government to Closing the Gap.

The artwork depicts 7 circles or meeting places representing outcome areas for Closing the Gap:

- education and employment
- health and wellbeing
- justice and safety
- housing
- land and waters
- languages
- child protection.

Crosshatching symbolises the importance of the relationship between SAACCON, the South Australian Government and community. Trees symbolise continual growth and the need to stay connected to community in pursuing better outcomes.

Seventeen kangaroo tracks symbolise the 17 socio-economic outcomes across 4 Priority Reforms (the hill / mountains). Footprints represent the commitment to walk together to achieve outcomes.

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# Minister's foreword

On behalf of South Australia, I acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the state's first peoples and nations and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia.

The South Australian Government has consistently maintained that the best way to achieve meaningful, enduring progress in closing the gap is to work in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and develop solutions together to address the ongoing inequality experienced by Aboriginal people.

With that in mind, the first Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review, released in June 2025, was a welcome opportunity to directly hear from those who are at the heart of the work we do in this area.

This Review has given us perspective and insight to help us as we work to drive change that better supports Aboriginal people and communities across South Australia.

That work, as always, is grounded in our strong partnership with the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON), which has led South Australia's efforts to meet Closing the Gap targets.

Importantly, of the 211 actions reported for 2024-25, the vast majority were either on track or completed.

However, there is still considerable work to be done, and areas where we need to strengthen our efforts – especially where the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has widened, or progress has not been made to the level that we would have hoped. Looking ahead, we are committed to working in partnership with SAACCON, Aboriginal organisations and communities to prepare our next Closing the Gap Implementation Plan for 2026-2028, drawing on the findings of the Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review.

We will continue working in partnership with SAACCON, Aboriginal organisations and communities to deliver better outcomes for South Australian Aboriginal communities.

Our work in this area has been underpinned by the tireless efforts of SAACCON and its members, as well as those in Government whose commitment to delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians is clear and unwavering.

To them, and all others contributing to South Australia's work on Closing the Gap, I offer my gratitude.

**Hon Kyam Maher MLC**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

# SAACCON's foreword

As SA Government's key partner for Closing the Gap, and as the peak body in SA representing the national Coalition of Peaks, SAACCON has been steadfast in its partnership with Government. The relationship is thriving through the leadership group that guides the central governance mechanism for Closing the Gap in our state, the SA Partnership Committee. Since establishment, the Committee has grown through a collegiate and mutually respectful approach to working together, and together we have made great progress.

South Australia's Closing the Gap Annual Report 2024-2025 provides an opportunity to be heartened by our state's positive progress in some of the National Agreement's key target areas, including enrolments in pre-school; people aged 25-64 years in employment; and reducing the rate of young people in detention. However, the Report also lays bare the areas that continue to require stronger focus and bolder decision-making to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.


SAACCON has continued to develop critical partnerships:

Department for Child Protection and other involved agencies to generate systemic change, including through newly established child protection committees that are groundbreaking in structure and composition, being made up of equal numbers of Government and SAACCON representatives, who are all fiercely committed to improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and families in SA.

Attorney-General's Department and Department for Correctional Services on a range of justice-related matters, including through new partnership structures with equal Government and SAACCON membership to reduce the rate at which Aboriginal adults are incarcerated in South Australia which is still sitting at an alarming rate.

Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja AO during the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through an Aboriginal Partnership Committee. SAACCON members were honoured to represent Aboriginal peoples' interests and contribute to the Commission's historic Report released in August 2025. We are hopeful that the partnership approach will continue through to the Government's consideration and implementation of the Report's recommendations.

SAACCON has invested heavily in the partnership with SA Housing Trust in progressing an agreement to establish South Australia's new Aboriginal Housing Peak Body, a significant milestone under the SA Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031 and Closing the Gap. Backed by \$2.5 million in State Government investment over five years. Its focus is on strengthening Aboriginal leadership, building a community-controlled housing and homelessness sector, and ensuring culturally safe, Aboriginal community-driven solutions that deliver real and lasting change.



Despite the challenges around resourcing uncertainty and heavy workloads, ACCOs provided exemplary services over 2024-2025 for Aboriginal people right across the spectrum, from family support and health and wellbeing through to education, training, and legal services. Government also continued to provide important services for Aboriginal people and is growing in its recognition of the benefits and contributions that ACCOs provide as a source of expertise and as service delivery entities in their own right.

But we still have a long way to go. We know it will take time and trust for Government to change the way it works with Aboriginal people and organisations, and for Aboriginal people to be empowered to take a seat at the table as equals to Government. True transformation requires Government to rightfully share decision-making power with Aboriginal organisations, communities, and people, and be guided by community needs and aspirations.

Priority Reform Three of the National Agreement, Transforming Government Organisations, also requires greater attention. The independent Aboriginal-led Review of the National Agreement released in June 2025 found that governments are yet to commence any genuine transformative work to achieve the outcome associated with Priority Reform Three. To respond to this key finding, governments must change the way they make decisions, share power, and allocate resources.

In closing, SAACCON thanks and commends both ACCOs and the South Australian Government for last year's progress - and reaffirms its commitment to a genuine partnership and shared accountability that will result in better outcomes and will see the aspirations and contributions of Aboriginal organisations, communities and people acknowledged, valued and elevated in South Australia.



**Scott Wilson**

Lead Convenor  
South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network

# Executive summary

This annual report details South Australia's (SA's) progress against the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement), and South Australia's second Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2024-2026 for the National Agreement (SA Implementation Plan).

Drawing on information from the Productivity Commission's most recent *Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2025*, it reports on SA's efforts in 2024-2025 across the 4 Priority Reform areas, 17 socio-economic outcomes and 19 related targets of the National Agreement.

Nationally, performance against the socio-economic outcomes has been mixed with only 4 of the 19 targets on track. SA has made a positive contribution towards the national targets with 9 of the 13 targets assessed at the state level demonstrating improvement. However, 3 outcomes are worsening and there was no change against one outcome.

The actions SA is taking to meet our commitments in the National Agreement are set out in the second iteration of the SA Implementation Plan on Closing the Gap 2024-2026 (the Implementation Plan) which was agreed in partnership with SAACCON and released in November 2024 to guide SA government action over 2024-2026.

The status of these actions is detailed in SA's Closing the Gap Implementation Status Update at Attachment A.2.

In summary, of the actions reported for the 2024-2025 reporting period (as of June 2025):

- 28 were complete (of which 14 are now business as usual)
- 126 were in progress - on track
- 1 was no longer being progressed
- 29 were in progress - delayed
- 27 were not yet due to commence



## A note on progress

While these numbers tell part of the story, we know that the way we understand progress in Closing the Gap must be grounded in – and guided by – the experiences and voices of Aboriginal people, families, communities and organisations.

In this context, it is important to acknowledge that the final report of the Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review (the Independent Review) was released in June 2025. The delivery of this national review is a standing commitment under the National Agreement (Clauses 125-128).

The Independent Review was conducted by the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, with Aboriginal researchers. It is designed to complement the Productivity Commission's formal reviews. This first Independent Review set out to understand how Aboriginal people experience the National Agreement in practice. It is an important accountability mechanism which underlines the importance of privileging Aboriginal perspectives and voices across the critical work of Closing the Gap.

The Independent Review broadly concludes that while the architecture of the National Agreement is sound, and there have been significant achievements, there is still more work to be done. There is a significant gap between what is set out in the Agreement and what is being delivered on the ground. Key issues include resourcing of Aboriginal organisations, inconsistent or partial implementation of the Priority Reforms, the need for more transformative change in mainstream government organisations and accountability, and better sufficient communication and education about progress by all parties.

The Independent Review includes nine recommendations, calling for all parties to more fully share power, invest sustainably in community-controlled sectors, embed systemic transformation, improve transparency and data sovereignty, and strengthen how policy and place-based partnerships function.

The Independent Review is also a call to action. It makes clear the need for all governments to do more to ensure the commitments made through the framework of Closing the Gap translate to a genuine and positive change in the experience of Aboriginal people and communities.

The SA Government welcomes the Independent Review and recognises that addressing the inter-related factors that contribute to poorer outcomes for Aboriginal peoples requires a holistic approach, designed and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

The next SA Implementation Plan for South Australia offers an opportunity to embed the findings of the Independent Review, and the 2024 Productivity Commission Review in our approach to closing the gap. Essential Action 1.5 of the Productivity Commission review particularly calls for Governments and peak partners to treat implementation plans as strategic documents, rather than 'laundry lists' of current activities. In the Joint Council response to this review, all parties agreed that a more strategic approach to writing implementation plans is necessary to drive impactful action on the ground.

Led by the SA Partnership Committee, our next Implementation Plan for South Australia will adopt a more strategic focus and concentrate on actions that will most effectively implement the review recommendations and existing National Agreement commitments to achieve meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal people.

# Introduction

This annual report details SA's progress against the National Agreement and the SA Implementation Plan.

Drawing on information from the Productivity Commission's most recent *Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2025*, it reports on SA's efforts in 2024-2025 across the 4 Priority Reform areas, 17 socio-economic outcomes and 19 related targets of the National Agreement.

## SA's Closing the Gap Implementation

SA's approach to implementing the National Agreement is based on the premise that addressing the inter-related factors that contribute to poorer outcomes for Aboriginal people requires a holistic approach, designed and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

Following the Closing the Gap refresh which led to the National Agreement in 2020, SA's preliminary efforts focused on achieving the following outcomes necessary for driving systemic change:

1. Genuine partnership and shared decision-making with Aboriginal South Australians through SAACCON, SA's Aboriginal community-controlled sector peak.
2. Coordinated and integrated approaches by government departments and agencies to deliver services in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCO sector).

The development of a new Implementation Plan in 2024 provided SA with an opportunity to strengthen our efforts and focus them over the next two years until 2026. This includes:

1. A focus on more integrated delivery of the Priority Reforms.
2. A renewed focus on Priority Reform 3, which aims to transform the government's way of working.
3. A renewed focus on Priority Reform 4, to ensure the ACCO sector has shared access to, and capability to use, locally relevant data.

## SA Partnership Committee

In November 2022, the SA Government and SAACCON signed a formal Partnership Agreement that committed the Parties to equal participation and shared decision making to deliver the National Agreement in SA.

In early 2023, the Partnership Agreement established the SA Partnership Committee as the central governance mechanism for Closing the Gap in our state. The SA Partnership Committee monitors progress against our formal Partnership Agreement and commitments under the National Agreement.

Each jurisdiction designates one government senior leadership responsible for driving change across the public sector and report on this in annual reports. In South Australia this role is fulfilled by the SA Partnership Committee

The SA Partnership Committee membership comprised equal SAACCON and SA Government members.

SAACCON members represented the following Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Network groups and organisations:

- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Incorporated
- First Nations Healing (Nunga Ni:Minar Incorporated)
- First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation
- Kura Yerlo Incorporated
- South Australian Aboriginal Education Training Consultative Council
- South Australian Native Title Services.

SA Government members were executive-level government representatives from the following departments:

- AGD
- Department for Child Protection (DCP)
- Department for Education (DfE)
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

As agreed in the jointly developed Terms of Reference (ToR), the SA Partnership Committee meets at least 4 times per year, with agendas and papers developed in partnership. The ToR also provides guidance regarding working together and shared decision-making, including:

- collaborating and participating in shared decision-making as fully informed equal partners, acting in good faith
- making decisions by consensus, and where decision-making cannot be achieved, relying on the dispute resolution clauses in the Partnership Agreement
- openly sharing and respecting the position and rationale of each other.

Guided by, and demonstrating, the strong partnership elements in the National Agreement, in 2024-2025 the SA Partnership Committee has worked together to:

- Publish the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan was updated to include the actions identified through the negotiation of the seven schedules. The schedules focused on:
  - justice and safety
  - health and wellbeing
  - housing and community infrastructure

- education and Aboriginal languages
- child protection
- economic participation, employment, skills development and digital inclusion
- land and waters.
- South Australia's Implementation Plan represents the commitment of all Parties to progress achievement across the four Priority Reform areas, 17 socio-economic outcomes and 19 related targets of the National Agreement.
- Extend the formal SA Partnership Agreement from 30 June 2025 to 31 December 2029. The Partnership Agreement has now been extended to align with the life of the national Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement.
- Develop and implement a Partnership Committee shared work plan, including:
  - four national priorities reflecting the Joint Council and Partnership Working Group Forward Workplan tabled at Joint Council in November 2024; and five state priorities reflecting the Implementation Plan
  - oversee the SA's ACCO Growth Fund
  - review and strengthen existing partnerships to meet the strong partnership elements by undertaking the 2025 SA Partnership Stocktake and Review
  - establish the Child Protection Subcommittee in March 2025 (see Outcome 12).
- Continue to build the Closing the Gap Governance Framework which includes the creation of Sub-Committees to oversee specific activities within the implementation plan:
  - SA Justice Partnership Committee
  - Housing and Community Infrastructure Sub-Committee
  - Child Protection Sub-Committee
  - Women and Families Safety Sub-Committee
  - Health and Wellbeing Partnership Committee
  - Education and Early Childhood Sub-Committee (In development)
  - Economic Development Sub-Committee (In development)
  - Country and Culture Sub-Committee (In development)
  - Disability Sub-Committee (In development)

## First Nations Voice

The recently established SA First Nations Voice is also supporting progress on Closing the Gap in South Australia by collecting feedback from communities about the priorities and needs of Aboriginal people, and ensuring Parliament, Cabinet and public sector leaders consider these views when developing laws, implementing policies and delivering services. SAACCON is currently working with the State Voice Elected Members to develop a partnership.

## Annual Reporting

This Annual Report is the fourth report published by SA Government and SAACCON since the National Agreement commenced in 2020. It is the first report published since the current Implementation Plan was agreed in November 2024.

Annual reporting by jurisdictions, along with the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap Information Repository (the CTG Repository), are important accountability mechanisms required under the National Agreement.

The CTG Repository includes a Data Dashboard for monitoring progress against agreed target outcomes and supporting indicators while the Productivity Commission's Annual Data Compilation Report<sup>1</sup> provides a point-in-time snapshot of the dashboard material.

The Data Overview chapter of this report incorporates performance reporting from the most recent Annual Data Compilation Report July 2025<sup>1</sup> and outlines existing data limitations.

The SA Implementation of the National Agreement chapter of the report then describes the actions taken, and progress made, against the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms and outcomes in more detail. In this section, we also summarise the status of the Implementation Plan's agreed actions with a more detailed acquittal of the status of each action item at Attachment A.

The remainder of the report provides a summary of communication actions delivered and finally, we provide an overview of our planned approach and next steps moving forward. Data overview

The assessment of SA's progress against the Closing the Gap outcomes should be considered within the context of the data landscape, including data gaps, limitations, quality and the frequency of data releases.

While new data continues to be developed and added to the CTG Information Repository, there is not yet data to monitor progress against the four Priority Reforms or several of the socio-economic targets. As more data becomes available, a deeper understanding will be gained of the progress made by the National Agreement.<sup>2</sup>


Specifically, the CTG Repository currently lacks suitable data for evaluating the 4 Priority Reforms and 4 of the socioeconomic outcomes, as follows:

- The required data is not available to report progress on Aboriginal household access to essential services (Target 9B).

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<sup>1</sup> Productivity Commission (2025). *Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2025*. Canberra.

<sup>2</sup> Productivity Commission (2025). *Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2025*. Canberra.

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- There is no new data available since the baseline was established to report on the proportion of Aboriginal females and children who have experienced family violence (Target 13).
  - There is no new data available since the baseline was established to report on progress towards a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal languages (Target 16).
  - No new data is available since the baseline was established to report on the progress towards increased access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making by Aboriginal people (Target 17).

Additionally, the following data items are not available at state and territory disaggregated levels:

- Life expectancy estimates are not produced for SA as Aboriginal identification is insufficient to support analysis (Target 1).
- Data for state and territory assessments of mortality due to suicide that is consistent with the target specifications is not available (Target 14).

## Socio-economic outcomes

A summary of South Australia's progress towards the 19 socio-economic targets, and comparison to national progress, is below.

Due to the limitations already discussed, progress has been assessed against 13 of the 19 targets. Of these 13, progress against 9 targets is improving, progress against 3 targets is worsening and for the remaining target, there was no change against the baseline.

These outcome measures are fundamental to understanding SA's progress against the National Agreement. For a full analysis and deeper insight into progress made to date, it is important to consider them in the context of the additional analysis provided in the next section.

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress
<b>Target 1:</b> Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	No assessment available	Improving, but not on track
<b>Target 2:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track
<b>Target 3:</b> By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children enrolled in Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improving	Improving, and on track
<b>Target 4:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55%.	No change	Worsening
<b>Target 5:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track
<b>Target 6:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress
<b>Target 7:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Worsening	Improving, but not on track
<b>Target 8:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%.	Improving	Improving, and on track
<b>Target 9A:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track
<b>Target 9B:</b> By 2031, all Aboriginal households: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within discrete Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard</li> <li>• 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”).</li> </ul>	No assessment available	No assessment available
<b>Target 10:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15%.	Worsening	Worsening
<b>Target 11:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	No change
<b>Target 12:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%.	Worsening	Worsening

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress
<b>Target 13:</b> By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	No assessment available	No assessment available
<b>Target 14:</b> Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal people towards zero.	No assessment available	Worsening
<b>Target 15a:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Improving, and on track
<b>Target 15b:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	Improving	Improving, and on track
<b>Target 16:</b> By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal languages being spoken.	No assessment available	No assessment available
<b>Target 17:</b> By 2026, Aboriginal people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	No assessment available	No assessment available



## SA's Closing the Gap Implementation Status

The status of actions included in the SA Implementation Plan is provided in full at Attachment A.2

In summary, of the actions reported for the 2024-2025 reporting period (as of June 2025):

- 28 were complete (of which 14 are now business as usual)
- 126 were in progress – on track
- 1 was no longer being progressed
- 29 were in progress - delayed
- 27 were not yet due to commence

# SA's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

## Priority Reforms

The Priority Reforms respond to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal people and were overwhelmingly supported during the nation-wide engagement with Aboriginal communities undertaken to inform the National Agreement.

The Priority Reforms are:

- **Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making:** with governments, to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.
- **Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector:** to be strong and sustainable, delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people across Australia.
- **Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations:** Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people, including through the services they fund.
- **Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level:** Aboriginal 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.

The Priority Reforms are acknowledged as the fundamental enabler of the transformational change required to Closing the Gap across services, systems, policies and programs. It is critical that they are understood as an integrated and coherent framework, which both guides and demands and integrated and coherent response.

The first SA Implementation Plan, released in 2021, recognised that whilst there was strong commitment from government and SAACCON, implementing the Priority Reforms would necessitate large-scale, transformative change. It also recognised that SAACCON and the government were at the beginning of the journey.

In our 2023-2024 annual report, the government acknowledged it was no longer at the beginning of the journey and there was the opportunity to build on the foundational activity delivered in the first years of the National Agreement and for efforts to shift focus to the achievement of Priority Reforms 2-4.



The SA Government will take the opportunity of 2024-2025 to both consolidate and accelerate efforts with a focus on embedding sustainable foundations, particularly through place-based and policy-based partnerships. We will work closely with SAACCON in leading and delivering actions that deliver the transformational change to which we are committed. This requires action at both the systems and community level, and at both the service and individual level, and that all of our action must be grounded in the foundations of the Priority Reforms. We are committed to this work and acknowledge there is more to be done.

The Priority Reforms also protect and support the strengthening of Aboriginal culture by:

- ensuring Aboriginal governance and decision-making structures are supported
- recognising ACCOs are an act of self-determination where Aboriginal people deliver services to their communities based on their needs, cultures and relationship to land
- confronting institutionalised racism in government mainstream institutions and agencies to ensure Aboriginal people can access the services they need in a culturally safe way
- sharing data and information with Aboriginal people to ensure Aboriginal people have more power to determine their own development.

Progress against the Priority Reforms is reported on the following pages.

## Priority 1: Formal partnerships and decision-making

Leading agency: Attorney General Department

 <b>Outcome</b>	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.
 <b>Target</b>	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.

The SA Government and SAACCON are committed to building and strengthening partnerships and structures that empower Aboriginal people to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress against the National Agreement.

Partnerships, aligned to Priority Reform One, are embedded across the National Agreement. This spans national policy partnerships, localised ‘place-based partnerships’, as well as state-based partnership groups, or specific partnership approaches to deliver initiatives between SA Government agencies and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs).

There is currently no data collected that measures improvement against this Priority Reform. Work to identify appropriate measures of progress against Priority Reform One is underway.

The Independent Review indicates that while there is some positive progress, many existing partnership arrangements fall short, with inconsistent implementation and limited shared authority.

**Policy partnerships** are created for the purpose of working on discrete policy areas, such as justice, education, health or housing.

There are 5 national policy partnerships that both SA Government and SAACCON contribute to, along with the Australian Government and other state and territory governments. These are:

- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Justice
- Housing
- Aboriginal Languages

The SA Government acknowledges the findings within the Independent Review which identifies that while these policy partnerships are showing promise, their effectiveness depends on adequate resourcing, real decision-making power for Aboriginal representatives, and translation of agreements into concrete policy outcomes.

## Policy partnership in practice: Justice



### South Australian Justice Partnership Committee

The South Australian Justice Partnership Committee (SAJPC) mirrors the national Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) at the state level and reports to the SA Partnership Committee. They provide strategic advice on matters related to improving justice outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians.

The SAJPC commenced in April 2024 and is a partnership between SA government Justice Agencies and the following SAACCON member organisations:

- Aboriginal Health Council SA
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation
- First Nations Healing
- Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities
- SAACCON Secretariat

In 2024-2025 SAJPC agreed and published their Terms of Reference to guide their activities which include overseeing actions that are intended to drive progress towards socio-economic outcomes 10 and 11 under the National Agreement and providing advice to SA Government on matters relevant to the development and implementation of the South Australian Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

SAJPC has undertaken some activity to proactively share information and data that informs decision-making. For example, the University of Adelaide BetterStart group presented to SAJPC in February 2025 on the BE BOLD data set. This longitudinal data looks at the intersection and pathways of children and young people through the child protection system, youth justice and adult criminal justice systems.

To date, data and information sharing has been aligned to meeting activity, which does not give members ongoing access to shared data sets. It is acknowledged that work is underway to progress Priority Reform 4, and that more can be done in this space.

## Youth Justice Working Group

In a positive demonstration of partnership in practice, SAACCON and the Department of Human Services (DHS) have established SA's Youth Justice Working Group (YJWG), which will further focus effort to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system. Reporting to SAJPC, the YJWG aims to highlight key issues and opportunities for SAJPC to incorporate into the broader justice discussions. In preparation for the commencement of the YJWG, a Knowledge Sharing Session was held in March 2025 with ACCOs and Government agencies sharing their work in the youth justice sector to provide a common understanding of the youth justice system in SA. The inaugural Youth Justice Working Group meeting was held in April 2025.

**Place-based partnerships** are comprised of government and Aboriginal community representatives, with other parties, if agreed, in a given region.

There are 6 place-based partnerships nationally, one of which is in the western suburbs of Adelaide, SA, along with the Australian Government and other state and territory governments.

In April 2025, the SA Government realigned ACCO Growth grant funding (\$1.3 million) to progress the development of SA place-based partnerships, with a view to support the ongoing development of the partnership and provide an opportunity to explore and test innovative approaches.

In the Western suburbs, SAACCON is leading the co-design of a place-based partnership. This initiative is co-chaired by SAACCON and the SA Health Chief Aboriginal Health Officer, reflecting a shared leadership approach between the community and government.

## Place-based partnership in practice: Western suburbs



SAACCON, local ACCOs, the SA Government, the Australian Government and three local councils are working together through a place-based partnership in the western suburbs of Adelaide. This partnership is part of a broader effort to implement the National Agreement, with a focus on Priority Reform One (Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making). The partnership aims to foster collaboration between government, Aboriginal representatives, ACCOs and other relevant stakeholders.

Recognising that transformative change relies on actions across the Priority Reform framework, this partnership is co-located with the Community Data Project in the western suburbs, which supports Priority Reform Four (Shared Access to Data and Information at the Regional Level).

The project's Place-based Partnership Steering Committee held its first meeting in 2024. As partners work to finalise a Partnership Agreement, the Steering Committee has identified the following areas as the early priority for focus - Health and Wellbeing: Outcomes 1, 2 and 14; Housing: Outcome 9; Justice: Outcomes 10 and 11; Child Protection: Outcome 12; Data Sharing & Governance: Outcome 17.

Three Working Groups have also been established – Child Protection Working Group; Social and Emotional Wellbeing Working Group; Data Sharing and Storytelling Working Group. A Youth Working Group and a Women's Advisory Group are planned. Other achievements to date include:

- Terms of Reference endorsed and draft Partnership Agreement developed.
- Governance structures clarified and a forward work agenda under development.
- Aboriginal Western Suburbs Services Directory developed identifying existing services and gaps, with a focus on social and emotional wellbeing.
- A government data analyst has been seconded part time to SAACCON to assist in data capacity building.

SAACCON's regular engagement with ACCOs and the Aboriginal community is recognised as being instrumental to maintaining local relevance, and ensuring the partnership is responsive to community need and voices. Co-location with the Community Data Project is also seen as a strength, both for visibility and building collaboration between the leadership structures of both projects. Engaging Local Government is critical to future success, as is the ability of government partners to be flexible to genuinely align priorities and funding with the needs of the community. SAACCON identifies the need for strong advocacy skills, clear accountabilities and a commitment to relationship building as key to ongoing success.

A formal launch is planned for 2025-2026.

## Key SA actions

The SA Implementation Plan contains 62 actions against this Priority Reform. Of these actions, 6 were complete, 41 were in progress and on track, 5 were in progress but delayed and 10 were not yet due to commence.

### SA Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap

The formal Partnership Agreement between government and SAACCON was signed in November 2022 and was originally set to expire in July 2025. In April 2025, the SA Partnership Committee agreed to extend the term of the SA Partnership Agreement until December 2029 to align with the term of the National Agreement. Members agreed on the SA Partnership Committee priorities and critical dates for 2025 (workplan).

The workplan is a living document and includes:

- Four national priorities reflecting the Joint Council and Partnership Working Group Forward Workplan tabled at Joint Council in November 2024:
  1. Partnership Stocktake.
  2. Aboriginal-led Review.
  3. Independent Mechanism.
  4. Place-based Partnership and Community Data Project.
- Five South Australian priorities reflecting the Implementation Plan:
  1. Communications Framework and an Engagement Strategy.
  2. Increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs – whole-of-government approach
  3. South Australia's implementation of the Joint Council Response to the Productivity Commission report.
  4. SA Closing the Gap Annual Report.
  5. Implementation Plan post 2026.

The SA Partnership Committee has also strengthened shared decision-making across portfolios, through the establishment of the SA Partnership Committee sub-committees on key policy areas. This is a key strategy to support partnership and shared decision making across portfolios, with a remit to address matters related to policy, implementation and monitoring across all socio-economic outcomes.

- Two sub-committees are now well established - the SA Justice Partnership Sub-Committee and the Child Protection Sub-Committee.
- Three sub-committees are in the early stages of establishment – Housing and Community Infrastructure, Health and Wellbeing and Family Safety.
- Additional sub-committees will be established in 2025-2026 including Education and Early Childhood, Economic Development, Country and Culture, and Disability.

## Partnering with SAACCON

In 2024-2025, the AGD funded SAACCON a total of \$3.1 million (GST exclusive) to support its participation in the National Agreement.

Building on this, SAACCON continues to expand its work with government agencies to develop and deliver a range of strategies, policies and programs. In 2024-2025 these included partnerships with the following agencies and bodies:

- **Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Aboriginal Partnership Committee:** Royal Commissioner Natasha Stott Despoja AO (the Commissioner) was appointed to inquire into four key areas related to Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. The Commissioner has entered into a unique partnership with SAACCON and establishing an Aboriginal Partnership Committee that will be instrumental in developing recommendations that are culturally responsive.
- **Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD):** The OECD is working in partnership with SAACCON to co-design and co-govern a number of reforms, in line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care.
- **DCP:** In June 2024, SAACCON and DCP signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing a transparent, and accountable policy and place-based partnership between the two parties, to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal engaged with child protection and in out of home care South Australia.
- In recognition of the high rates of trauma and victimisation of Aboriginal women in the criminal justice system, South Australia's Advisory Commission into the Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal Peoples (the Advisory Commission) recommended the establishment of a victims of crime service specifically for Aboriginal women. SAACCON has been funded to work with AGD to explore a new support service for Aboriginal women who have been the victim of crime.
- **Department of Health and Wellbeing (DHW):** In partnership with SAACCON, DHW has worked to increase Aboriginal governance, including support for Aboriginal leaders to access Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) training across ACCOs and SA Health.
- **Preventive Health SA:** Preventive Health SA entered into an agreement with SAACCON in 2024 to facilitate Closing the Gap reform. Grant funding through the agreement will enable SAACCON to collaborate and provide advice. Alongside this, Preventive Health SA's Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Grants team worked with internal Aboriginal Health staff and SAACCON to promote the program through culturally appropriate channels and reduce barriers to access.

## Partnership Stocktake

In 2024-2025, the SA Government undertook a review of its partnership arrangements as required under the National Agreement. The review provides an opportunity to assess the existing and new partnerships against the baseline stocktake and the second stocktake in 2023.

South Australia's 2025 Partnership Stocktake Report, provided at Attachment B (*inclusive of Attachments B.1 and B.2*) meets the requirements of the National Agreement by providing information on partnerships, including:

- the number of partnerships
- those that have been reviewed
- which strong partnership elements are met and unmet for each partnership
- what has been achieved through the partnerships.

In total, 53 partnerships were included in the Partnership Stocktake, representing an increase of 17 partnerships since the 2023 Partnership Stocktake. Twenty-eight of those included had also been reported in the 2023 Partnership Stocktake, meaning that nearly 80% of the 2023 partnerships remain in operation. Twenty partnerships commenced since the 2023 Partnership Stocktake and five partnerships were reported for the first time across childhood education, youth and adult justice, health, and social and emotional wellbeing.

Of the 53 partnerships included in this year's Partnership Stocktake:

- 46 (87%) made decisions by consensus
- 7 (13%) had a level of shared decision-making
- 4 met all 15 strong partnership elements: the partnership between the Tjindu Foundation Limited and the DfE, and three partnerships between Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Incorporated and the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network.

Full details can be found in Attachment B (*inclusive of Attachments B.1 and B.2*).



In September 2024, the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) signed an agreement with the Department for Education which will strengthen and support actions to meet the vision and goals set out in the PYEC Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

The agreement will support the PYEC vision that Anangu students will be strong and confident in their spirit with culture and knowledge and expertise in their land, Tjukurpa, language and family.

Goals which the agreement will support are:

- Pirinpa in education are always respecting, learning from and empowering Anangu.
- Anangu children are learning two-ways. Teaching and learning are excellent inside and outside Anangu schools.
- Anangu knowledge, culture and languages are put at the centre of education.
- More Anangu are teaching and leading in Anangu schools.
- Anangu families and communities are engaged in education so that all children are learning every day.
- Anangu children have stronger pathways into training, study, work and community leadership.

The PYEC is the governing body for all 10 Anangu schools in SA, providing leadership and policy direction to ensure education aligns with Anangu priorities and cultural identity. Established in 1993, PYEC represents Anangu communities across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands, Maralinga Tjarutja, and Yalata Lands.

This community-controlled governance model strengthens self-determination and ensures that education in Anangu Lands is led by and for Anangu.

## Integrating partnership across government

- **Embedding partnerships across SA Local Health Networks (LHN):** The DHW is progressing the development of formal partnership agreements between LHNs and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) within each LHN catchment area. To support this work, all LHNs have received a Partnership Agreement Guideline via a formal variation to their Service Level Agreements. This guideline will support effort to embed a partnership approach across the work of the LHNs.
- **Shared Local Decision Making:** The Trust has been working towards developing formalised place-based partnerships with ACCO partners to implement a shared local decision-making model. To date, Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation has progressed to a draft Shared Local Decision-Making Partnership Agreement. The Trust is also working to consider opportunities to develop agreements with Far West Community Partnerships and Neporendi Aboriginal Forum.
- **Supporting the establishment of new ACCHOs:** DHW is funding a feasibility study to support local community in building evidence for the development of new ACCHOs.
- **Building Up Bubs (BUBs)' Child Development Screening Program / Little Murras' Child Health and Development Screening Pilot Program pilots:** The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) has formed two partnerships with Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation (KWY) and Nunkuwarrin Yunti to strengthen access to culturally safe Child Health Development checks for Aboriginal children aged up to and including 5 years, improving access to culturally safe checks for Aboriginal children up to age 5 and ensuring stronger support pathways for families. Funding was provided to KWY in 2024–25 to pilot culturally safe child health and development checks, supported by Aboriginal Child and Family Linkers to improve follow-up support and reduce barriers for families. A recent evaluation of the pilots is informing expansion, with a particular emphasis on the strengths of the partnership approach between government and ACCOs, and ACCO-led service delivery.
- **Partnership to reset approach to improving educational outcomes Aboriginal children:** In 2025 the DfE partnered with the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council (SAAETCC) on a new project to reset the department's approach to driving improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in public education.

This project adopts an innovative governance and delivery approach. The approach embeds Aboriginal voices and shares decision-making with Aboriginal people. This is being achieved through two governance groups, the Aboriginal Strategic Direction Advisory Group (ASDAG) (comprising 15 Aboriginal employees, predominantly in leadership positions, from across the organisation) and the Senior Governance Committee (SGC) (comprising SAAETCC's co-chairs and Chief Executive, select senior Executives from the department and an external Aboriginal stakeholder). The ASDAG makes recommendations and the SGC enables the recommendations, with the two groups coming together for shared decision-making on the final strategic direction. The project is planned to run until the end of 2025.

## Yalakiana Tapa (YT) – Marni Tapa and Wardli-ana Tapa

Yalakiana Tapa (YT), meaning *Fresh/New Path* is a culturally designed initiative formed through a partnership between InComPro Aboriginal Association Incorporated and the Department for Correctional Services (DCS). The program brings together two key service streams:

- Marni Tapa – *Good Path*
- Wardli-ana Tapa – *Road to Home*

Together, these streams provide a holistic model of culturally safe care and support for Aboriginal people in contact with the justice system.

Aboriginal people remain significantly overrepresented in the remand and custodial population across South Australia. Yalakiana Tapa was established to provide wraparound, community-based, culturally appropriate support services aimed at reducing this overrepresentation and supporting safer, more sustainable reintegration into community.

The program reflects a co-design approach, ensuring Aboriginal culture, values and lived experiences are embedded in every aspect of service delivery.

### **Marni Tapa – *Good Path***

Marni Tapa is designed to support Aboriginal men and women on remand who have an appropriate bail address. The program focuses on wraparound community-based services, assisting participants to meet bail conditions, strengthen community connections, and work toward pro-social goals.

### **Wardli-ana Tapa – *Road to Home***

Wardli-ana Tapa was designed to support up to 18 Aboriginal men and women on remand who do not have a suitable bail address. This stream provides access to short-term accommodation, cultural connection programs, and tailored support services. It also assists participants in securing longer-term, sustainable housing solutions.

The overarching objectives of Yalakiana Tapa are to:

- Reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people on remand and in custody.
- Provide culturally appropriate, holistic support for Aboriginal prisoners, both male and female.
- Facilitate community reintegration through housing, cultural connection and support networks.
- Reduce reoffending by supporting participants to build and maintain pro-social pathways.

YT delivers targeted, practical and cultural support for Aboriginal prisoners through:

- **Accommodation Support:** Provision of safe, short-term housing options, with pathways to longer-term sustainable accommodation.
- **Cultural Connection:** Engagement in programs to strengthen identity, belonging and cultural resilience.
- **Wraparound Services:** Intensive case management and individualised supports, including health, wellbeing, and social inclusion.
- **Bail Support:** Assistance for participants to comply with bail conditions and transition successfully back into community.

#### Program Achievements to Date

Since its commencement in 2023, Yalakiana Tapa has supported 347 participants.

Outcomes to date include:

- Strengthened engagement of participants in prosocial activities.
- Increased access to safe accommodation and community-based supports.
- Improved connections with culture, community and family.
- Early indications of reduced risk of reoffending among participants.

Yalakiana Tapa represents a significant step forward in addressing systemic inequities within the criminal justice system. Through strong collaboration between InComPro and DCS, and by embedding Aboriginal culture at the heart of its design, the program delivers meaningful outcomes for participants.

The early success of YT demonstrates its potential as a model for broader justice reinvestment initiatives across South Australia.

## First Nations Voice to Parliament

In 2023, SA became the first jurisdiction to establish a First Nations Voice to Parliament (the Voice). The SA Government has allocated \$10.3 million over 4 years to support the establishment and ongoing operation of the Voice.

SAACCON and State Voice Members have commenced discussions to develop a formal partnership.

As noted above, the Voice is supporting progress on Closing the Gap in South Australia by collecting feedback from communities about the priorities and needs of Aboriginal people, and ensuring Parliament, Cabinet and public sector leaders consider these views when developing laws, implementing policies and delivering services.

## Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

Leading agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

 <b>Outcome</b>	There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.
 <b>Target</b>	Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

The SA Government and SAACCON are committed to building a strong and sustainable ACCO sector to deliver high-quality, holistic and culturally safe services for Aboriginal people.

Aboriginal community-controlled services are better for Aboriginal people, achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal people, and are often preferred over mainstream services. A strong and sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled sector provides a diverse range of services and programs that contribute to the National Agreement outcomes.

The National Agreement defines the elements of a strong community-controlled sector as having:

- sustained capacity building and investment
- dedicated and identified Aboriginal workforce
- community-controlled organisations are supported by a Peak Body, which has strong governance, policy development and influencing capacity
- ACCOs have a dedicated, reliable and consistent funding model designed to suit the types of services required by communities.

The SA Government recognises that Aboriginal community control is an act of self-determination and a fundamental enabler of Closing the Gap.

The SA Government is planning to undertake a 2024-2025 Aboriginal Expenditure Review, including reporting on the proportion of Aboriginal services delivered by ACCOs. This data was not available as at the date of this report.

The SA Government acknowledges the observations of the Independent Review that under-resourcing and reliance on short-term projects remain barriers to full implementation of Priority Reform 2.

## National Sector Strengthening Plans

There are 6 National Sector Strengthening Plans in operation which provide a national joined-up approach to building strong community-controlled sectors in line with the agreed strong community-controlled elements. These are:

- Disability
- Housing
- Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Aboriginal Languages
- Health
- Early Childhood Care and Development

## Early Childhood Care and Development Sector Strengthening



The SA Government has committed to an Early Childhood Care and Development Sector Strengthening Plan under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The OECD is also specifically committed to strengthening the ACCO ECEC sector in South Australia through supporting services to partner with us to deliver preschool and integrated hubs.

A Preschool Sector Strengthening Fact Sheet was produced to provide ACCO and Early Childhood Education and Care Services with information and guidance on:

The investment in 3-year-old preschool

- ACCO eligibility and funding
- The co-design process
- Workforce supports
- Quality uplift
- Statewide Aboriginal Professional Network Grants
- Infrastructure grants

## Key SA actions

The SA Implementation Plan contains 33 actions against this Priority Reform. Of these actions, 5 were complete, 24 were in progress and on track, and 4 were in progress but delayed.

## Partnership approach

The SA Government is working in partnership with SAACCON to develop a whole-of-government approach to the delivery of Priority Reform 2. Key activities agreed for 2024-2026:

- Rolling out universal 3-year-old preschool including for co-design and collaboration with ACCOs.
- Establishing a South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body and an ACCO Housing Sector.
- Transition planning by DCP and DHS, in preparation for the co-creation of an ACCO Investment and Procurement Strategy, to be jointly led by relevant SA government agencies, SAACCON and Wakwakurna Kanyini.

## SA ACCO Growth Fund

The SA Government committed \$3.3 million to the National Virtual Funding pool (2021–2024) to strengthen the ACCO sector via a ACCO Grant Fund.

Following 2 grant funded rounds, Minister Maher agreed in April 2025 that the remaining ACCO Grant Fund of \$1.3 million be realigned to progress the development of the SA Place based Partnership and increase the capacity of ACCOs within the region through a targeted grant process. The SA Partnership Committee will work in partnership with SAACCON to develop the targeted grant process during the 2025-2026 year.

## ACCO Service Transition Fund

As part of the 2025-2026 Budget, the SA government announced establishment of the ACCO Service Transition Fund (the Fund). The Fund provides \$5 million over three years to increase the proportion of Aboriginal services delivered by ACCOs – by providing grants to South Australian ACCOs that have, in partnership with a SA Government agency, identified a government service delivery opportunity, but require some initial, upfront investment prior to commencing delivery of the service.

Creation of the Fund responds to feedback from the ACCO sector received during consultations in 2024-2025. DTF has commenced co-design of the Fund guidelines with SAACCON, via the Priority Reform Two Working Group (established in 2023-2024), and with input from the broader ACCO sector. The Fund is expected to open for applications in late 2025, with the first opportunities to be funded in the 2025-2026 financial year.

## Aboriginal Procurement Strategy



Procurement SA has collaborated with SAACCON and across government to co-design an Aboriginal Procurement Strategy and other procurement reforms aimed at increasing Aboriginal participation in government procurement.

The Strategy, once finalised, intends to support mechanisms such as direct procurement thresholds, prioritising Aboriginal services being delivered by Aboriginal organisations, and cultural capability training for procurement professionals, structured around six focus areas: collaboration, participation, growth, access, awareness and readiness.

Procurement SA is developing a list of actions including proposed policy changes, improved guidance tools, and enhanced capability-building initiatives, including cultural awareness training. Efforts are also underway to enhance procurement data visibility and consistency across agencies, enabling better tracking and reporting.

A roadmap for implementation is being developed, with actions scheduled to commence in 2026, pending finalisation of the Strategy. This phased approach will support a consistent and coordinated rollout across public authorities, ensuring that barriers are addressed systematically, and that progress can be effectively monitored.


### A new SA Aboriginal Community Housing Sector Peak Body

The SAACCON and The Trust partnership has progressed the foundation work for the establishment of a South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body. A Funding Agreement has been developed in partnership with SAACCON and it is anticipated the Peak Body will be established by the end of 2026. The Peak is intended to support the capacity and growth of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Sector (ACCHS).

### Leveraging Government spend on the APY Lands

The Trust Property Maintenance Services contract for the APY Lands and Far North community of Dunjiba is a long-term contract arrangement.

The contract requires a minimum of 30 per cent Aboriginal employment and has consistently exceeded this with rates well above 40 per cent with Anangu employees now working and training directly with other new Anangu employees and apprentices. Anangu skill development and employment is a considered a critical precursor to supporting the growth of Aboriginal businesses in the region.



Alongside these initiatives, through a tendering process, the Trust has been able to provide a five-year contract arrangement to an Aboriginal Business Enterprise to replace 26 houses on the APY Lands.

### **A dedicated ACCO Procurement and Investment Strategy**

DCP has commenced work to co-create an ACCO Procurement and Investment Strategy with the ACCO sector to support the long-term agenda for the investment and transition of greater funding to ACCOs. DCP is working with SAACCON members via the Child Protection Working Group to support engagement planning with the sector to understand the current barriers and challenges experienced by ACCOs, their future aspirations for working with DCP, and where DCP can support further participation through our procurement mechanisms.

### **Strengthening Our Culture Community Grants Program**

Preventive Health SA has completed two rounds of the Strengthening Our Culture Community Grants Program (the grants program). The grants program was developed in consultation with the ACCO Sector. The purpose of the program is to support ACCOs and Aboriginal communities to strengthen the Cultural Determinants of Health, and one or more of the following prevention priorities:

- physical activity
- nutrition
- alcohol, and
- tobacco and vaping.

### **Supporting ACCO service excellence**

The DHS-run Australian Service Excellence Standards (ASES) help organisations improve business practices and client services through a set of community service standards and a program of support. To date, ASES has supported over 30 ACCOs in metropolitan, rural and remote SA. 20% of these are working towards ASES Recognition (Level 1) with 75% of organisations obtaining accreditation in ASES Certificate (Level 2).

### **South Australian Government Aboriginal Leadership Program scholarships**

The Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE) offers up to six full scholarships (worth \$4,400 each) for ACCO employees to participate in the program, thereby assisting their professional development and contributing towards higher employee retention. OCPSE works with SAACCON to promote the scholarship opportunities to ACCO employees.

### **Early intervention service model design and delivery**

DHS has committed \$6.1 million over four years to fund early intervention services for at-risk first-time parents of an Aboriginal child. This funding supports the development and implementation of a service model for young Aboriginal families in partnership with the ACCO sector.

### **Valuing expertise**

In 2024-2025, the Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) provided funding or in-kind support to 22 Registered Native Title Body Corporates (RNTBCs) directly or indirectly (e.g. via legal/heritage representatives) to support the delivery of their projects across SA. These included engaging RNTBCs to provide general advisory services; support consultation; inform or develop urban design and culturally appropriate infrastructure; on ground heritage survey and monitoring services to support DIT in meeting its legislative obligations.



The SA Government has committed to the Health Sector Strengthening Plan under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. SA Health are committed to strengthening the Aboriginal workforce, demonstrated through the SA Health Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Employment 2023–2026 and the SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Framework 2023–2031.



Together, these set out the approach to grow and strengthen the Aboriginal health workforce, with implementation progressing through formal partnerships, joint workforce planning, and investment in culturally safe training and career pathways co-designed with ACCHOs and AHCSA. This work is delivering increased activity in attraction, recruitment, retention, and career development, of South Australian Aboriginal health workers across the sector, with strong focus on partnerships, professional pathways, and cultural safety.

Key actions and highlights include:

- Ongoing implementation of the SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Framework 2023–2031 across all SA Health entities, in partnership with local ACCHOs.
- Focused strategies to improve attraction, recruitment, and retention of Aboriginal staff.
- Partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA), an accredited community-controlled Registered Training Organisation, to grow the Aboriginal Health Practitioner workforce and strengthen the environmental health workforce in areas of demand.
- Support for Aboriginal Health Practitioner/Worker (AHP) training, including pathways from traineeships through to specialised roles, aligned with national and state scopes of practice.
- Advancement of the SA Health AHP Framework, covering practice, career pathways, and professional development, co-designed with ACCHOs.
- Shared leadership and partnerships under Priority Area 4 of the Workforce Framework, driving joint solutions with Aboriginal workforce agencies and sectors.
- Career pathway program development to ensure fit-for-purpose professional opportunities, supported by initiatives such as the Aboriginal Workforce Network forum, Aboriginal Peer Support Program, and Aboriginal Traineeship Program.
- Continued collaboration with Aboriginal stakeholders.

## Priority Reform 3: Transforming government organisations

Leading agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

<b>Outcome</b> 	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.
<b>Target</b> 	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.

The SA Government is committed to transformation and a sustained effort to elevate accountability, reduce racism and provide culturally safe, responsive services. Through the National Agreement, governments are required to implement the following transformation elements:

- Identify and eliminate racism through identifying and calling out institutional racism, discrimination and unconscious bias, and address disproportionate outcomes and over-representation of Aboriginal people by addressing features of systems that cultivate institutionalised racism.
- Embed and practice meaningful cultural safety by embedding high-quality, meaningful approaches to promoting cultural safety, recognising Aboriginal people's strength in their identity as a critical protective factor. This applies to all levels of staff within government organisations.
- Deliver services in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, communities and people through developing genuine relationships between government organisations and Aboriginal people, organisations and / or businesses to enhance the quality and cultural safety of mainstream service delivery.
- Increase accountability through transparent funding allocations to improve transparency for funding allocation to, and distribution by, mainstream institutions in relation to dedicated Aboriginal-led service delivery.
- Support Aboriginal cultures through ensuring government organisations identify their history with Aboriginal people and facilitate truth-telling to enable reconciliation and ongoing healing.
- Improve engagement with Aboriginal people by ensuring that when governments are undertaking significant changes to policy and programs that primarily impact on Aboriginal people, they engage fully and transparently, and that Aboriginal people:
  - have a leadership role in the design and conduct of engagements
  - know the purpose and fully understand what is being proposed
  - know what feedback is provided and how it is being taken into account by government

- are able to assess whether the engagements have been fair, transparent and open.

In reporting on progress, the SA Government acknowledges the observations of the Independent Review that transformation efforts are not progressing at the pace, or as comprehensively, as community would expect, and there is a need to accelerate efforts and embed accountability for those efforts.

## Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework (ACSF)



The Department for Correctional Services launched the ACSF in 2024. The ACSF seeks to meet the challenges of both systemic racism and interpersonal racism, and provide guidance for the design and development of services and spaces.

The ACSF is also intended to provide a guide to create the conditions that will cultivate a strong, proud Aboriginal workforce, which will then be better positioned to provide culturally safe supervision and care for Aboriginal people in contact with the department.

The ACSF is underpinned by the OCPSE's Anti-Racism Strategy.

### Independent mechanism

Under the National Agreement, the SA Government is required to develop or strengthen an independent mechanism, or mechanisms, that will support, monitor, and report on the transformation of mainstream agencies and institutions. The mechanism will:

- support mainstream agencies and institutions to embed the transformation elements detailed above and monitor their progress
- be recognisable to Aboriginal people and be culturally safe
- engage with Aboriginal people to listen and to respond to concerns about mainstream agencies and institutions
- report publicly on the transformation of mainstream agencies and institutions, including progress, barriers and solutions.

The SA Government is committed to exploring the essential features of, and suitable models for, an independent mechanism, in partnership with SAACCON and the SA First Nations Voice.

The SA Government and SAACCON have commenced discussions on the Independent Mechanism through the SA Partnership Committee and advice on this matter will also be sought from SA's First Nations Voice.

## Key SA actions

The SA Implementation Plan contains 33 actions against this Priority Reform. Of these actions, 3 were complete, 14 were in progress and on track, 5 were in progress but delayed and 11 were not yet due to commence.

### Transforming government organisations

DPC is leading Priority Reform 3 on behalf of government and is setting out the government's approach to meeting its commitments under the National Agreement, including embedding Priority Reform 3 within policy design and service delivery models.

DPC is committed shifting the culture and systems with SA Government to ensure Aboriginal people thrive in SA.

DPC's approach to leading Priority Reform 3 will be grounded in the transformational elements of the National Agreement and the Productivity Commission's review recommendations for Transforming Government, which include:

- power needs to be shared
- mainstream systems and culture need to be fundamentally rethought
- stronger accountability is needed to drive behavioural change.

To realise the full scope of the reforms and meet SA Government's requirements DPC will continue to partner with SAACCON to transform SA Government culture and systems. This partnership aims to advance the elimination of racism in the public sector and embed genuine co-design to improve policy outcomes.

The new SA Implementation Plan identifies the follow key initiatives to deliver Priority Reform 3 include:

- co-designing and implementing a Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement
- evaluating Aboriginal specific programs to build a culturally responsive evidence base
- increasing Aboriginal representation on government boards
- establishing a two-way secondment model that supports the development of the capability and capacity of Aboriginal community-controlled sector and SA Government
- updating Emergency Management policies to reflect needs of Aboriginal peoples.

DPC has worked with SAACCON in 2024-25 to agree prioritisation of the delivery of the Closing the Gap Engagement Strategy before actioning the development of the Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement, integrating it into Cabinet processes and reporting on its progress through the Annual Report.

## Integrating co-design across SA Government



The DPC partnered with SAACCON to co-design a definition and principles of co-design, with the goal to establish a consistent understanding and application of co-design across State Government agencies.

In August 2024, the definition, conditions, principles and scope of co-design within the SA Public Sector were endorsed, with the identification of four levers to support integration of co-design across the public sector and into SA Government policy, programs and services. The four levers are:

- the inclusion of co-design into Chief Executive Performance Agreements that are administered by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment
- that DPC provide training to Public Sector leaders, with a specific focus on enhancing capability of best practice co-design
- that DPC update the Better Together Engagement Framework in Premier's Circular 036 on community and stakeholder engagement (PC036)
- the inclusion of co-design within the Communication Strategy and Engagement Strategy, under development by the AGD and SAACCON.

In April 2025, DPC hosted a SA Public Sector event attended by over 500 public sector employees. The event was designed to build capability and support consistency in the way co-design is applied across the SA Government.

To support accountability and consistency, the integration of co-design into Chief Executive Performance Agreements, administered by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, is a joint initiative led by DPC.

This new approach has elevated co-design from practice to policy, reinforcing its importance across the public sector. Collaborative planning with SAACCON and sequencing this work alongside the Engagement Strategy and Policy Impact Statement have contributed to a more coordinated and credible implementation. Work will continue in 2025-26 to consolidate and build upon efforts to date, with the approach to be incorporated into Premier's Circular 036 Better Together Framework.

### Race Relations Equity Appraisal Tool

Through the SA Anti Racism Strategy, Preventive Health SA will develop the Race Equity Appraisal Tool (REAT) to support government agencies to identify and address institutionalised racism. The REAT development sits within the Evaluation & Quality Improvement (E & QI) workstream of the SA Anti-Racism Strategy implementation. A participative methodology based on co-design principles has been developed by the group and presented to the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee with membership including SAACCON.

## **Transforming the child protection system**

In 2025, the *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025 (SA)* (the 'Act') was passed by Parliament. This legislative reform reframes the system to embed Aboriginal-led decision-making throughout the operation and enforcement of the Act and will support the government to deliver on its broader commitment to transition to an Aboriginal led child protection system and decision making for Aboriginal families, children and young people. Implementation of the Act will occur over the next two years (to mid-late 2027), with relevant implementation activities to be co-designed with Aboriginal peak bodies and partners.

## **Cultural competency audit supporting culturally safe housing supports**

In 2024, the Trust finalised an organisation wide Cultural Competency Audit and Analysis undertaken by Dr Tracy Westerman. This work provided benchmark data to measure the organisations cultural competence and to inform the Cultural Capability Learning Framework.. The profile will support the Trust to continue to improve on its current benchmark, and to ensure the mainstream housing system is culturally safe and responsive to the housing needs of Aboriginal people and communities.

## **A Flying Start (Three-year-old preschool)**

The OECD is embedding cultural safety across early childhood education by requiring all Flying Start partner providers, across sectors and service types, to complete mandatory training in Aboriginal Cultural Safety (ACS) and Trauma-Informed Practice (TiP) from 2026, as part of the Preschool Boost program.

Aboriginal Cultural Safety training will be delivered to all early childhood education and care services aligned to a three-tier framework (Knowing, Being, Doing) through a preferred supplier panel of ACCOs and Aboriginal businesses. Early childhood services will receive a backfill contribution to support participation in foundational training, while Integrated Hubs will also access centrally funded advanced (Doing) training, with an additional backfill contribution.

The OECD is procuring ACCOs and Aboriginal businesses to deliver training and has awarded three capacity-building grants in the first round of a grants program. These grants will support providers to build capacity to deliver all three tiers of Aboriginal Cultural Safety training: Knowing, Being, and Doing, with the training to be made available to services across the sector through the Preschool Boost program.

The OECD has also established the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group with SACCON to support its work generally, and in particular the co-design of Aboriginal 3-year-old preschool initiatives, and Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy (together, the Co-design project).

## **Cultural responsiveness across SAPOL**

SAPOL has expanded its capability and affirmed its commitment to Aboriginal communities and First Nations employees through the establishment of a First Nations Unit, embedding cultural responsiveness across the agency. This work will be further supported in 2025-2026 with the development of a strategic approach to identifying future needs.

In December 2024, DCS launched the Aboriginal Employment, Retention and Professional Development Strategy (AERPDS) to build a diverse, strong, respected, valued and proud Aboriginal workforce across the department. It includes a range of initiatives, including action to ensure that recruitment and selection processes are publicised, targeted and accessible for everyone.

## **A Strong Aboriginal Workforce**

In December 2024, DCS launched the Aboriginal Employment, Retention and Professional Development Strategy (AERPDS) to build a diverse, strong, respected, valued and proud Aboriginal workforce across the department. It includes a range of initiatives, including action to ensure that recruitment and selection processes are publicised, targeted and accessible for everyone.

## **Lived experience group guide anti-racism efforts in education**

The DfE commenced its own anti-racism program of work in 2024. DfE aligning with OCPSE's South Australian Public Sector Anti-Racism Strategy and Action Plan while advancing our own Anti-Racism Action Plan to proactively remove racist barriers impacting Aboriginal people and those from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. The department's Senior Executive Group reaffirmed its commitment to confronting and eliminating racism. A dedicated team within People and Culture is leading this work, supported by an Anti-Racism Lived Experience Advisory Group to ensure Aboriginal voice and lived experience are central.

## **Centring Aboriginal voices and celebrating culture in health**

SA Health's Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network delivered #Blakout, a six week long campaign as part of its commitment to working with Aboriginal patients and local communities to improve health outcomes. Described as a bold and transformative movement that centres Aboriginal voices, celebrates culture, and drives meaningful change across our workforce and communities. The program seeks to empower Aboriginal workforce, fosters strong connections with Aboriginal communities, and invites non-Aboriginal staff – including prevocational doctors - into a shared journey of learning, unlearning, and allyship.

## **Embedding Free Prior and Informed Consent**

The nation-leading *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* embeds in legislation the responsibility for early engagement between the SA government and Native Title groups. The legislative framework facilitates the identification of both land suitable for development of renewable energy projects on pastoral land, Crown land, state waters as well as areas which are not suitable based on cultural or environmental values. The Act also embeds the use of Indigenous Land Use Agreements at each stage of the project to ensure agreement-making is undertaken according to the principles of free, prior, and informed consent.

## **Recognising and respecting Traditional Owners**

DIT has provided funding to over 22 RNTBCs to develop and/or deliver cultural awareness programs to DIT staff and contractors. These programs recognise the knowledge and expertise of SA's Aboriginal communities, and ensure Aboriginal people are appropriately recognised and respected as the Traditional Owners and current custodians of the land. This measure is being embedded across DIT's construction, building, and road maintenance contracts throughout the State.

DIT provides the financial resources, timelines and opportunity for RNTBCs to communicate about what respect on Country looks like. The initiatives are strengthening the role and position of RNTBCs and facilitating important relationships between industry and communities.

## **A dedicated Women's and Children's Health Aboriginal Workforce Strategy**

The Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) Aboriginal Workforce developed an Aboriginal Workforce Strategy during the reporting period. This is supported by a robust Action Plan with detailed measures, achievements, outcomes and who is responsible for the Actions. The Strategy is underpinned by 5 key Objectives (deliverables):

- Creating the Right Environment for Success
- Aligning our Workforce Profiles
- Developing Pipeline and Career Pathways
- Attracting and Recruiting the Right People; and
- Monitoring our Progress and Evaluation.

The current Aboriginal Workforce Strategy is due to expire at the end of 2026, future iterations of the strategy will continue to consider the changing landscape of the Aboriginal workforce and will be dependent on solid and effective workforce planning and recruitment.

## Delivering on transformation at an agency level



In 2024–25, it was agreed that DHS’s Closing the Gap Policy and Transformation Directorate would develop and lead a Priority Reform 3 Transformation Strategy across the department. The Strategy:

- provides a strategic framework for implementing the six transformation elements in the National Agreement and addressing the four overarching recommendations from the Productivity Commission’s Final Report on Closing the Gap
- aligns with key actions in DHS’ Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), including reviewing HR policies to identify anti-racism provisions and remove barriers, and assessments of cultural learning needs.

To support this work, DHS has engaged an Aboriginal-owned provider to conduct cultural competency testing and provide recommendations to DHS to strengthen organisational cultural capability.

## Priority Reform 4: Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Leading agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

 <b>Outcome</b>	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 in Closing the Gap, their priorities and drive their own development.
 <b>Target</b>	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.

Implementation of Priority Reform 4 is critical for Aboriginal people to be fully informed and be equal participants in shared decision-making. It is also necessary for the implementation of the remaining 3 Priority Reforms and regional data is needed to support Aboriginal communities participate in place-based partnerships

The SA Government has committed to:

- share available, disaggregated regional data and information with Aboriginal organisations and communities on Closing the Gap (subject to privacy requirements)
- establish partnerships between Aboriginal people and government agencies to improve collection, access, management and use of data, including identifying improvements to existing data collection and management
- make data more transparent by telling Aboriginal people what data government has and how it can be accessed
- build the capacity of Aboriginal organisations and communities to collect and use data.

Despite making progress, the SA Government acknowledges the concerns outlined in the Independent Review around the need for improved data access, ownership and embedding of data sovereignty.

Through the National Agreement, Community Data Projects are being established in up to 6 locations across Australia. These projects will be designed to enable Aboriginal communities and organisations to access and use location-specific data on Closing the Gap outcome areas. The SA location is the western suburbs of Adelaide.

SA's Community Data Project Steering Committee is a partnership between SAACCON and the SA Government's Office for Data Analytics (ODA), and aims to progress access to government data aligned to the priorities of the Community Data Project and Place-Based Partnership in Western Adelaide.

## SA Community Data Project



In South Australia, the western suburbs of Adelaide have been selected as the site of the Community Data Project to align with the Place-Based Partnership. SAACCON selected this location – with support and guidance from the Coalition of Peaks – because it could leverage its existing network of members in that area to facilitate strong engagement with community.

SAACCON members have continued to shape the Community Data Project and develop a shared commitment to strengthening how data is collected and used locally, ensuring it reflects the voices, needs, and priorities of community individuals and collective groups. The project has a strong focus on building the capacity of ACCOs and ensuring that any data work is grounded in the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty. There is also a clear long-term goal to embed community-led decision-making into how data is governed and used.

Over the past year, SAACCON has taken the lead in determining SA data priorities in conjunction with ACCOs and community. DTF and the relevant agencies are responsible for facilitating data sharing agreements and delivery of data to SAACCON acting as intermediary for communities. Governance structures have been established, with the Community Data Project Steering Committee providing oversight of the design, principles and priorities, implementation and monitoring of the project.

Project partners have worked to develop a collective understanding across ACCOs of the scope of data, and concepts of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance. Funding has been secured to engage a dedicated data analysts to support system management and data interpretation. While progress has been positive, there is some concern at the level and types of data able to be accessed. Partners are working together to address this challenge and develop a shared understanding of data access and the role of data in driving genuine transformative change.

Strong and formal partnerships with agencies are seen as critical to success, as is work underway with the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's Aboriginal Health Equity research unit, Wardliparingga, to determine a collective understanding of Indigenous Data Sovereignty. The focus of the next 12 months will be on building cultural and data capability, agreeing a future data portal mechanism, developing evaluation criteria for the Western suburbs project, and continued work to embed Aboriginal governance over the identification of data gaps and the design of new metrics.

## Key SA actions

The SA Implementation Plan contains 15 actions against this Priority Reform. Of these actions, 2 were complete, 3 were in progress and on track, 4 were in progress but delayed and 6 were not yet due to commence.

### Office of Early Childhood and Development

The OECD has committed to developing a new early childhood development system that will support all children from birth to 5 years using the best available data insights and local knowledge, in consultation with providers and research. The OECD is working to consider how to embed Aboriginal data sovereignty in the collection and use of data.

### DfE

Planning between SAACCON, SAAETCC and the DfE commenced in 2024-2025 to implement action 4.06 in the SA CTG Implementation Plan 2024-2026. This will support delivery of a series of workshops for SAACCON and its membership regarding what data is publicly available and how to access and interpret the data. This is a foundational action on which further progress against PR 4 can build.

### Department for Infrastructure and Transport

DIT is in the final stages of embedding standardised geospatial data capture for all infrastructure, building, and transport projects, which will enable all projects to be associated with various different geographical areas, including Native Title areas and other boundaries related to Aboriginal Communities.

The system, which will be fully developed by end of 2025, will provide for greater transparency in discussions with RNTBCs, ACCOs and South Australian Aboriginal Businesses about if, how, and when they wish to be engaged with departmental projects. It has been designed to enable more transparent and accessible information sharing, and in turn support the identification of employment and partnership opportunities for Aboriginal people arising from DIT projects.

### DHS

DHS is enhancing access to data and information through several established systems, including through the Far West Coast Partnership Data Sharing Agreement – a multi-agency initiative enabling data sharing between government agencies and the Far West Coast Partnership, a Ceduna-based backbone organisation coordinating community action in the region.

## Cultural Wellbeing Baseline Data project



Preventive Health SA has entered into an Agreement with the Australian National University through its National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research (Yardhura Walani), to provide a Report analysing South Australian data from Mayi Kuwayu: the national study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing (the Mayi Kuwayu Study), to assist the agency to establish a baseline for South Australian Aboriginal Cultural Wellbeing.

This Agreement includes new Special Conditions for the first time for Preventive Health SA designed to ensure Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights are respected and upheld through the Agreement.

The Mayi Kuwayu Study team will also be presenting findings and interpretation of data analysis from the Report to Preventive Health SA, and providing insights into the Mayi Kuwayu Study design and principles including:

- Understanding culture and its relationship to wellbeing
- Measuring outcomes in the Mayi Kuwayu Study
- Indigenous Data Governance and Indigenous Data Sovereignty
- Engagement across the research life cycle, including through Knowledge Translation.

These insights will inform future data and information sharing reforms under development within the agency.

## Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

**Leading agency:** Department for Health and Wellbeing

**Target data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	No assessment available	Improving, but not on track

Nationally,

- Aboriginal males born in 2020–2022 are expected to live to 71.9 years and non Aboriginal males have a life expectancy of 80.6 years (an 8.8 year gap)
- Aboriginal females born in 2020–2022 are expected to live to 75.6 years, and non Aboriginal females have a life expectancy of 83.8 years (an 8.1 year gap)
- the life expectancy gap is assessed as improving, however the target of achieving a zero life expectancy gap by 2031 is not on track to be met.

There is no assessment of progress available for SA.

### SA overview


The SA Implementation Plan contains 9 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process one was completed, 6 were in progress and on track and 2 were in progress but delayed.

SA Health’s strategic approach to improving Aboriginal health has been developed in partnership with key Aboriginal stakeholders over time, including AHCSA, ACCHOs, community groups, other health sector providers, and Aboriginal South Australians. This strategic approach is set out in key policy frameworks: SA Health Aboriginal Health Care Framework 2023 – 2031 and South Australian Aboriginal Health Promotion Strategy 2022 – 2030.

The renewal of the SA Implementation Plan provided an opportunity to further focus efforts with prevention identified as a central driver of sustainable change in health outcomes for Aboriginal people. All actions are being led by Preventive Health - with one in partnership with SAPOL - who is working closely with SAACCON and Aboriginal partners to ensure the Priority Reforms inform both design and delivery.

### Key SA actions

Narungga Nations Health Service Feasibility Study – Development of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service for the Yorke and Northern community. The Yorke and Northern Local Health Network are supporting the establishment of an emerging ACCHO in the region in order to improve health outcomes in primary health care.



The DHW, Yorke and Northern Local Health Network, Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation and AHCSA are in a partnership arrangement to deliver a Feasibility Study, with formal partnership between the DHW and Aboriginal Health Council of SA to fund the feasibility study to be undertaken.

Narungga Health Assembly support is part of the Buthera Agreement (Schedule 2), between the State of South Australia and Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation.

### **An embedded approach to Health in All Policies**

The SA Government committed to develop a formal partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to co-design health and wellbeing initiatives in partnering with SAACCON, with an embedded approach to Health in All Policies.

Preventive Health SA entered its first partnership with SAACCON in 2024, supporting our shared commitment to the SA Implementation Plan and a Health in All Policies Approach. As part of the partnership, a Project Officer role, located within the SAACCON office and working collaboratively with the Aboriginal Health Promotion team in Preventive Health SA, has been established.

The partnership embodies many of the Strong Partnership Elements detailed in the National Agreement, including ‘where self-determination is supported.’ Partners have noted that early success was supported through information sharing, including with the Preventive Health SA inviting SAACCON staff to a presentation on Health in All Policies to ground the partnership in a foundation of knowledge about the policy approach. To date, the most significant outcome from the partnership is agreeing on a mutual workplan to benefit community, the ACCO sector, and SA Government’s Closing the Gap efforts.

The impact of a Health in All Policies approach to addressing the 17 Closing the Gap Outcomes and Targets has been welcomed by SAACCON. SAACCON has indicated it is looking forward to rolling out the approach in 2025-2026 in one or multiple of the following areas: housing, education, justice, child protection.

### **South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-2030**

The South Australian Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-2030 (the AOD Strategy) was released in April 2025. The AOD Strategy recognises that alcohol and other drug related harms are not experienced equally across populations, and that Aboriginal peoples suffer the harms of alcohol and other drug use at a disproportionate rate. The AOD Strategy demonstrates SA Government’s commitment to building and strengthening partnerships, and the structures that support those partnerships, by advancing Aboriginal peoples’ involvement, engagement and autonomy through equitable participation and shared authority.

Some of the successes of the AOD Strategy so far include:

- Preventive Health SA has partnered with the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education (FARE) to run the 'Every Moment Matters' campaign from 1 May to 31 July 2025 to support alcohol harm reduction during pregnancy, and when planning pregnancy, and breastfeeding in SA.
- The WCHN is collaborating with Preventive Health SA and other local health networks to pre-test FASD prevention initiatives with Aboriginal women, such as the Strong Born campaign and a public health initiative aimed at raising awareness about FASD, to promote alcohol-free pregnancies and ways to reduce drinking if planning a pregnancy.
- Preventive Health SA is organising capacity building in collaboration with FARE and WCHN to strengthen knowledge and responses to support FASD prevention, treatment and referrals, targeting front line maternal and child health workers and those in the domestic, family and sexual violence sector.
- Preventive Health SA have partnered with Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities (NREC) and Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service in the development and implementation of the 'Empowering Futures – Health and Wellbeing for Ngarrindjeri' Project, which aims to strengthen community-based initiatives to increase awareness of the harms associated with alcohol and other drug use in Murray Bridge and the Mid-Murray region.

### **Supporting the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to strengthen culture**

The Strengthening Our Culture Community Grants Program (the grants program) was developed in consultation with the ACCO sector and Aboriginal community members across SA, with their feedback and input directly influencing the design of the grants program.

Six 'Strengthening Our Culture' Grants were awarded to ACCOs in 2024-2025.

The grant program has successfully piloted a novel approach to project evaluation, documenting impact through a 'Most Significant Change' narrative approach. The evaluation identified:

- Engaging directly with SA ACCOs and ACCHOs regarding the program has been effective.
- The development of a Community of Practice for ACCO grant recipients has been an effective forum for sharing experiences and expertise, collaboration, consultation, and feedback on the grant process, but could be improved to encourage greater participation, including from a broader cohort of ACCO staff.
- The eligibility criteria requiring applying organisations to be an ACCO has been well received and will be maintained as an eligibility criteria requirement in future grant rounds.

Moving forward, other organisations have been encouraged to actively support and partner with ACCOs so that additional Aboriginal-led projects can be funded.

## **Partner with SAHMRI to address racism in local sports and find evidence-based solutions.**

Racism is recognised as a determinant of health and inequity for Aboriginal people.

By exploring existing policies in South Australian sporting organisations, the research team is seeking to gain a better understanding of the current landscape of racism in sport and identify where there are opportunities for intervention, improvement, and evaluation.

Early-stage research outcomes on racism include:

- critical data on institutional, relational and individual targets for change
- co-development of appropriate survey tools
- data collection methods
- co-design of multilevel practical strategies to address racism.

Community-level health and social measures will provide insights on the impact of racism on communities. These will assist communities and government to:

- understand the impact of racism on individuals and families
- gain a deeper understanding of the experience and transmission of complex and intergenerational trauma, and resilience, within Aboriginal communities
- identify, a) awareness of attitudes, beliefs, and acts of racism towards Aboriginal people and b) institutional racism.

The project is on track for completion and final reporting in December 2025. A 2025-2026 evaluation is planned.

It is anticipated this research will generate much needed evidence to inform targeted anti-racism strategies and actions, contributing to the overall health and well-being of Aboriginal peoples for generations to come.

## **Determinants of social and emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal children and adolescents.**

Preventive Health SA has developed an evidence-based plan to address the determinants of social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) for South Australian Aboriginal children and adolescents, following on from a funding agreement from Aboriginal Health, DHW. This work builds on extensive community consultations led by South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council (SAAETCC) and literature. It aligned the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing 2017-2023. Aboriginal methodologies, with the body of work and consultations through Indigenous methodologies such as yarning sessions, which was central to the consultation process.

A key insight from this project is the essential role of embedding Aboriginal leadership, knowledge, and community voice to enhance SEWB outcomes for Aboriginal children and adolescents. Over time, the project has prioritised culturally grounded, community-led approaches that ensure responsiveness to community needs, moving beyond a primary reliance on academic literature. This shift has facilitated meaningful engagement with Aboriginal communities, families and young people, ensuring their voices shaped the project.

The project has identified critical gaps and alignments between research evidence and community priorities, enabling the development of responsive, strengths-based strategies. Throughout, Preventive Health SA, has actively fostered a culture of continuous learning in partnership with Aboriginal stakeholders. Early reflections highlight the importance of translating project insights into accessible formats for young people, and the impact of resourcing and time constraints on the depth of engagement and co-design processes.

Key enablers of success include:

- A phased, prioritised approach emphasising strong foundational relationships with communities and stakeholders.
- Ongoing advocacy for Aboriginal-led investment and shared resourcing to support sustainability.
- Strategic dissemination via national conferences to raise visibility and attract partnerships.
- Leveraging in-kind support and alignment with broader SEWB and youth wellbeing initiatives to strengthen positioning.

National recognition through presentations at the National Preventive Health Conference and the Lowitja International Indigenous Wellbeing Conference has enhanced the project's impact and visibility. These learnings reinforce the imperative to honour and elevate Aboriginal ways of knowing, being, and doing through genuine partnerships with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

### **Partnership with Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia to establish Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities.**

Preventive Health SA is committed to exploring the appropriate next steps for establishing a partnership with Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) to fund the establishment and implementation of local Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities.

## National Cancer Screening programs, including One Stop Screening Shop

In 2024-2025, Preventive Health SA coordinated One Stop Screening Shops to offer all cancer screenings (breast, bowel and cervical screening) in the same location:

- One in Northern Adelaide on 16 October 2024, in partnership with Muna Paiendi Aboriginal Primary Health Care Services. 13 women attended on the day and over 140 were identified for follow-up screening as a result of the review of clinical records conducted during this project.
- In regional and rural locations across SA –Port Pirie and Kangaroo Island, 22 women in total attended. This financial year many organisations would have liked to have held a One Stop Screening Shop, but lack of staff and resources limit what can be achieved.

While the One Stop Screening Shop provides increased screening opportunities and education, the following have played an important role in well women's screening:

- Develop education and health promotion sessions, assist, promote and attend Well Women's Health Days that are held in rural, remote locations in partnership with health and allied health services.
- Communicate regularly with both community controlled and government health services.
- Attend national screening online learning, attending conferences in relation to screening to keep up with the latest trends.
- Attended the SAHMRI Well Women's Screening Project – Aboriginal Governance Group and Well Women's Screening Expert Advisory Group.
- Attended the National Health and Medical Research Council Project Advisory Group meeting and Commissioning Indigenous Evaluation Roundtable final meeting.

In the 2024–2025 Aboriginal Cancer Screening Grant Round, Preventive Health SA awarded nine grants to five organisations, including four ACCOs.

- The Aboriginal Cancer Screening Grants Program provides valuable opportunity to build capacity regarding cancer screening in general practice and non-government settings that have established relations with the Aboriginal population who are at risk of under-screening.
- Grant funding supports clinics and organisations with additional activities such as a review of patient profiles to identify people due for screening and offer support in booking or attending appointments, offering incentives or tailored approaches to engage with Aboriginal patients, which may include incentives, transport or dedicated men's and women's health days, in a culturally appropriate manner.
- The grants complement a range of awareness-raising and capacity building initiatives run by the Aboriginal Health Promotion team, particularly aimed at increasing access and addressing barriers to engaging in cancer screening for Aboriginal people.

Preventive Health SA has been working to embed learnings from these events into future partnerships by building the capacity of staff in ACCHOs to:

- provide patient education on cervical screening and completing a bowel screening kit
- access the National Cancer Screening register to check who is due for cervical and/or bowel screening
- issue National Bowel Cancer Screening Program kits as part of routine care.

Sharon Clarke, Senior Project Officer Aboriginal Well Women's Screening Program, was awarded 2024 SA NAIDOC Female Elder of the Year in recognition for her ongoing work in Aboriginal Women's Health.

## Preventive Health SA



Through the delivery and implementation of evidence-based policy and programs, Preventive Health SA is working to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities for the South Australian community. In delivering Aboriginal specific programs and initiatives, Preventive Health SA has identified the following factors to be critical to success:

- Acknowledging cultural authority, including Country borders, to ensure that messaging is effective and perceived as safe across South Australia more broadly. It is imperative not to generalise and to assume similar perceptions will be shared by different language/cultural groups within Aboriginal communities.
- Ensuring that consultation with Aboriginal communities and key stakeholders is undertaken in the project initiation phase, and that cultural leadership and governance are prioritised throughout the project development, implementation, and evaluation stages.
- Ensuring community perspectives are gained prior to implementation of community-led initiatives. Partner with ACCOs and ACCHOs early, acknowledging their cultural leadership, and seek to implement their perspectives as early as possible to ensure genuine collaboration and consultation.
- Embedding Aboriginal leadership, knowledge, and community voice is critical to enable meaningful engagement.
- The need to honour and elevate Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing through genuine partnership with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

## Outcome 2: Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong

Leading agency: Department for Health and Wellbeing

Target data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcomes	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track

Nationally,

- in 2022, 89.2% of Aboriginal babies born were of a healthy birthweight. This is an increase from 88.8% in 2017 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met. The proportion of Aboriginal babies born of a healthy birthweight was highest for babies from the least disadvantaged areas of Australia (92.4%). The proportion declined for babies from more disadvantaged areas, to 88.1% in the most disadvantaged socio-economic areas of Australia.

In SA,

- in 2022, 90.6% of Aboriginal babies born were of a healthy birthweight. This is an increase from 88.4% in 2017 (the baseline year) and has been assessed as improving
- this assessment is provided with a low level of confidence.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains one action against this socio-economic outcome. Of the one action reported through this process, it was reported as in progress and on track.

### Key SA actions

Over the next two years partners have agreed to undertake initial scoping to develop a coherent and meaningful plan to deliver on the Target.

The Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) and DHS will partner with SAACCON and AHCSA to consider the steps necessary and integrate these into an MoU between LHNs and ACCHOs. Partners have agreed that this action include establishing birthing centres on Country or access to birthing at local hospitals for better mother and child outcomes.

## Continuity of Care Protocols (CCP)

The Child and Maternal Health Continuity of Care Protocols (CCP) Program strengthens South Australia's health system to ensure Aboriginal children aged 0–4 and mothers of Aboriginal babies receive continuous, coordinated, and culturally safe care.

The Program addresses SA Health priorities of access and infrastructure by improving coordination and follow-up across existing services, ensuring Aboriginal babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers can access perinatal care, and strengthening the use of current and future digital infrastructure. The CCP directly supports all four Priority Reforms of the National Agreement.

### Co-Designing the Provisional Continuity of Care Protocols

Led by the Aboriginal Health Branch (AHB) with Aboriginal communities, ACCHOs, Local and Primary Health Networks, Aboriginal professional bodies, research organisations and other partners, the program has developed statewide provisional protocols and frameworks to embed continuity of care across South Australia and adjoining jurisdictions. It addresses SA Health priorities of access and infrastructure by improving coordination and follow-up across existing services, ensuring Aboriginal babies born to non-Aboriginal mothers can access perinatal care, and strengthening the use of current and future digital infrastructure.

The program has been firmly grounded in a commitment to co-design and shared decision-making. When co-design is led by Aboriginal peoples through their own governance structures, systems become more culturally safe, equitable and sustainable. This transformation has been driven by cultural authority, disruption of the status quo, and deep relational accountability. Aboriginal peoples are recognised as knowledge holders, leaders and system architects, ensuring health system reforms reflect their priorities.

Aboriginal health, in partnership with Aboriginal communities and health-system stakeholders developed two provisional protocols – one for Aboriginal children aged 0-4 and one for mothers of Aboriginal babies. The Provisional Continuity of Care Protocols set out 34 essential requirements guided by three principles:

- Relational – one primary provider is always identified and has an active role in continuity of care.
- Informational – All information is available in a timely manner, including culturally responsive information, and is available to all providers as necessary.
- Management – All providers across all organisations involved in care of the mother and baby (or child aged 0 to 4) act in a coordinated manner to ensure continuity of care.

## Enabling Framework

The Enabling Framework is essential to the CCP Program and plays a critical role in the operationalisation of the protocols.

The enabling framework:

- **Accountability and Responsibility** – encompassing clear accountability structure, monitoring and feedback systems, government and executive commitment and responsibility, overcoming systemic barriers, and community and cultural engagement.
- **Workforce** – including workforce accountability and cultural competency, sustainable resource allocation and funding, workforce flexibility and development, collaborative and adaptive working, integration and relationship building and leveraging existing resources and positions.
- **Measures and Information** – for comprehensive and long-term data, monitoring and evaluation, data sovereignty and ownership, IT and system integration, and stakeholder engagement and transparency.
- **Connected Landscapes** – for integrated digital infrastructure, inclusive connectivity, interoperability and data sharing, clear data communication, user-centred design and accessibility, and relational connection.

Key components of the Enabling Framework address:

- Aboriginal-led governance and accountability.
- Tailored workforce strategies.
- Monitoring and evaluation.
- Digitally connected systems.
- Community engagement models.
- Strategic Alignment.

## Current Phase

Implementation is now in Phase Three, embedding protocols and frameworks while measuring impact. Key objectives include strengthening accountability and Aboriginal governance, defining continuity of care standards, operationalising Aboriginal leadership, monitoring quality of care, supporting a skilled workforce, building digital and relational connections, and improving financial effectiveness.

### Outcome 3: Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

Leading Agency: Department for Education

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children enrolled in Year Before Full-time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improving	Improving, and on track

Nationally,

- in 2024, 94.2% of Aboriginal children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 61.3% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows good improvement and is on track to be met. This assessment is provided with a high level of confidence.

In SA,


- in 2024, 93.5% of Aboriginal children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 83.4% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows good improvement.

#### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 1 action against this socio-economic outcome. This action is reported as in progress and on track.

Through the renewal process, it was agreed that engagement in education and training is intertwined with many social and economic factors that support young people to thrive. While reported separately, the following socio-economic outcomes are agreed as all contributing to better education outcomes and associated actions should be designed and delivered in an aligned manner:

- Outcome 3 - Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years
- Outcome 5 - Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential
- Outcome 6 - Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways
- Outcome 7 - Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education



Across each outcome, it is recognised that the key to success is ensuring education and training approaches are culturally appropriate and responsive. Socio-economic outcome 3 recognises the strengths of promoting Aboriginal connection to family, culture and identity in early childhood education.

Following the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, a new OECD was established. The OECD is responsible to deliver on the Royal Commission's recommendations which included a strong focus on providing greater supports for Aboriginal children. SA's approach to socio-economic outcome 3 is being integrated into this whole-of-system reform.

### **Key SA action**

#### **Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy**

A key enabler of pre-school engagement is high quality, culturally appropriate and connected early childhood education for Aboriginal children. This is supported by, among other things, investment in building the Aboriginal Early Childhood workforce and supporting the Aboriginal workforce to use their knowledges and expertise to deliver nurturing and culturally safe environments and education.

To support a strong Aboriginal workforce and Aboriginal leadership across the sector, the OECD is working with the Aboriginal community sector and via the Aboriginal Co-Design Governance Group to develop an Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy. A series of early actions were agreed in February 2024 for immediate commencement of priority initiatives. The full strategy will be published this year.

#### **Sector strengthening**

The OECD has offered one-off sector strengthening readiness grants to six Commonwealth Community Childcare Fund – Restricted (CCCFR) ACCO early childhood services, to assist in building capacity for providers to deliver 3-year-old preschool. ACCOs are encouraged to apply to deliver 3-year-old preschool in partnership with the government at any time. Also, provision has been made for at least two of the 20 integrated early childhood hubs to be established across SA to be ACCO-led.

#### **Professional Network**

A state-wide Aboriginal Professional Network has been established through Tauondi Aboriginal College to increase collaboration of Aboriginal early childhood professionals, including allied health and community services, across communities who work with preschool children and their families. All ACCO services are encouraged to join.

## Related SA actions

### Leading Practice Paper – Continuity and Transitions in Early Childhood Education and Care

In June 2025, the DfE published a Leading Practice Paper (LPP) on Continuity and Transitions in Early Childhood Education and Care. LPPs have been developed by the department as an outcome of the Early Learning Strategy, aiming to “distil and disseminate research and evidence to support education practice in preschools”.

A key message of the Continuity and Transitions in Early Childhood Education and Care LPP is cultural responsiveness and cultural safety support to ensure Aboriginal children have a sense of belonging and connection. In practice, this promotes providing authentic opportunities for Aboriginal children, families and the local community to be actively involved in decision making, contributing to Aboriginal learners and families feeling welcomed and a valued part of the early childhood education and care community.

### Connected Beginnings Program

Connected Beginnings is a grant program co-funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and the Department of Health and Aged Care. Under the grant agreement, the Australian Government Department of Education provides funding to the SA Department for Education’s Connected Beginnings Program. ACCOs support delivery of the program.

The objective of the Connected Beginnings program is to support the integration of early childhood, maternal and child health, and family support services in disadvantaged Aboriginal communities so that children are well-prepared for school. Over time, this will contribute to reducing the disparity in school readiness and educational outcomes for Aboriginal children.

The program operates in Ceduna at the Ngura Yadurirn Children and Family Centre and Salisbury/Playford at Kurna Plains Children’s Centre.



## Improved Enrolment and Attendance

In its response to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, the SA Government announced that the Enter for Success Strategy would be extended to Aboriginal children applying for preschool from mid-2025.

The Enter for Success Strategy supports the inclusion, attendance, participation and retention of Aboriginal students at school. For Aboriginal students, it provides the opportunity to enrol and be accepted into any government school they nominate the year before they start primary or secondary school.

To achieve this, the preschool “Priority of Access” criteria has been amended to include Aboriginal children, regardless of where they reside. This will be applied to registrations of interest submitted for children who identify as Aboriginal at the point of enrolment, whether that be at major enrolment intakes, transfers following redirection or following a child’s 3rd birthday.

## Outcome 4: Aboriginal children thrive in their early years

Leading Agency: Office for Early Childhood Development

### Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%.	No change	Worsening

Nationally,

- in 2024, 33.9% of Aboriginal children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 Aboriginal Early Development Census (AEDC) domains. This is a decrease from 35.2% in 2018 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening. However, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

In SA,

- in 2024, 28.7% of Aboriginal children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 AEDC domains compared to 29.0% in 2018 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, there has been no change in the target.

### SA overview


The SA Implementation Plan contains one action against this socio-economic outcome. Of the one action reported through this process, it was reported as in progress and on track.

### Key SA actions

#### Investing in ACCOs to support better pre-school outcomes for Aboriginal children

The SA Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care made a number of recommendations relating to the role of ACCOs in delivering early childhood reforms.

In response, and to establish initiatives which retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool for Aboriginal children, the OECD in partnership with SAACCON, is undertaking work to co-design and fund ACCO involvement in preschool and integrated early years' service delivery.



Through this work, a series of options are being considered. These include ACCO-led integrated early childhood service hubs, and ACCO provision of Preschool Boost and child health development checks.

Notable successes to date include:

- The OECD, in partnership with SAACCON and overseen by an Aboriginal Co-Design Governance Group (ACGG), has engaged an Aboriginal business supplier to engage community on co-designing the Aboriginal 3-year-old preschool strategy and Aboriginal early childhood workforce initiatives.
- SAACCON and SAAETCC are standing members of the Minister’s Early Childhood Advisory Forum (MECAF) which is a mechanism to engage sector voices and early childhood experts to advance the government’s long-term ambition to help all South Australian children to thrive.
- The government has committed to establish 20 integrated hubs across SA in areas of high developmental vulnerability, as measured on the AEDC. The OECD’s goal is for at least two hubs to be led by ACCOs.
- The OECD is working with ACCOs and ACCHOs to prioritise self-determination for Aboriginal families and ensure the availability of culturally safe child health development checks. In 2024-25, funding was allocated to Nunkuwarrin Yunti (ACCHO) and KWY Aboriginal Corporation (ACCO) to pilot culturally safe health and development checks, improving understanding of child development and access to follow-up support. The pilot models included Aboriginal Child and Family Linkers, who connect families to additional services, enhancing continuity of care and reducing barriers to access.
- The role of ACCOs and Aboriginal businesses in early childhood reform is growing through a new preferred supplier panel set up by the OECD. Two ACCOs and three Aboriginal-owned businesses were selected to deliver cultural safety training to staff in preschools and long day care centres across SA. The training, co-designed with Aboriginal leaders, focuses on Knowing, Being, and Doing. Access to training will be partly centrally funded, with all Flying Start partner services receiving foundation training in Knowing. Other programs will be available for services to purchase using their Preschool Boost funding, supporting Aboriginal leadership and culturally safe learning environments.

## Outcome 5: Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential

Leading Agency: Department for Education

### Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track

Nationally,

- in 2021, 68.1% of Aboriginal people aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. This is an increase from 63.2% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA,

- in 2021, 64.6% of Aboriginal people aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. This is an increase from 61.4% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 2 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, both were reported as in progress and on track.

### Key SA actions

#### Supporting proud and confident Aboriginal learners

Through the Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019-2029 (AES), the department continues to work towards its vision that each Aboriginal child and young person is a proud and confident learner, achieving at their highest potential. The three 10-year Strategy milestones are:

- Aboriginal children develop foundations for success in early years
- Aboriginal children and young people excel in school
- Aboriginal young people are on pathways to **success**

Relevant goals that underpin this vision are:

- Goal 1. Aboriginal children's cognitive, emotional, social and communication skills and overall health and wellbeing, support them to succeed

- Goal 2. Aboriginal children meet or exceed the same standards of achievement for literacy and numeracy as non-Aboriginal children
- Goal 3. All Aboriginal students achieve their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) or vocational education qualification at the same rate as non-Aboriginal students

A new Aboriginal Funding Model for schools commenced in 2024 and is a key system enabler for the AES. Replacing an annual allocation across 4 separate funding lines, the new model provides schools with a 3-year funding allocation across 2 lines. This resulted in greater funding certainty for schools, and flexibility, to support local decisions about how to allocate resources, informed by the needs and priorities of Aboriginal students, their families and communities.

### **Aboriginal Voice Framework**

Launched in late 2022, and mandated from term 1, 2023, the Aboriginal Voice Framework is being implemented and consolidated as a business-as-usual approach across the department. It establishes a means for ensuring Aboriginal expertise, perspectives, knowledge and experience are embedded in the design, development and implementation of DfE policy and projects.

At the end of May 2025, the Aboriginal Voice register had over 100 members. Between term 1 2023 and the end of May 2025, over 143 consultations with Aboriginal Voice were undertaken by policy and project leads.

The department has partnered with Tauondi Aboriginal College to co-design and co-deliver professional learning for Aboriginal Voice participants and departmental policy and project leads. Between term 1 2023 and the end of May 2025, 14 professional learning sessions were co-delivered with Tauondi Aboriginal College.

The continued partnership with the SAAETCC provides invaluable support and insight for the Strategy to ensure the voices and perspectives of Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities are embedded within the department.

### **Clontarf and Shooting Stars Academy**

Clontarf has a current agreement with the department to support up to 957 Aboriginal male students in metropolitan, regional and remote schools for the 2025-2027 calendar years.

- As of term 3, 2024, 675 students were enrolled in Clontarf academies across 13 schools, an increase of 127 students over the previous year.
- Attendance rates for Aboriginal students at participating sites are greater than 70% and have improved by 0.9% since 2023. The attendance gap between non-Aboriginal male students and Clontarf students decreased by 0.6%.
- In 2024, 52 out of the 71 participating year 12 students enrolled in Clontarf in term 3 of that year achieved their SACE (73%).

Shooting Stars supports Aboriginal girls and young women across the Whyalla primary and high schools between year 3 and year 11. As of term 1, 2025, there were 109 enrolments.

## Aboriginal Pathways Programs

Over the past year, the Aboriginal Pathways statewide programs, South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA), Workabout, and Arts have continued to inspire and empower Aboriginal secondary students across SA. These culturally responsive programs provide meaningful and engaging educational experiences that promote student confidence, identity, and aspiration. For the period July 2024 to June 2025:

- SAASTA specialist academies report a 19.02% increase in enrolment, with 100% of students meeting attendance benchmarks.
- Workabout Program reports a 45.19% increase in student enrolments from across metropolitan and regional schools. Nearly 250 students participated in vocational training programs, with 50 Aboriginal Pathways to Success cultural workshops delivered in schools

Working in strong partnership with schools and communities, the programs have contributed to increased engagement, improved attendance, and stronger academic achievement among Aboriginal students. Notably, this has supported higher SACE completion rates and improved transitions into further education, training, and employment.

These programs are SACE accredited and non-accredited offering unique opportunities for students to explore careers through immersive, hands-on learning. The programs uphold high expectations of participation and achievement, while embedding cultural safety, community connection, and Aboriginal identity at their core.

Key learnings from the past year highlight the importance of cultural relevance, relationship-building, and student voice in driving engagement and success. By creating spaces where students feel seen, supported, and empowered, the programs help students to realise their potential, set ambitious goals, and thrive in school and beyond.

Collectively, the Aboriginal Pathways programs have demonstrated strong outcomes and remain a powerful vehicle for change, growth, and opportunity for SA's Aboriginal young people.

## Outcome 6: Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways

**Leading Agency:** Department of State Development - Skills SA

**Target Data -** Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Improving	Improving, but not on track

Nationally,

- in 2021, 47.0% of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications of Certificate III or above, an increase from 42.3% in 2016, the baseline year
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA,

- in 2021, 42.2% of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications of Certificate III or above, an increase from 39.8% in 2016, the baseline year
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 4 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process 3 were reported as in progress and on track, and one was no longer being progressed.

### Key SA actions

#### Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy

Skills SA are working with SAACCON to develop an Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy in partnership with Aboriginal communities including consideration of the following elements:

- Supporting training pathways for all Aboriginal learners including VET in schools, and adult learners seeking to build, deepen or broaden their skills.
- Delivery at all levels including pre-vocational community learning, foundation skills and certificate courses at all levels.
- Culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal learners, recognising Aboriginal cultural leadership.
- Building capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled (ACC) Registered Training Organisations (RTOs).

- Building capability of RTOs to support Aboriginal learners.
- Targeted support for students to improve retention.

This year there has been excellent progress in the development of the Strategy. The Strategy is supported by a governance structure incorporating a Project Reference Group and Working Group co-chaired by Skills SA and SAACCON. A draft Strategy has been co-designed following a statewide consultation process led by an independent Aboriginal business.

The Strategy is currently being finalised for release.

Skills SA continues to subsidise training and adult community education places that deliver pathways to support Aboriginal people to access skills and training in qualifications linked to strategic economic priority areas with employment demand. Skills SA also prioritises supports for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees through its Group Training Organisation (GTO) incentives including GTO Boost.

## Outcome 7: Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education

**Leading Agency:** Department of State Development – Skills SA

**Target Data -** Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Worsening	Improving, but not on track

Nationally,

- in 2021, 58.0% of Aboriginal people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training. This is an increase from 57.2% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA,

- in 2021, 55.5% of Aboriginal people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training. This is a decrease from 57.6% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 2 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, both were reported as in progress and on track.

### Key SA actions

#### Fee Free TAFE Tranche 2

The Fee Free Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Tranche 2 for First Nations learners commenced in 2024 and will continue for three years (to December 2026), offering 1,500 fee free training places for delivery by non-government training providers to Aboriginal students in SA. These places are supported by \$4.8 million of funding by the Australian and SA Governments. Importantly, they are also additional to fee free places being offered to Aboriginal students by TAFE SA.

Fee Free arrangements are supporting delivery in courses with priority for the Aboriginal community: languages, cultural heritage, culturally grounded health and well-being services (particularly for AHCSA and Nunkuwarrin Yunti). Despite timing and shorter delivery windows, student enrolments have been strong, alongside a growth in capacity across ACC RTOs for meeting service demand.

Alongside this, and an important step towards broader sector development, ACC RTOs have also identified the opportunity to support delivery to Aboriginal students by non-Aboriginal RTOs: both in supporting culturally attuned delivery and vocational educator development.

SA's efforts to increase skill development opportunities that lead directly to employment will be supported more broadly through implementation of National Skills Agreement policy priorities related to Closing the Gap and complementary activity geared towards building the VET workforce.

### **Rising numbers of Aboriginal apprentices in SA goes against the trend**

SA has a strong commitment to increasing training completions.

- Latest available National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) Apprentice and Trainee Collection data indicates that as at December 2024 there were 550 Aboriginal apprentices and trainees in-training, a 3.8% increase on 2023 levels, 140 were in-training with a GTO.
- The South Australian Group Training Program (SAGTP) continues to provide GTO targeting training contract commencements and completions for Aboriginal young people. Payment rates per commencement/completion are doubled for Aboriginal learners.

Notably, the rise in Aboriginal apprentices and trainees in-training has taken place in the context of a national decline in traineeship and apprenticeship commencements, following the finalisation of stimulus initiatives post-COVID.

SA's success can be partly attributed to ongoing targeting of areas of government priority to ensure that training investment, including apprenticeships and traineeships are aligned to strategic economic demand.

Moving forward, improved completions, including Aboriginal apprentices and trainees will be a focus area for the National Skills Agreement Policy Initiative Implementation Plan for Increasing Completions. This will support a continued and strategic focus on supporting success.

## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

**Leading Agency:** Department of State Development - Skills SA

**Target Data -** Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%.	Improving	Improving, and on target

Nationally,

- in 2021, 55.7% of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 years were employed. This is an increase from 51.0% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows good improvement and is on track to be met.

In SA,

- in 2021, 50.1% of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 years were employed. This is an increase from 46.4% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 11 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, one was completed, 6 were in progress and on track, and 4 were in progress but delayed.

### Key SA actions

#### The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub

Established under the Adelaide City Deal and aligned with the Indigenous Business Sector Strategy, DPC's *The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub* continues to play a pivotal role in supporting Aboriginal entrepreneurs across SA. Funded through a \$3 million agreement between NIAA and DPC until June 2023, the funding agreement was extended in two separate phases, first by a period of two years and subsequently by an additional one year, increasing the total funding to \$6 million until end June 2026. The Circle provides culturally safe access to business support, capital, networks, and information.

The Circle delivers results through a focus on five key areas:

- Business Development Support – Streamlined access to existing support and services through individual case management, referral and connection to The Circle community.

- Access to new markets – Connection to a range of procurement and participation opportunities across South Australia with the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Facilitating connections and building business to business relationships in a culturally safe and appropriate way.
- Expert business advice - Access to professional support for key business acumen, experienced market expertise and fit for purpose business advice.
- Capability growth – networking opportunities and events to improve business-to-business relationships and stimulate engagement and participation in capacity, capability and confidence building activities.
- Access to the physical - hub located at the Lot Fourteen innovation district – access to meeting rooms, providing a culturally safe place to be innovative, connect with others and conduct business from a central, well-equipped, professional location. Lot Fourteen also provides connectivity to other statewide innovation places through the SA government’s SA Innovation Places Leadership framework.

This initiative has highlighted the importance of personalised, strengths-based engagement. The Circle’s holistic, community-driven approach is proving effective in building confidence, capability, and long-term economic empowerment for Aboriginal business owners.

Other effective strategies adopted by the Circle include:

- embedding culturally responsive employment and business support services.
- strengthening partnerships with the ACCO sector.
- supporting skills development aligned with local and regional economic opportunities.
- promoting Aboriginal business ownership and procurement pathways.

This year the Circles membership grew by 108 to 451 businesses.

### **A new Place to Create for Aboriginal artists and organisations**

Aboriginal artists and communities often face barriers to sustainable careers in the arts. To address these challenges and champion Aboriginal arts and culture, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Strategy for South Australia* was launched in 2022. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Advisory Panel was established to support delivery.

The Strategy now works alongside the SA Government’s arts policy, *A Place to Create*, to strengthen Aboriginal leadership in arts and culture and build clear pathways to long-term careers. *A Place to Create* was launched by the Premier of SA and the Minister for Arts on 31 March 2025, following extensive consultation across the sector, including with Aboriginal artists and representatives.

A whole of government policy, *A Place to Create* includes actions from agencies across government, with a strong focus on Aboriginal artists and arts organisations. The Policy is supported by investment of over \$80 million, \$13 million of which is new funding. This includes more than \$2.3 million into Aboriginal arts and culture in SA.

Through this continued commitment to coordinated effort to remove systemic barriers, support cultural expression, and foster sustainable careers for Aboriginal artists across SA, the following arts initiatives were delivered in 2024 alone:

- **Tandanya:** Continued funding for Tandanya, Australia's oldest Aboriginal community-controlled arts organisation, ensuring its ongoing role in cultural leadership and programming.
- **First Nations Theatre Fellowship (Brink Productions):** A tailored fellowship for two emerging First Nations creatives to explore and develop careers in theatre.
- **First Nations Dance Program (The Mill):** A First Nations-led program creating accessible and sustainable pathways for dancers.
- **Critical Writing Mentoring Program (InReview):** Aims to grow the number of First Nations arts reviewers and ensure their voices are represented in public arts discourse.
- **Board, Governance and Leadership Workshop:** A culturally responsive two-day workshop delivered with the Institute of Community Directors Australia to build leadership capacity.
- **Augmented Reality Masterclass:** A two-day workshop delivered in partnership with Museum of Discovery (MOD) at the University of South Australia (UniSA) to help First Nations creatives build digital skills in emerging technologies.
- **Digital Futures Industry Development Program (Pilot):** Five First Nations creatives selected via an expression of interest to build digital and professional skills with support from Sandpit and MOD at UniSA.
- **Carclew Emerging Creatives Program:** A partnership with CreateSA, Creative Australia, and Carclew to mentor five emerging creatives, including an on-Country residency for established artists.
- **Support for Iwiri Arts:** Backing for Iwiri's multidisciplinary Anangu art studio, providing artists with opportunities to create, collaborate, and grow their practice.

### **Mintabie Township Decommissioning and Remediation Project**

The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM)-led Mintabie Township Decommissioning and Remediation Project represents the latest phase in returning the Mintabie Township Area to APY communities. Over the past year, DEM has maintained and strengthened its partnership with APY and the Australian Government through the ongoing work of the Mintabie Oversight Committee (MOC), comprising senior representatives from all three parties.

This year the MOC has also progressed planning to a point where the outcomes and inputs from the APY Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) informed the development of a detailed rehabilitation plan. This plan was subsequently approved, enabling the project to move forward with the engagement of a head contractor to undertake township decommissioning works.

A key challenge for the project has been sustaining effective pathways for Anangu in relation to employment and training, particularly where specific skills are required to support work readiness. To address these challenges, the project has sought to maximise Anangu employment by engaging with the Australian Government's Community Development Program (CDP), delivered locally by the APY's Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC). The project continues to explore opportunities to align work activities with CDP participation and will continue to work closely with the APY Executive and the MOC to ensure community input informs implementation and that Anangu involvement remains a priority.

In the year ahead, the MOC will shift its focus to the revegetation phase of the project to be designed around APY needs and priorities while considering budget constraints. The MOC will agree to a detailed revegetation project plan. As relevant contractors are engaged, opportunities to maximise Anangu employment will be pursued. The project is expected to be complete by July 2026.

### **Building Infrastructure & Construction Industry Capacity – Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) Northern Water Project Delivery Office**

During the 2024-2025 financial year, the DIT Northern Water project team met with Traditional Owner Groups, the Far North Aboriginal Economic Collective (FNAEC), and other industry networks and organisations as part of fostering strong, ongoing partnerships and to develop a sound understanding of Aboriginal business capability and capacity in the region. This foundational work has provided insights and is informing thinking and planning to support Aboriginal economic participation on the project.

A key learning has been the need for continued engagement to understand how best to establish achievable but realistic contractor targets for Aboriginal Economic Participation. To do this, the project is:

- Engaging with industry networks and organisations including FNAEC, the Circle, and TACTIC to understand both local and Aboriginal capacity and capability in the region.
- Working with Traditional Owner groups to build their understanding of the contract model, workforce and supply chain opportunities.
- Identifying areas of economic opportunity across forecast workforce needs, work packages, and supply chains aligned to the RNTBCs businesses, enterprises or capabilities.
- Recommending strategies for addressing challenges or barriers as part of project procurement processes.

Early engagement and a continued transparent approach have been critical, alongside formal agreements to guide engagement.

## **Other actions**

### **Maximising economic opportunities through procurement**

With the aim of continuing to facilitate improved access to employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people, DEM supports the Aboriginal Economic Participation Policy (embedded in the South Australian Industry Participation policy). DEM will work closely with the Department for Innovation and Skills Procurement Team to increase the number and diversity of Aboriginal-owned businesses in winning procurement contracts for infrastructure projects with the department.

### **Building cultural safety for Aboriginal public sector employees**

A Working Group of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee has been established with a vision to make the SA Government a culturally safe employer of choice for Aboriginal South Australians and provide greater procurement outcomes for Aboriginal-owned businesses. As the Committee's efforts focused on a renewed SA Implementation Plan, the work of this action centred on a local agency plan within DHS to improve its standing as a culturally safe employer and to provide greater procurement outcomes for Aboriginal businesses.

### **Screening Unit working to be more accessible for Aboriginal applicants**

The SA Government Screening Unit is working to implement measures to make the assessment process more accessible to Aboriginal applicants and to ensure that these applicants have culturally appropriate information and support to respond to requests for information. This year, work included engaging the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to provide assistance to applicants and supporting Aboriginal applicants to give verbal submissions.

**Outcome 9:** Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need

**Leading Agency Target 9A:** SA Housing Trust

**Leading Agency Target 9B:** SA Housing Trust

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target 9A:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improving	Improving, but not on target
<b>Target 9B:</b> By 2031, all Aboriginal households: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. within discrete Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard</li> <li>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'.</li> </ol>	No assessment available	No assessment available

Nationally,

- in 2021, 81.4% of Aboriginal people were living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. This is an increase from 78.9% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, target 9A shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA,

- in 2021, 82.8% of Aboriginal people were living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. This is an increase from 82.5% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, target 9A is improving.

Target 9B is not able to be reported against as there is no data source currently available which includes all required data elements.

## SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 9 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, 2 were complete and 7 were in progress and on track.

To date the focus has been on progression of Target 9A.

As of 30 June 2025, the percentage of Aboriginal people not living in overcrowded housing by housing type is as follows

- 85% in Public Housing
- 81% in Aboriginal Housing (State Owned and Managed Indigenous Housing)
- 81% in non-remote Aboriginal Community Housing
- 47% in remote Aboriginal Community Housing.

The Trust has commenced discussions with Department for Housing Urban Development (DHUD) to determine how partners can collaborate to progress Target 9B.

To drive partnered and strategic action, SAACCON and the Trust now hold fortnightly working group meetings and bi-monthly SAACCON and the Trust Partnership Housing Subcommittee meetings.

## Key SA actions

### South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body

The Trust, in partnership with SAACCON, co-designed a five-year funding agreement to support the establishment of a South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body.

The establishment of a standalone South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak aims to build and sustain the Aboriginal housing sector in South Australia.

### Aboriginal Elders Village

Purrkanaitya was identified as a priority project for the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) and community and is being delivered in partnership between KYAC, Aboriginal Community Housing Limited (ACHL), Community Housing Limited (CHL), Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) and the Trust

Purrkanaitya is currently under construction and will provide culturally appropriate accommodation for Aboriginal Elders in 40 single-bedroom units. This innovative development is on a 1.5ha site 12 km south of the Adelaide CBD on Kurna Country. Purrkanaitya promotes independent living and will deliver long-term, culturally appropriate and affordable housing tenancies for Aboriginal Elders.

Purrkanaitya will be the first Aboriginal-owned community housing in SA. Aboriginal people are at the centre of all aspects of the project with Aboriginal voices influencing the co-design, location, and other concepts including service delivery.

## Other related work undertaken in SA

### Critical water infrastructure across remote communities

The SA Government remains committed to developing a standard for a basic level of safe and reliable potable water for self-supplied remote communities, including Aboriginal communities. To support this work, the department is working on a number of water infrastructure projects in remote communities.

This year, the Department of Environment and Water (DEW), in partnership with the National Water Grid Fund, worked with communities and the Australian Government to identify solutions to water supply, quality and pricing issues, including:

- DEW worked with the Scotdesco community on the far west coast to implement a range of works to improve water security. The work was undertaken with funding assistance of \$0.5 million from the Australian Government. A community handover day was held in October 2024 to officially transfer the new assets to the community.
- Iga Warta Water Security Project, delivered by DEW and the Municipal Services on Aboriginal Lands Program, on Adnyamathanha Country, has improved the quality and quantity of water available throughout the Iga Warta Homeland. This project was completed in December 2024.
- Gerard Water Security Project, delivered by SA Water, will re-establish and upgrade a water treatment plant that provides drinking water to approximately 45 Aboriginal residents living on the River Murray. This project is still underway.
- The Indulkana (Iwantja) Water Security Project, delivered by SA Water, will upgrade the existing water supply for the APY community of 280 people, by drilling 3 new bores in response to increased housing and high-water consumption which is currently placing stress on the existing bore field. This project is underway.

A lack of advocacy for Aboriginal communities impacts water affordability. This is being addressed through the Consumer Advocacy and Research Fund (CARF) under the *Water Industry Act 2012*. In 2024-2025 DEW funded:

- The SA Council of Social Service to advocate for Aboriginal communities with respect to water affordability and other inequities via submissions to the Productivity Commission's 2024 Inquiry into the National Water Initiative, 2024-2025 State Budget and the SA Water Regulatory Determination 2024 Draft Decision.
- Uniting Country SA (in association with Catholic Country SA) to undertake a project to better understand water affordability and wellbeing in remote SA with a particular focus on Coober Pedy and Ceduna. The project seeks to understand how high-water prices can compound other financial pressures facing people in remote towns and communities.

DEW has identified that success relies on partners working collaboratively with communities resulting in community driven solutions to secure the water supply.

## **Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES)**

The Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) provides electricity to Aboriginal communities on the APY lands, Oak Valley and Yalata. The service consists of generation operations and maintenance, distribution maintenance, meter reading and retail. This year the project piloted an upgrade of the Central Power House in Umuwa. The pilot resulted in about 700 to 800 kilolitres of diesel fuel savings and an improvement in fault identification and rectification.

The Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) identified challenges in project delivery, which included the very remote location, extreme and harsh weather making roads unpassable, upward cost pressures and the need for specialised knowledge in relation to integrating new technologies. The project partners were able to work through these challenges by focusing on meaningful and early communication.

These learnings will inform a submission to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) for the upgrade of three Aboriginal community power stations for high penetration renewables and automation at Yalata, Oak Valley and Pipalyatjara.

## **Improved referral pathways and specialised infrastructure**

During 2024-2025, the Trust leased properties to Aboriginal Community Housing Ltd (ACHL) to provide culturally appropriate housing services across three key programs:

- Skillin' It – a partnership with Aboriginal Family Support Services supporting young people under Guardianship to live independently.
- Tika Tirka – a purpose-built facility for Aboriginal students from regional and remote areas who need to live in the Adelaide CBD to maintain their studies.
- Employment and Education Housing – properties across SA rented to Aboriginal people who are required to relocate for education, training or employment reasons.

## Outcome 10: Aboriginal adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

**Leading Agency:** Department for Correctional Services

**Target Data -** Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15%.	Worsening	Worsening

Nationally,

- at 30 June 2024, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal prisoners was 2,304.4 per 100,000 adult population.
- the 2024 rate is an increase from the previous year (2,041.5 per 100,000 adult population in 2023) and an increase from 1,906.1 per 100,000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

In SA,

- at 30 June 2024, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal prisoners was 2,472.2 per 100,000 adult population.
- the 2024 rate is an increase from the previous year (2,122.2 per 100,000 adult population in 2023) and an increase from 2,089.5 per 100,000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 4 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process all 4 were in progress and on track.

The socio-economic outcomes aimed at reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system are:

- **Outcome 10** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system
- **Outcome 11** - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

The SA Government recognises that the rates at which Aboriginal people are imprisoned is unacceptable. Past Government policy has not worked to change this state of affairs. A multi-levelled approach, which spans generations, is imperative in reducing these rates, and vastly improving the lives of Aboriginal people.

## Key SA actions

### Over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the criminal justice sector

This target aims to reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15% by 2031. In light of ongoing successes through focused efforts, the DCS has now committed to achieve a reduction of 20.5% by 2031.

A range of initiatives are in place to support the achievement of this commitment broadly delivered through the Aboriginal Strategic Framework (ASF). The ASF provides a culturally informed and tailored approach to address the needs of Aboriginal prisoners and offenders and ensures that DCS programs, policies and supports are culturally safe.

A range of initiatives are in place to support the achievement of this commitment, including:

- **Aboriginal Cadetship Program:** The Aboriginal Cadetship program is one of a suite of career pathways into DCS for Aboriginal people. Cadets undertake the program concurrently with their chosen field of study at university. Six Aboriginal women have commenced part time employment within three Community Correctional Centres and our Corporate Finance team. These. The Cadetship program is recognised as a key tool in efforts to build the cultural competency within the DCS workforce.
- **Community Transition and Learning Centre (Lemongrass Place):** Community Transition and Learning Centre (Lemongrass Place): Lemongrass Place in Port Augusta enables participants to prepare for reintegration into their chosen community through partnership-based case management with cultural and practical supports. Supports can include trade-based training and qualifications, alcohol and other drug supports, mental health and disability support, cultural support and community linkages.
- The program has had an increase in participants and improved transitions into community over the 2024-2025 reporting period. Collaborations with community service delivery organisations have also increased. Examples include partnerships with Uniting Country, Life without Barriers, Workskil, Pika Wiya Health, SA Housing Trust and Cross Borders Program to support participants.
- **Mirnu Aboriginal Cultural Treatment Unit – Yatala Labour Prison:** The Aboriginal Cultural Unit located within Mirnu at Yatala Labour Prison, aims to address the high remand rate of Aboriginal men and focuses on interventions that enable Aboriginal men to reduce and or stop reoffending, all while being in culturally safe place. The program supports men to better understand cultural values and connections including kinship and community ties, support with numeracy and literacy as well as addressing any rehabilitation needs where appropriate to do so. Once men have successfully completed this program, they will be transferred to lower security sites.

In June 2025, Mirnu saw its fourth cohort of Aboriginal men complete the program. Since May 2024, over 40 Aboriginal men have successfully completed the Our Way My Choice program in Mirnu. DCS has also seen a significant increase of Aboriginal people accessing low security sites since the implementation of Mirnu Cultural Unit.

- **Reducing road safety, licence and vehicle related offences:** SAPOL's Road Safety Section has developed a strong relationship with Aboriginal communities and organisations in the Western Suburbs of Adelaide. Working closely with ACCOs in a culturally informed education-based model, SAPOL aims to reduce incarceration for road safety, licence and vehicle related offences.

DCS has a strong plan for action to reduce over representation. Next steps include:

- Supporting the ongoing implementation of Yalakiana Tapa through the recent investment of \$11.181 million across the forward estimates to enable the ongoing program delivery by InComPro Aboriginal Corporation.
- Growing the capacity of the Aboriginal Cadetship Program from the original scope of six placements.
- Continue to deliver the Road to Redemption program in partnership with Workskil Australia and Carey Training with the aim to increase secure employment for Aboriginal men and women released from our care.

## Other related work undertaken in SA

### Partnerships to improve access to culturally appropriate AOD services

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC) have been contracted to provide the following services:

- In prison support through drug and alcohol counselling to Aboriginal prisoners across all state institutions. ADAC has also started the same program at the Adelaide Remand Centre.
- In community support by working closely with offenders living in community.
- Manage and operate program delivery of Lemongrass Place.
- Program delivery of Lemongrass Place (see above).

### Violence Prevention Program – Aboriginal Males (VPP-AM)

The Violence Prevention Program – Aboriginal Males (VPP-AM) and Aboriginal Male Family Violence Program (AMFVP), are currently delivered in prisons.

Clinicians and supervisors continue to collaborate on the development of content for the AMFVP program. This culturally guided approach has enabled Aboriginal staff to share knowledge, cultural perspectives, and concepts with non-Aboriginal staff without carrying the sole responsibility for resource development. The shared approach promotes a more balanced distribution of workload and supports non-Aboriginal staff to deepen their understanding of cultural knowledge and lived experiences.

A cultural supervision tool has been developed for use in both individual and group supervision sessions when an Aboriginal participant is involved in a program. The tool is currently being trialled by clinicians and supervisors within the VPP-AM program, with feedback being gathered to inform its improvement prior to a broader rollout across the business unit. In addition, a document outlining cultural considerations and reflective questions has been developed to support clinicians in completing RPB reports. This resource is designed to guide the appropriate documentation of cultural connectedness, protective factors, responsivity needs, and culturally tailored recommendations. To ensure stakeholders have an understanding of the unique needs of the prisoner cohort.

Collaborative work is currently underway with Aboriginal staff across the Rehabilitation Programs Branch (RPB), who are developing tailored professional development sessions and training opportunities for non-Aboriginal clinicians. These initiatives aim to build capability, enhance skills, and deepen knowledge for more effective and culturally responsive practice with Aboriginal participants.

Feedback from Aboriginal Clinicians, Aboriginal Program Officers, and RPB Clinicians is that they consider the programs are building strong collaborative and effective working relationships. These officers report that these have translated into more appropriate program referrals and program population, effective service delivery, and overall program participation.

## Road to Redemption



The DCS continue to deliver the Road to Redemption program with partners Workskil Australia and Carey Training. The program supports Aboriginal men and women who have recently exited custody to secure employment in the construction and civil construction industry. Participants in this program graduate with a Certificate II in Construction and accredited Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training. All participants receive ongoing support and mentorship post-program completion.

80 participants have now completed the program with 75% maintaining employment. Over the life of the program, 22 employers have been actively engaged in the program.

**DCS**

## Outcome 11: Aboriginal young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

**Leading Agency:** Department of Human Services

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	No change

Nationally,

- in 2023-2024, the rate of Aboriginal young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 26.1 per 10,000 young people in the population
- the 2023-2024 rate is above the previous 4 years (from a low of 20.4 per 10,000 young people in 2022-23) but it is a decrease from 28.3 per 10,000 young people in 2018-2019 (the baseline year)
- the trend for the target shows no change from the baseline.

In SA,

- in 2023-2024, the rate of Aboriginal young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 17.0 per 10,000 young people in the population
- the 2023-2024 rate is a decrease from the previous year (18.1 per 10,000 young people in 2022-2023) and a decrease from 25.9 per 10,000 young people in 2018-2019 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 3 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, 2 were complete and one was in progress and on track.

### Key SA actions

#### Aboriginal Youth Justice Practice Framework for South Australia.

A co-design process with SAACCON to develop and implement an Aboriginal Youth Justice Practice Framework for South Australia has commenced. This work is continuing.

## **Youth Justice Working Group**

SAACCON and DHS have established South Australia's Youth Justice Working Group, a partnership that will further focus effort to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system. The inaugural Youth Justice Working Group meeting was held in April 2025. Preceding this meeting, DHS co-hosted a Youth Justice Knowledge Sharing Event with SAACCON in March 2025.

The Youth Justice Knowledge Sharing Event created a forum for service providers and advocates from across SA Government, Aboriginal communities, and Aboriginal led organisations to share knowledge and expertise on youth justice matters that intersect with child protection, health, and therapeutic services. The Youth Justice Working Group will continue to meet throughout 2025-26.

Moving forward, it has been agreed that the Youth Justice Working Group work plan will include the action being led by SAACCON and DHS to support culturally safe trauma-informed care and rehabilitation practices through culture. The partnership will also co-design monitoring mechanisms.

## **Aboriginal Cultural Community of Practice**

The Aboriginal Cultural Community of Practice now incorporates the Cultural Champions Network and has a broader range and scope. It is led by senior Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff. Membership is voluntary and driven by staff dedicated to improving cultural competency, safety and practice across DHS Youth Justice. This action is now considered business as usual.

## **Kornis Mendamaldi:**

SAPOL's Kornis Mendamaldi program in Murray Bridge continues to engage Aboriginal youth as a proactive response to an increase in youth offending and antisocial behaviour. The program provides a valuable opportunity to positively interact with young people who have had some minor behavioural issues. Established in 2022 by the Murray Mallee Crime Prevention Section in partnership with local ACCOs, the program continues as an example of how positive, productive relationships between community and police can translate to decreased youth offending.

## **Youth Justice Services Forum**

Aboriginal community-controlled service provider forums have been held in Port Lincoln and Whyalla. Participants at these forums raised concerns and identified strengths and potential solutions. The forums resulted in DHS funding place-based service responses, including Aboriginal youth workers and a night bus in Port Lincoln and a night bus in Whyalla. DHS continues to work with communities statewide to develop place-based responses in regional centres such as Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta. This work has transitioned to 'business as usual'.

## Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment Pilot Project

Young people subject to youth justice mandates and case managed through Community Youth Justice will be identified and offered the opportunity to participate in the Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment Pilot Project which is being delivered in partnership with RAW Group (100% Aboriginal owned and managed company).

The pilot provides opportunities and support for participants to upskill and obtain paid employment in the building, civil and construction industry. It aims to demonstrate how culturally appropriate training, whole-of-person mentoring, and the opportunity for paid employment can assist Aboriginal young people to break the re-offending cycle and improve their economic and social wellbeing.

## Outcome 12: Aboriginal children are not overrepresented in the child protection system

### Joint Lead Agencies:

- Department for Child Protection
- Department of Human Services

### Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%.	Worsening	Worsening

Nationally,

- Aboriginal children remain overrepresented in the child protection system
- in 2024, 50.3 per 1,000 Aboriginal children aged 0–17 years were placed in out of home care
- the 2024 rate is the same as the rate in 2023, and it is an increase from 47.3 per 1,000 children in 2019 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

In SA,

- Aboriginal children remain overrepresented in the child protection system
- in 2024, 83.0 per 1,000 Aboriginal children aged 0–17 years were placed in out-of-home care
- this has improved slightly since 2023 (83.6 per 1,000 children) but has worsened significantly since the baseline year (2019) (66.3 per 1,000 children).

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 3 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, 2 were complete and one was in progress and on track.

## Key SA actions

### Strategy to reduce over representation through the SA jurisdictional plan

DCP, DHS and other agency partners are committed to delivering a whole-of-system response grounded in Aboriginal leadership, cultural authority, and shared accountability. This includes aligning reform activity across key agendas, one of which is *Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–31* (Safe and Supported) which includes the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023–2026* (the Plan).

Safe and Supported is the key mechanism and guiding framework through which federal and state governments will work in partnership with Aboriginal Leadership to progress Target 12. The Plan identifies eight actions to address barriers and inequities faced by Aboriginal families and communities and lay the foundation for systemic change. To support implementation at the state level, SA will develop a jurisdictional plan to identify short-term actions and organise priorities.

As SA Government works towards this, several positive steps have been made:

- Legislative change was an important precursor to establishing the jurisdictional plan for Family Group Conferencing for Aboriginal families involved with child protection. The *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025* passed through both Houses of Parliament earlier this year and includes a number of strengthened provisions to support Aboriginal children and their families, and provisions to enable delegation of functions to ACCOs.
- In March 2025, a dedicated Executive Director, Aboriginal Policy and Services commenced at DCP in a newly created role to ensure a sustained focus on Closing the Gap priorities and cultural reform across the department. Critical to supporting this directorate has been an FTE expansion in senior Aboriginal staff in policy and practice management roles, bolstering the agency's ability to provide Aboriginal cultural advice across operational and strategic matters, and contribute to policy and practice developments
- The Child Protection Sub-committee has been established in March 2025 with joint Chair and Secretariat roles being shared between SAACCON and DPC. The Executive Director, Aboriginal Policy and Services will also have oversight of the new Child Protection Subcommittee. This Sub-committee is co-chaired by DCP and SAACCON and is the central mechanism for overseeing SA's implementation of Target 12, and ensures Aboriginal-led governance, shared decision-making and system-level accountability to reduce overrepresentation and shift power to community.

The Child Protection Sub-committee is responsible for driving reforms across several priority areas:

- Embedding the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle* through active efforts across policy, legislation, and practice.
- Strengthening Aboriginal leadership in decision-making and service delivery within the child protection and family support system.
- Developing and implementing an investment strategy to increase the proportion of child protection and family support services delivered by ACCOs.
- Building capacity within the ACCO sector through workforce development and sustainable growth initiatives.
- Ensuring significant investment in early, targeted, and culturally safe supports for Aboriginal children and families to reduce the need for statutory intervention.
- Strengthening data transparency and evidence-based decision-making to support accountability and policy effectiveness.

The next step for the Sub-committee is to develop a strategic direction document to identify short-term, collaborative, and achievable priorities. This document will strengthen alignment across the key agenda items and serve as the foundation of the jurisdictional plan.

### **Wakwakurna Kanyini - Peak body for Aboriginal children and young people**

Wakwakurna Kanyini was incorporated and commenced operations in September 2024. It now plays a crucial role in informing government policies and driving child protection reforms, ensuring Aboriginal-led decision-making and culturally appropriate practices are central to these efforts.

Work to design and implement the Peak commenced in 2021, when DCP funded the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) to develop options for the Peak. SNAICC engaged extensively with key stakeholders, including SAACCON, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and ACCOs to identify models that would deliver in the South Australian context.

The establishment of Wakwakurna Kanyini marks a significant step in the Government's commitment to enable Aboriginal-led solutions. Wakwakurna Kanyini will continue to serve as a strong and independent voice, leading efforts to represent community-driven priorities to the SA Government. Its focus will be on enhancing outcomes for Aboriginal children and families and reducing over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system.

## Outcome 13: Aboriginal families and households are safe

**Leading Agency:** Department of Human Services

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	No assessment	No assessment

In 2018-19, the baseline year

- 8.4% of Aboriginal females aged 15 years and over, nationally, experienced domestic physical or face-to-face threatened physical harm.
- 7.2% of Aboriginal females aged 15 years and over, in SA, experienced domestic physical or face-to-face threatened physical harm.

There is no new data since the baseline year of 2018-19.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 5 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, one was completed, 2 were in progress and on track and 2 were in progress but delayed.

### Key SA actions

#### State Disability Inclusion Plan

The new whole-of-government State Disability Inclusion Plan, scheduled for release in August 2025, has been developed in accordance with the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* (SA) and the *Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Act 2024*. It acknowledges Aboriginal people with disability as a legislated priority group and reflects their specific needs and lived experiences.

The Plan draws on extensive consultation, including input from ACCOs and disability service providers. It recognises that Indigenous Australians are 1.9 times more likely to have a disability than non-Indigenous Australians and addresses this through targeted measures in areas such as Health and Wellbeing. The Plan also acknowledges that understandings of disability within Aboriginal communities may be shaped by culture, history, and kinship, and affirms the right of Aboriginal people to celebrate their identity. Additionally, it highlights actions embedded in State authority Disability Access and Inclusion Plans (DAIPs) that support progress toward Closing the Gap targets.

## **DHS' Disability Access and Inclusion Plan**

The DHS DAIP will incorporate targeted consultation in 2025 with SAACCON and its member organisations. Building on the State Plan's approach, DHS will engage meaningfully with SAACCON to ensure the DAIP addresses the overlapping barriers experienced by Aboriginal people with disability, including women and children who have experienced violence.

## **Ceduna Services Collaboration**

The Ceduna Services Collaboration (CSC) continues to operate as business as usual. The ongoing commitment to the CSC represents a genuine partnership between governments and Aboriginal communities to ensure shared decision making, strengthening of ACCO sector, and shared access to data and information at the regional level.

DHS supports the Far West Community Partnerships (FWCP) to lead the CSC, to provide coordinated and collaborative services aimed at achieving long term regional goals, as well as providing an immediate response to surge issues that appear in community from a harm minimisation and safety perspective.

DHS has a long-standing relationship with key agencies and service providers in Ceduna to reduce alcohol related harm and improve community safety. DHS continues to work closely with the Ceduna community, the Australian Government and local service providers on this matter.

## **Umuwa Multi Agency Facility**

Established in 2024-2025 the Umuwa facility provides multi-agency (SAPOL, DCP and Child Protection) joined-up service provision through its focus on improving the safety of children, families and communities by strengthening and enhancing agency responses. Better outcomes are delivered through connected information-sharing, planning and intervention processes; and increasing community consultation to inform culturally appropriate interventions.

## Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Aboriginal Partnership Committee

The Commission recognised the Closing the Gap objectives and the priority reforms. The Commission committed to conducting its inquiry in alignment with the priority reforms. To reflect this commitment, the Commission established an Aboriginal Partnership Committee with three SAACCON member organisations for the purpose of developing recommendations about service delivery to Aboriginal people and within Aboriginal communities. The APC played a crucial role in ensuring Aboriginal voice and experiences were embedded into the progress of the Royal Commission as well as the final report and recommendations. The APC involvement resulted in some targeted recommendations including:

- Services for Aboriginal people and communities should occur in accordance with the Closing the Gap priority reforms
- The South Australian government resource and support the development of a standalone 5-year Aboriginal domestic, family and sexual violence strategy.
- Co-design awareness campaigns with Aboriginal people
- Expansion of the Corka Bubs program to include wraparound services
- Scale up Cross Borders Program to include culturally appropriate programs suitable for Aboriginal women
- Supported accommodation that embeds culturally safe service delivery and delivered by or in partnership with an ACCO
- Prioritise ACCO delivery of specialist services for Aboriginal people

## Outcome 14: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

**Leading Agency:** Department for Health and Wellbeing

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal people towards zero.	No assessment available	Worsening

Nationally (which for this target is for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined),

- in 2023, the age-adjusted suicide rate for Aboriginal people rose to 30.8 per 100,000 people, above the rate of the previous two years and above the baseline in 2018 (23.6 per 100,000 people)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening
- this assessment is provided with a high level of confidence.

In 2019–2023, suicide was the leading cause of death for Aboriginal people aged 15–39 years nationally, including all five year age groups within that range.

No assessment of progress is available for SA.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 6 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, 2 were complete, 3 were in progress and on track and one was in progress but delayed.

Progress towards the target of reducing deaths by suicide helps to indicate whether people are experiencing greater degrees of social and emotional wellbeing. It is important to recognise that other indicators also help build a picture of social and emotional wellbeing.

The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people is determined by a multitude of factors beyond the mental or physical health of the individual. Concepts of autonomy and empowerment, connection to family, culture and Country, as well as employment and educational opportunity all contribute to social and emotional wellbeing<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Productivity Commission *Annual Data Compilation report July 2025*, pp .38, 39

## Key SA actions

### Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre (ASEWC)

In 2024, DHW commissioned the first all-ages Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre (ASEWC) in Australia, jointly funded by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention bilateral agreement.

Following a competitive open tender process, a consortium led by an ACCO was awarded the contract in May 2025. A working party, meeting fortnightly, is progressing operational outputs including:

- Staffing structure within the ASEWB Centre
- Finalise pathways and referrals in, through and out of the ASEWBC.
- Finalise the draft Model of Care.
- Finalise partnership agreements.
- Implement the Traditional Healers program.
- Identify specific group programs.

Extensive community consultations were undertaken across metropolitan and regional South Australia, including specific engagement with LGBTQI+ communities, and children and young people sector advocates.

Two metropolitan locations have been confirmed, with plans for the third being progressed.

### Repatriation efforts

DEW has committed to working with Aboriginal people and other partners to co-design a policy for the repatriation of old people (ancestral remains and materials) to Country on National Parks and Crown land.

In this reporting year, the policy and procedure were finalised and submitted to the Chief Executive DEW, following the incorporation of lessons learned from a repatriation project in August 2024 and support from the DEW Aboriginal Ministerial Advisory Committee.

DEW has identified the following as the enablers of success in this project:

- Mandating early engagement within the department and working collaboratively with the repatriating institutions and Aboriginal groups to ensure a coordinated approach to identify when and where departmental support is needed.
- Seeking clarity as to everyone's roles, responsibilities and available resources during the planning and execution of repatriation projects to ensure that repatriation is conducted according to departmental requirements and Aboriginal peoples' cultural protocols in a way that supports everyone's safety and wellbeing.

## **Services to Aboriginal Youth Program**

Services to Aboriginal Youth (STAY) focuses on early intervention, providing at-risk Aboriginal young people aged 10-19 years with access to the services and guidance needed to achieve their goals, strengthen their cultural and community connections, and build long-term resilience.

In 2024-2025, the program had ten providers (an increase of one from the previous year), four of which are ACCOs, and is delivered across ten regional and remote locations, comprising Yalata, Koonibba, Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Coober Pedy, Riverland, and Murray Bridge. DHS facilitated three Communities of Practice for STAY providers to share best practice ideas, knowledge and resources. Alongside a program evaluation which is currently underway, this is recognised as an important way in which DHS are working with partners to improve the service response for Aboriginal young people.

The STAY program is being recommissioned for three years from 2025-2026.

## **Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities**

Preventive Health SA is committed to working alongside the community-controlled sector to support the establishment and implementation of local Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities, enabling communities to build capacity to boost mental wellbeing, prevent suicide and develop postvention strategies.

The South Australian West Coast ACCHO Network (SAWCAN) and Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service accepted the offer for grant funding in 2024 to establish six Suicide Prevention Networks within their regions.

The agency acknowledges that support for the development of ACCO and ACCHO-led Suicide Prevention Networks and their action planning has been limited to date. A reflective process is now underway to determine the most appropriate next steps for re-engaging with ACCOs, ACCHOs and key stakeholders, guided by cultural safety and respect for cultural wisdom. Re-engagement efforts will focus on collaboratively designing Suicide Prevention Networks that are led by, and responsive to, local communities. This includes the co-development of action plans and other strategies focused on suicide prevention.

The upcoming appointments of suicide prevention and postvention backbone coordinators will help establish a sustainable operational model for all associated initiatives, ensuring ongoing support and continuity.

## Outcome 15: Aboriginal people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters

**Leading Agency:** Department for Environment and Water

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target 15a:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Improving, and on track
<b>Target 15b:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	Improving	Improving, and on track

As at 30 June 2024, 4,314,744 square kilometres of the land mass of Australia and 113,517 square kilometres of the sea country of Australia were subject to Aboriginal people's rights or interests.

Nationally,

- there was a 10.4% increase in the area of land and 25.6% increase in the area of sea country subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests between the baseline year of 2020 and 2024
- based on progress from the baseline, both the land mass target and sea country target show good improvement and are on track to be met.<sup>4</sup>

In SA,

- there was a 1.6% increase in the area of land and 172.4% increase in the area of sea country subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests between the baseline year of 2020 and 2024
- based on progress from the baseline, both the land mass target and sea country target show good improvement.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 4 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, all actions were in progress and on track.

<sup>4</sup> As at June 2024, the 2030 target of 15% for sea country has been exceeded.

## Key SA actions

### National Water Reform Committee – Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests

In 2024-2025, the Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Water Interests (CAWI) met five times to progress discussions on Aboriginal water reform matters and drafting of objectives for a new National Water Agreement.

An Expression of Interest process in 2024-2025 resulted in a number of new appointments to the committee to ensure representation from across Australia. CAWI now consists of 9 members chosen for their water expertise who bring a wealth of experience to discussions on Aboriginal water reform matters. This includes a new South Australian representative.

CAWI's scope has increased over time with the committee now becoming a Commonwealth advisory body. CAWI is now providing advice on a number of national programs and reform processes, including the development of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Inland Waters Target.

### Water planning and management

South Australia's Landscape Boards are actively working with Traditional Owners to ensure involvement in water planning and management processes. Several water allocation plans are being drafted or are undergoing amendment with processes in place to incorporate Aboriginal values and interests, including plans for the Barossa, Baroota, Lower Limestone Coast, Tatiara and South Basins and Musgrave areas.

Building on from existing water planning processes, in 2024-2025 DEW, in partnership with Landscape Boards across South Australia, commenced a statewide engagement process to co-design a framework to advance First Nations' water interests with Traditional Owners. The framework will support delivery of the Government of South Australia's commitments to work with Traditional Owners and peak bodies to improve water planning processes and outcomes within the state.

### Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB) is working to improve the ecology, knowledge and management of the Coorong.

The program has continued to build strong partnerships with Traditional Owners through ongoing engagement and collaboration. From early discussions to project delivery, input from Traditional Owners has shaped priorities and ensured that works reflect cultural values and responsibilities. This approach will continue to support cultural heritage protection, created employment and training opportunities, and strengthened two-way knowledge sharing between Traditional Owners and DEW.

HCHB will continue to engage closely with Traditional Owners to co-design next steps, progress Country Plans, and ensure that cultural knowledge and practices are part of how projects are planned, delivered, and monitored. The program remains committed to ensuring projects are undertaken in ways that respect cultural values while supporting both ecological outcomes and community priorities.

## Integrating Free, Prior and Informed Consent



### Flinders Ranges World Heritage Nomination

The Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Adnyamathanha Traditional Owners for the Flinders Ranges World heritage listing was a critical step in the nomination to the World Heritage Committee. FPIC is both a principle and a process under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

FPIC requires that Traditional Owners be able to offer or withhold consent, at any stage, as part of their participation in decision-making that concerns projects, laws and policies affecting their lives and lands, skies, waters and resources. The Australian Government does not have a set process for how FPIC should be obtained which meant that DEW had to work closely with the Traditional Owners to determine a process that met the UNDRIP standard.

To do this, DEW worked directly with the Adnyamathanha Traditional Landowners Cultural Heritage and Native Title Advisory Committee (CHANT) to design and implement an Adnyamathanha-led FPIC process. This process, which began formally in 2023, involved regular meetings and workshops with CHANT, Ikara-Flinders Ranges and Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges Co-management Board representatives and the wider Adnyamathanha community to ensure Adnyamathanha were fully informed and supportive of the nomination.

At the Adnyamathanha common law holders meeting in June 2025, a clear majority vote provided consent for the World Heritage nomination dossier to be submitted for assessment.

## Outcome 16: Aboriginal cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

**Leading Agency:** Department of the Premier and Cabinet

**Target Data -** Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	No assessment available	No assessment available

Nationally in the baseline year of 2018-19, there were 123 Aboriginal languages being spoken (with 14 considered strong).

In 2018-19 in SA, there were 17 Aboriginal languages being spoken (with only Pitjantjatjara considered a strong language).

There is insufficient data available to report progress for the target since the baseline data (2018-19) was established.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains one action against this socio-economic outcome. Of the action reported through this process it was completed.

## Key SA actions

### Recognition of Aboriginal languages and culture

The SA Government has committed for DPC to work across agencies to develop a whole-of-government approach to achieving shared objectives, including increased recognition of Aboriginal languages and culture, and investigating opportunities to strengthen and create new partnerships.

Over the past 12 months an across-government working group was convened for the first time. The group met to discuss a strategic approach to progressing this outcome and to developing a two-year plan for government to progress this outcome in a focused approach.

Despite challenges to progress this work within project timeframes, DPC report the project is gaining traction, with strong engagement and early progress across agencies. To build on this momentum, DPC has created a new executive role, Director, First Nations Engagement to lead and coordinate Closing the Gap reforms across government – including this important work.

To drive the project forward, project partners have agreed to develop and launch a 2-year Aboriginal Languages Strategy and focus on increasing visibility, revitalisation and integration of Aboriginal languages across government policies, programs and communications. DPC also recognise the opportunity to align with national priorities to build the capacity to appropriately resource local language revitalisation and cultural initiatives.

## Outcome 17: Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

**Leading Agency:** Department of Treasury and Finance

**Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment**

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	No assessment available	No assessment available

Nationally,

- in 2014-15, 73.5% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over accessed the internet in their home.
- there is no comparable data on home access to the internet for non-Aboriginal people.
- this means that estimating a trajectory to achieve parity is not currently possible.

In SA,

- in 2014-15, 73.4% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over accessed the internet in their home.
- there is no comparable data on home access to the internet for non-Aboriginal people.

There is no new data since the baseline year of 2014-2015.

### SA overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 2 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of the actions reported through this process, one was in progress and on track and one was in progress but delayed.

The SA Government is actively advocating for improved digital connectivity in First Nations communities through engagement with the Commonwealth Government and the telecommunications industry, while also participating in key advisory and working groups to support connectivity enhancement.

In alignment with Recommendation 7 of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group Roadmap, the SA Government has proposed a training program for Aboriginal people to provide basic troubleshooting and maintenance for telecommunications infrastructure on country and has facilitated several applications for the Commonwealth Government's First Nations Community Wi-Fi Program, currently under assessment.

## Key SA actions

### Aboriginal access to State Records

The SA Implementation Plan includes a commitment to work with the Narungga community to identify relevant records in the State Archive and if possible, provide copies of any records not already held by the community. A listing of records was provided to the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation in 2021.

Progress on a training program for Aboriginal community researchers has been delayed but is expected to be completed in 2026-2027, with training to be accessible on an ongoing basis. Initially targeted at the Narungga community, the proposal for a training program was expanded to all Aboriginal communities in South Australia following feedback from the State Records of South Australia Aboriginal Reference Group.

A working group was established in August 2023 with membership from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) and the State Records of South Australia Aboriginal Reference Group to improve access to archives by developing criteria for AAR to use when assessing applications for access to restricted records within the State's archive. The criteria takes into consideration the applicant and level of personal information and/or secret/sacred cultural sensitivities within the record. This working group will also review and develop a strategy of how the access process is communicated to the community. Communication is anticipated to occur in 2025-26.

### Accessible information in consultation

The last amendments to the Mining Act 1971 (SA) (Mining Act) which came into operation on 1 January 2021 modernised aspects of its regulatory framework to meet contemporary industry, community, and environmental management expectations. In May 2025, DEM released an Issues Paper seeking public and industry feedback on a range of proposals for improving the Act's regulatory framework.

The Issues Paper included a reform proposal for the repeal of the Mining Act's framework for recognising Native Title rights and interests and transition to the Right to Negotiate process under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Government consultation processes can be very resource intensive for individuals and stakeholder groups with limited time availability and resources. The provision of accessible information resources, targeted engagement and flexibility in the timeframes for receiving feedback have all been adopted to encourage active participation of interested Aboriginal people and communities and Native Title and Traditional Owner groups.

## Communication actions

The Closing the Gap Joint Communications Framework was approved by the SA Partnership Committee in April 2025 and is now being used by government departments, SAACCON and ACCOs to promote projects, activities and achievements under Closing the Gap.

The Communications Framework outlines shared communication approaches and key messages to raise awareness and understanding of Closing the Gap in South Australia. It also aims to encourage and strengthen more positive language and reporting on Closing the Gap.

The Closing the Gap Engagement Strategy is under development and will provide a reference point for safe and appropriate engagement between government departments, and the ACCO sector and aboriginal communities.

## Next steps

As we move toward the expiry of the current Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap in June 2026, early work is underway on the development of a new Implementation Plan for South Australia.

This is a significant opportunity to reset and strategically focus on actions that will have the most impact on the ground for Aboriginal families and communities in our state. With added insight from the Productivity Commission and Independent Reviews, we look forward to building upon current successes and supporting local solutions that deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal people.

As always, the success of this work relies on the partnership between SAACCON and the South Australian Government, and the strong voices of Aboriginal organisations and communities.



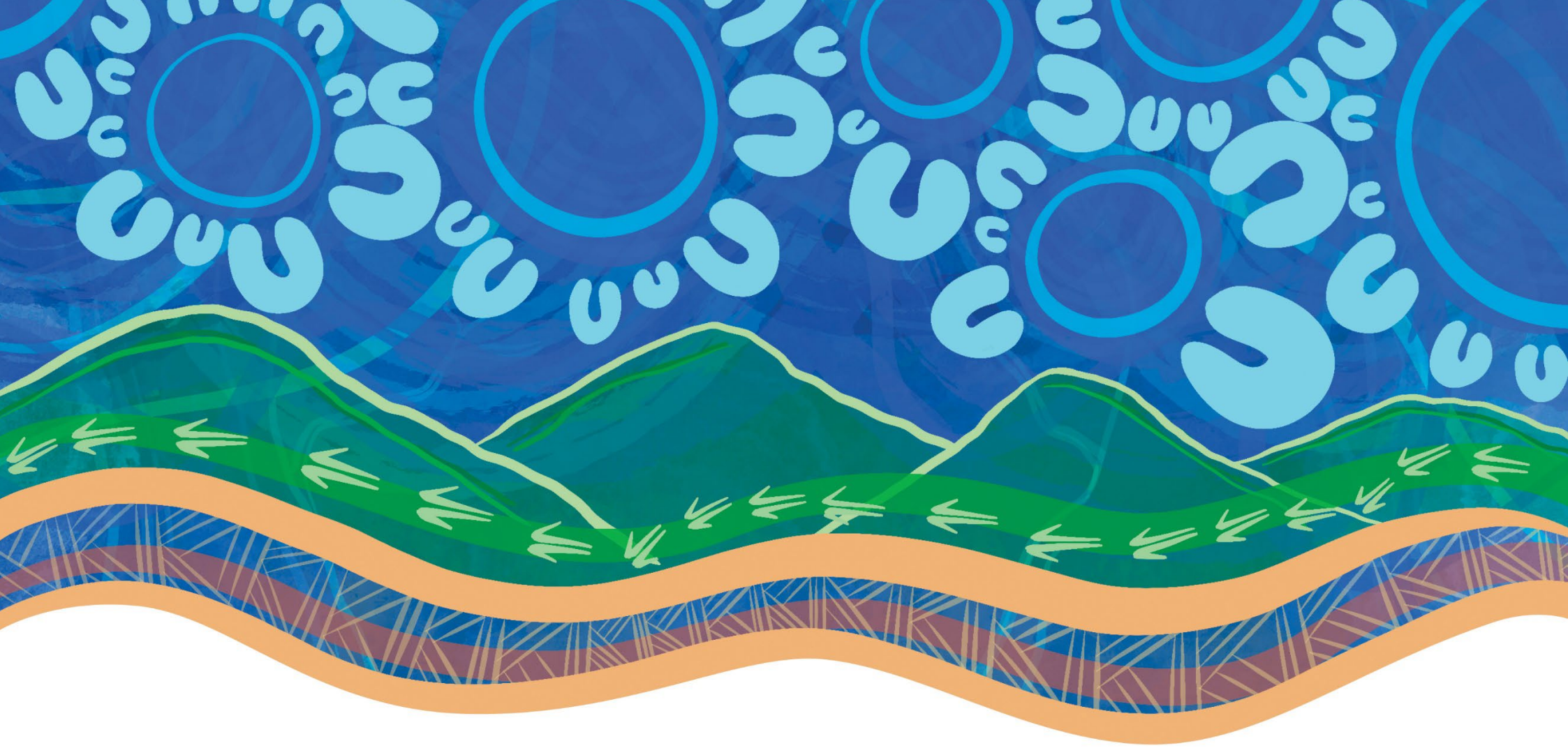
Government  
of South Australia



**SAACCON**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL  
COMMUNITY CONTROLLED  
ORGANISATION NETWORK



**CLOSING THE GAP**



# Closing the Gap

## Attachment A2 - CTG Annual Report Implementation Status Update 2024-2025

Action descriptions have been summarised and an ellipsis used to indicate where information has been cut. Full descriptions for each action can be found in South Australia's Implementation Plan.



## Abbreviations: - Partners, South Australian Government Departments and Authorities

**AGD** – Attorney-General’s Department

**DCP** – Department for Child Protection

**DCS** – Department for Correctional Services

**DfE** – Department for Education

**DEM** – Department for Energy and Mining

**DEW** – Department for Environment and Water

**DHUD** – Department for Housing and Urban Development

**DHS** – Department of Human Services

**DIT** – Department for Infrastructure and Transport

**DPC** – Department of the Premier and Cabinet

**DSD** – Department of State Development

**DTF** – Department of Treasury and Finance

**DTI** – Department for Trade and Investment

**OCPSE** – Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment

**ODA** – Office for Data Analytics (DTF)

**OECD** - Office for Early Childhood Development

**OIA** – Office of the Industry Advocate (DSD)

**PIRSA** – Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA

**SAACCON** – South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Network

**SA Health – BHFLHN** – Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network

**SA Health – CALHN** – Central Adelaide Local Health Network

**SA Health – DHW** – Department for Health and Wellbeing

**SA Health – DHW-OCP** – Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

**SA Health – EFNLHN** – Eyre and Far North Local Health Network

**SA Health – FUNLHN** – Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network

**SA Health – NALHN** – Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

**SA Health – RMCLHN** – Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network

**SA Health – SALHN** – Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

**SA Health – WCHN** – Women’s and Children’s Health Network

**SA Health – Preventive Health SA**

**SA Health – YNLHN** – Yorke and Northern Local Health Network





**SAPHS** – South Australian Prison Health Service

**SAPOL** – South Australia Police

**Skills SA** – Skills South Australia (DSD)

**SRSA** - State Records of South Australia

**The Trust** – South Australian Housing Trust

Legend			
Complete		In progress – delayed	
In progress – on track		Not yet due to commence	

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

**Outcome** Aboriginal peoples 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 peoples and governments in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal peoples have chosen their own representatives.

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
1.01 Strengthen and develop bilingual education in Anangu schools.	Ongoing	DfE SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.02</b> Develop a whole of government approach to achieving shared objectives, including increased recognition of Aboriginal languages and culture, and investigating opportunities to strengthen and create new partnerships.</p> <p>Develop a 2-year whole of government plan that has agreed approaches, with consideration to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with Aboriginal communities and ACCOs, develop and implement policy including the South Australian Aboriginal Languages Policy, aligned with the national priorities for the sector as identified in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Voices of Country (Australia’s Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032).</li> <li>The National Languages Policy Partnership 3 Year Plan and its 7 priority areas and 11 work areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Implementation of a long-term cross-agency work plan for Aboriginal languages.</li> </ul>	June 2026	DPC SAACCON	<b>In progress – delayed</b>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal development of a South Australian Aboriginal Languages Network comprising SAACCON and government agency representatives, and other key stakeholders as agreed, to support the implementation of joined up approaches to sector strengthening. Scope includes but is not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o information sharing</li> <li>o sector advice</li> <li>o cross-sector engagement with, and responses to the National Languages Policy Partnership</li> <li>o sector mapping.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Explore opportunities to provide coordinated, sustainable funding to support Aboriginal communities and ACCO's capacity and leadership in South Australian Aboriginal languages revitalisation, revival and maintenance.</li> <li>▪ In partnership with Aboriginal communities and ACCOs, raise public awareness of Aboriginal languages.</li> <li>▪ Establish mechanisms for formal regional language recognition.</li> <li>▪ Improve recognition of cultural and language knowledge in employment conditions, including but not limited to Aboriginal languages teachers in education settings and in the interpreting sector to address structural barriers and support retention and career development.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.03</b> The South Australian government will publicly report the review and strengthening of partnerships between Aboriginal parties and SA government, in accordance with Priority Reform 1 every two years.</p> <p>As per the commitment at clause 37 of that National Agreement, SA will include in the annual report, information on partnerships, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of partnerships</li> <li>• those that have been reviewed</li> <li>• for each partnership which strong partnership elements are met and unmet, and</li> <li>• what has been achieved through the partnerships.</li> </ul>	December 2025	AGD-AAR SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>This activity will be supported by South Australia’s 2023 Partnership Stocktake and Report on the Review and Strengthening of Partnerships.</p>			
<p><b>1.04</b> Establish partnerships with and provide support for ACCOs to develop and deliver pathways for the Aboriginal language’s workforce, including accredited training and qualifications (e.g. in teaching languages, interpreting, language revitalisation) and consider opportunities to support Aboriginal people to access and participate in these programs.</p>	<p>Will continue to be supported fee free until 2027-2028</p>	<p>DSD (Skills SA) SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>1.05</b> In partnership with ACCOs, support professional development of the Aboriginal languages teaching and interpreter workforce, and develop Aboriginal languages curriculum, and teaching and learning resources for use by Aboriginal languages teachers.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DfE DHS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>1.06</b> Establish a South Australian justice partnership committee between SA Government and SAACCON to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider and progress Justice Policy Partnership priorities in the South Australian context</li> <li>• where possible, formulate joint South Australian positions on national justice issues</li> <li>• progress implementation of actions in South Australia to achieve the targets of outcomes 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap</li> <li>• develop and provide policy advice on matters related to outcomes 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including in relation to the following, which have been identified as priorities by SAACCON: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o bail, including bail accommodation and bail decisions</li> <li>o the minimum age of criminal responsibility</li> <li>o eligibility for specialist and diversionary courts</li> <li>o consideration of legislative amendments to ensure courts take into account the unique systemic and background factors affecting Aboriginal people in their sentencing decisions</li> <li>o the impact of the High-Risk Offenders Act</li> <li>o addressing systemic racism and bias.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The South Australian Justice Partnership Committee has been established and is ongoing. The inaugural meeting was held on 29 April 2024.</p>	<p>AGD SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify opportunities to design tailored approaches to program delivery for Aboriginal peoples over-represented in the criminal justice system, including identifying and resolving barriers to effective service delivery.</li> </ul> <p>By agreement, the Justice Partnership Committee can establish working groups to focus on discrete topics and priorities.</p>			
<p><b>1.07</b> Consider the outcomes of the Closing the Gap Expenditure Review being conducted pursuant to Clause 112 of the National Agreement and work pursuant to Clause 55 of the National Agreement for implementation within the justice sector.</p> <p>This may include addressing competition between ACCOs and NGO service providers, depending on the type of service and provider(s).</p>	June 2026	AGD DCS DHS SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.08</b> Work from the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee - Over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the criminal justice sector will be shared with SAACCON and its members.</p>	AAEC work has been completed, the Better Start data was shared with SACCON members and across Government by the Over-Representation Working Group.	DCS SAACCON	<b>Complete</b>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.09</b> Review current and continue monitoring the Aboriginal model of care for prisoners in partnership</p>	<p>Timeframes are contingent upon funding application approval of the review of the current Model of Care and co-design of new Models of care for youth, men, and women. If approved, it is anticipated that the review will be completed by 30 June 2026 and the co-design and implementation of the new statewide approach by 30 June 2027.</p>	<p>SAPHS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>1.10</b> In partnership DCS and SAACCON will co-design and implement an advisory committee to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal people who are overrepresented in correctional services.</p> <p>Terms of Reference will be developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Draft Terms of Reference established, Working Group to be established.</p>	<p>DCS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Not yet due to commence</b></p>
<p><b>1.11</b> Review of the secondary cultural assessment to include self-identification as a survivor or descendent of the stolen generation that will support ACCO services deliver culturally informed responses upon release.</p>	<p>2026/2027</p>	<p>DCS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>1.12</b> DHS will establish a Youth Justice Working Group with SAACCON to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. This includes the development and review of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specific measures to reduce the significant overrepresentation of Aboriginal children aged 10-13 in the criminal justice system</li> <li>• best practice for non-custodial alternatives</li> <li>• community-based pathways that are preventative and divert Aboriginal children away from the criminal justice system</li> </ul>	<p>March 2025</p>	<p>DHS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>culturally appropriate holistic service models and responses</li> <li>throughcare supports for Aboriginal young people leaving Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.</li> </ul> <p>The implementation of any measures undertaken through this working group will prioritise Aboriginal Community Controlled services to deliver any proposed models and/or responses.</p>			
<p><b>1.13</b> The Office for Women will engage SAACCON to identify and co-design frameworks that support building the ACCO DFVS sector funding, in response to the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response.</p> <p>As the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence is a Commonwealth initiative, this action will be dependent on the continued funding allocated to SA under the Partnership Agreement.</p>	December 2025	DHS-OFW SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.14</b> Formal agreements in place between Local Health Networks (LHNs) and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) and/or relevant ACCOs.</p> <p>Formal agreements in place between Local Health Networks (LHNs) and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) and/or relevant ACCOs.</p> <p>These could take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which sets out the issues and actions that will be in scope for the agreement and the ways of working together, aligned to the Strong Partnership Elements (cl32 of the National Agreement).</p> <p>Co-design of a template that identifies keyways of working together and partnership approaches. Working group to include representation from SAACCON, AHCSA, LHN and ACCHOs who are not members of SAACCON.</p> <p>Facilitate the development of the MoU at the regional level with agreed priorities across the regional partners.</p> <p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW and each LHN below:</u></p> <p>Extension granted to all LHNs by DHW Chief Executive (CE) and Chief Aboriginal Health Officer (CAHO) due to lack of capacity from the Peak ACCHO who had been commissioned to facilitate per the original timeframe of June 2025.</p> <p>SACCONs co-design has been embedded into the Guideline, and the LHNs service level agreements have been reflected to have partnerships</p>	June 2025	DHW LHNs SAACCON ACCHOs	

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><u>Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>led the co-design of a partnership template with stakeholders. Template (Partnership guideline) has been completed and distributed to stakeholders.</li> <li>coordinating outreach to LHNs and ACCHOs for the development of formal Partnership Agreements</li> <li>integrating Strong Partnership Elements.</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeframes extended in line with the direction from the CE, SA Health</li> </ul> <p><u>Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network (RMCLHN):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussing with Moorundi and other ACCOs</li> </ul> <p><u>Women’s and Children’s Health Network (WCHN)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial discussions have taken place re an MoU/MoA for obstetric support services from the Women’s and Children’s Health Network to the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service. Further meetings are scheduled between services to define key elements before a MoA/MoU is developed.</li> </ul> <p><u>Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SALHN’s objective is to provide culturally safe and responsive opportunities to build reciprocal relationships with the community, enhancing health literacy through knowledge sharing. In response to Closing the Gap Priority reform areas 1 and 2, SALHN will scope future opportunities to engage with the Community Controlled sector to plan the future delivery of the Aboriginal Family Clinic.</li> </ul> <p><u>Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 2025 CALHN Aboriginal Health Community Gathering: Listening to Learn Together convened on the 2 June 2025 created a safe space for the Aboriginal community to voice opinions and priorities to CALHN staff and leadership.</li> </ul> <p><u>Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network (BHFLHN):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single ACCHO within BHFLHN catchment area, an MOU with Moorundi ACCHO is underway and will be completed by December 2025</li> </ul>			<p>In Progress – Delayed</p> <p>Not yet due to commence</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
<p><b>1.15</b> The parties will meet regularly to advance the agreed issues and actions. Initial steps to implement this action will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying ACCHOs / ACCOs within LHN boundaries and coordinating discussions</li> <li>joint development of the MoU</li> <li>establishment of regular meetings and creation of a shared work plan to address agreed issues and actions contained in the MoU.</li> </ul>	To be confirmed	DHW LHNs SAACCON ACCHOs	<p>In progress – on track</p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</u></p> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health and Wellbeing Partnership Committee (HWPC) Terms of Reference have been developed in consultation with SAACON</li> <li>membership in final stages of identification</li> <li>first meeting scheduled 18 July 2025</li> <li>CAHO is Co-Chair of Adelaide Western Suburbs Place Based Partnership</li> <li>initiating regular partnership forums with shared work plan development.</li> <li>DHW regularly meets with the Aboriginal Health Council South Australia (AHCSA). to manage the existing contract and peak body agreement and co design new partnership agreement.</li> <li>AHCSA meets with the Minister quarterly.</li> </ul> <p><u>BHFLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOU with Moorundi to be in place by December 2025, working partnership in the Southern Fleurieu already established with programs being jointly delivered by BHFLHN and Moorundi ACCHO.</li> <li>RMCLHN:</li> <li>Discussing with Moorundi and other ACC's.</li> </ul> <p><u>NALHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst formal agreements are not yet in place, informal partnerships and referral pathways with organisations in the community-controlled sector where gaps are identified between mutual parties take place ensuring strengthened access to services. These informal arrangements will progress to formal MoU in place.</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SALHN's objective is to provide culturally safe and responsive opportunities to build reciprocal relationships with the community, enhancing health literacy through knowledge sharing. In response to Closing the Gap Priority reform areas 1 and 2, SALHN will scope future opportunities to engage with the Community Controlled sector to plan the future delivery of the Aboriginal Family Clinic.</li> <li>DASSA's Aboriginal Clinical Services have and continue to work closely with Aboriginal Consumer Networks and support Closing the Gap Priority Reform One by embedding Aboriginal voice and leadership into the design and delivery of care</li> </ul> <p><u>RMCLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings planned</li> </ul>			<p>Not yet due to commence</p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.16</b> Actions for a specialist response to substance use will be considered in the development of Regional MoUs.</p> <p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below</u></p> <p><u>BHFLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOU to reflect the response to support mechanisms for AOD and joint actions to be developed.</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal Health Service's Objective is to partner with DASSA to improve alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) service access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the SALHN catchment and enhance intersection with Mental Health services and future Birthing program.</li> <li>Target, led by Clinical Director DASSA, is to DASSA integrate services into Aboriginal Family Clinic, commencing first week of August 2025. Measures of success include Aboriginal people in SALHN catchment accessing DASSA services, improved health literacy and a greater awareness of ATOD service availability, and Aboriginal southern community representatives participating in the DASSA Community Partnerships Program.</li> <li>Over the past year, DASSA's Aboriginal Clinical Services have continued to deliver a culturally responsive model of care that combines trauma-informed alcohol and other drug treatment with assertive outreach. The Mobile AOD Clinic has demonstrated early success in supporting vulnerable Aboriginal clients, particularly those experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul> <p><u>NALHN:</u></p> <p>NALHN has a partnership with Drug and Alcohol Service South Australia (DASSA) co-located at the NALHN Watto Purrinna sites Muna Paiendi (Elizabeth Vale) and Wonggangga Turtpandi (Port Adelaide) providing access to drug and alcohol services on site in a culturally responsive setting.</p> <p><u>RMCLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings planned</li> </ul>	To be determined	DHW LHNs SAACCON ACCHOs	<p>In progress – on track</p> <p>Not yet due to commence</p>
<p><b>1.17</b> Explore a centralised body with responsibility for cross-agency collaboration and coordination of the implementation, monitoring, and reporting and evaluation of Closing the Gap Health and Wellbeing actions, initiatives, and programs.</p>	To be determined	DHW LHNs DHS DTF-ODA SAACCON	

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</u></p> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Wellbeing Partnership Committee:</li> <li>• HWPC ToR have been developed in consultation with SAACON, through the principals of co-design</li> <li>• Co-chaired by Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia and DHW Chief Executive (CE) Dr Robyn Lawrence.</li> <li>• Membership in final stages of identification</li> <li>• First meeting scheduled for 18 July 2025.</li> </ul> <p><u>BHFLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BHFLHN actively engaging with DHW, Aboriginal Health, to support any progress of a centralized body.</li> </ul> <p><u>CALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CALHN is a member of the Aboriginal Health Systems Leadership Group.</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SALHN's seeks to explore and strengthen cross-agency collaboration with Women's and Children's Health Network, Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS), SA Department of Education, other Local Health Networks (LHNs), Adelaide and Country Primary Health Network (PHNs), and Drug and Alcohol Services SA (DASSA).</li> </ul> <p><u>NALHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is currently in place with the Wonggangga Turtpandi site as part of the Western Suburbs Place Based Steering Committee. Next steps would be setting up a similar body for the wider NALHN catchment.</li> </ul> <p><u>RMCLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with LHN to work through</li> </ul>			<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.18</b> Increase participation of Aboriginal peoples in existing health governance structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing partnerships and opportunities for SAACCON/ACCOs/ACCHOs to be involved in working groups and executive level government meetings.</li> <li>Aboriginal leaders appointed to LHN Board of Directors and Aboriginal Advisory Committees.</li> <li>Reinvigorate register for Aboriginal people to indicate interest in sitting on LHN Boards.</li> <li>Implement ongoing program of governance training to ensure pipeline of suitable candidates when vacancies arise.</li> </ul> <p>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</p> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Readiness Program: Providing access to Australian institute of Company Directors (AICD) Foundations of Directorship for Indigenous Organisations training to LHNs and ACCHOs to increase Aboriginal representation and delivering governance training through supported programs.</li> <li>SAACCON co-chair the State-wide Tuberculosis Response Committee with the Chief Public Health Officer.</li> </ul> <p><u>BHFLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BHFLHN is currently undertaking a restructure of committees and the engagement of consumers on boards, the new consumer engagement guide has well-built cultural guidance for committee chairs and members to support the increase in community representatives and their safety participating on board and committee meetings within BHFLHN.</li> </ul> <p><u>NALHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NALHN’s Executive Director Aboriginal Health is a member of the Western Suburbs Place Based Partnership Steering Committee and the Aboriginal Health Systems Leadership Group.</li> <li>NALHN has had a consistent Aboriginal Governing Board Member since the introduction of LHN Governing Boards.</li> <li>NALHN was a leader in writing the Board Readiness Program which did not progress however was designed to increase capacity and readiness for Aboriginal people to be Governing Board members.</li> </ul> <p><u>CALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal leaders are appointed to the CALHN Governing Board, Clinical Governance and Consumer Engagement Committees and Reconciliation Action Plan Implementation Working Group.</li> </ul>	<p>June 2025</p>	<p>DHW LHNs SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CALHN Aboriginal Stakeholder Reference Group includes membership representation from Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA, South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network (SAACON), Tauondi Aboriginal College and the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia.</li> <li>The Terms of Reference for the CALHN's Yaitya Marnintyarla Kangka Committee (Aboriginal Priority Care Committee) extends membership to the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA).</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To achieve shared governance SALHN is undergoing a culture change and maturation of our system to increase the inclusiveness and transparency throughout governance structures, as outlined in SALHN's Aboriginal Health Equity Plan.</li> <li>SALHN aims to increase participation of Aboriginal people within its existing governance structures. Organisation currently has Aboriginal community representation on SALHN Board and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consumer and Community Advisory Group, in addition to Aboriginal leadership across SALHN's governance and divisional service structures.</li> <li>Closing the Gap Impact Statement procedure ensures that Aboriginal stakeholders and community members (where appropriate) have been engaged in the decision-making on proposals that affect their health and wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p><u>RMCLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working through LHN reach of all ACCO/ACCHO meetings</li> </ul>			<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>In Progress – Delayed</b></p>
<p><b>1.19</b> Implement partnerships across government departments to fund and support capacity building for ACCHOs and/or ACCOs delivery of Closing the Gap initiatives.</p> <p>Partnerships can identify savings and redistribute funds to support the social and cultural determinants of health (benefit multiple agencies) based on agreed priorities.</p> <p>Partnerships need to have associated infrastructure, governance, training and shared accountability clearly built in to address power imbalances and ensure equity for true partnership.</p> <p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</u></p> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working with interagency partners to align funding and build governance frameworks for ACCHO capacity building initiatives.</li> </ul> <p><u>BHFLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MOU with Moorundi to be in place by December 2025, working partnership in the Southern Fleurieu already established with programs being jointly delivered by BHFLHN and Moorundi ACCHO. This includes jointly funded programs delivering social programs to community, ongoing program development will occur to continue building ACCHO capabilities.</li> </ul>	To be determined	DHW LHNs SAACCON	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #90EE90; color: black; padding: 5px;"><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><u>WCHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoA in place between WCHN and NALHN for Ngangkita Ngartu (Aboriginal Family Birthing Program) to provide services to clients at a weekly outreach clinic held at Wonggangga Turtpandi</li> </ul> <p><u>NALHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timeframes changes in line with extension for Partnership Agreements</li> </ul> <p><u>RMCLHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awaiting set up of new meetings with stakeholders</li> </ul>			<p><b>In Progress – Delayed</b></p>
<p><b>1.20</b> Initial steps to embed cultural practice include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>initiatives that embed cultural practice such as Ngangkari (Traditional Healers) and coworking models into early intervention, healthcare and mental health services, at all levels right up to psychiatric care</li> <li>requires a high level of cultural responsiveness and a strengths-based approach to ensure cultural and clinical knowledges and practice are valued.</li> </ul> <p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</u></p> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting cultural models of care, including policy guidance for embedding Ngangkari services and cultural responsiveness in clinical settings.</li> <li>Completed 'Caring for Culture' consultancy report.</li> </ul> <p><u>CALHN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2024 CALHN introduced an Organisation Wide Instruction for access of Ngangkari Traditional Healing as a care option across CALHN.</li> <li>CALHN's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing Hub at the Royal Adelaide Hospital hosts a regular Ngangkari Clinic in partnership with ANTAC.</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngangkari services at the Aboriginal Family Clinics are currently on hold. Contract ended on 30 June 2025. Work is currently underway to determine the viability of integration into broader models of care across SALHN operational divisions, and to expand and strengthen partnership with Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (ANTAC).</li> </ul>	<p>June 2025</p>	<p>DHW DHS SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In Progress – Delayed</b></p> <p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SALHN is working to address institutional racism and embed cultural safety and responsiveness into practice. In 2023-2025 SALHN invested in face-to-face level 2 cultural learning. Scoping underway for ongoing options. Fortnightly 'Asking the Question' training are also offered for staff, along with Karpa Ngarrattendi in-service presentations across SALHN services.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.21</b> Supported by a partnership agreement, government agencies will work collaboratively and in partnership with ACCHOs and/or ACCOs and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognise that there is no wrong door but there are multiple pathways/networks</li> <li>explore existing arrangements for short term/temporary housing available to support Aboriginal families when away from Country to access health services for e.g. pre-birth.</li> </ul> <p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAACCON Partnership Agreement</li> <li>Aboriginal Health Council SA Agreement</li> <li>Western Adelaide Place Based Partnership</li> </ul> <p><u>SALHN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DASSA Aboriginal Connection Program supports Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing culturally safe, accessible alcohol and other drug (AOD) support. This includes the Mobile AOD Clinic, which delivers low-barrier, outreach-based care across the southern suburbs of Adelaide. The program works closely with existing health and community services to provide holistic support that respects cultural identity and connection. Through assertive engagement, care coordination, and harm minimisation approaches, the Aboriginal Connection Program ensures that Aboriginal consumers experiencing homelessness can access the help they need, when and where they need it</li> </ul>	To be determined	DHW DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.22</b> Initial steps to implement a specialist response for mental health include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>re-conceptualisation of a 'good' mental health service for Aboriginal people to support holistic wellbeing</li> <li>trauma-informed services implemented via a strong partnership which is locally led and acknowledges diversity, local language and concepts</li> <li>holistic client-centred service response, which identifies and supports needs related to family violence, mental health and wellbeing, substance use and underlying impairments including undiagnosed disability</li> <li>acute mental health responses that are safer and more culturally appropriate, such as a 000 option with Aunty/Uncle help option.</li> </ul>	June 2025	DHW SAACCON	In progress – delayed

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><u>DHW:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnering in early scoping with LHNs and ACCHOs to support On-Country Alcohol and Other Drug service delivery and identify workforce development pathways.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.23</b> Initial scoping to explore steps to implement (linked to an MoU between LHNs and ACCHOs) On-Country service delivery include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>new approaches to alcohol and other drugs programs on Country</li> <li>grow employment and education opportunities on Country for Health</li> </ul>	To be determined	DHW DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.24</b> Design and test a reporting framework that measures progress against the elements of the South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031 to ensure agencies / statutory authorities are accountable for implementation</p>	Yet to be determined	The Trust SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.25</b> Following establishment of the SAPC, regular reporting will commence.</p>	Yet to be determined	The Trust SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.26</b> The Trust and SAACCON will enter into joint discussions to determine how the Strategy fits into, and is funded as part of, the State and Commonwealth level housing and homelessness strategies and funding agreements.</p>	Yet to be determined	The Trust SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.27</b> Place-based partnerships are necessary to support the planning and transition of Aboriginal Housing and related services to the Aboriginal community-controlled sector. The Sector Reform strategies contained in the South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Shared Local Decision-Making partnerships.</li> <li>Prioritise the growth of the Aboriginal Community Housing sector (ACHS).</li> </ul>	Yet to be determined	The Trust SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.28</b> For shared local decision-making (SLDM) partnerships to be successful, government agencies must recognise the different leadership structures and networks within individual Aboriginal communities, especially in relation to how leaders acquire, exercise, transfer and sustain their authority. This requires government agencies to adopt a sustained commitment to working with and respecting Aboriginal community arrangements, relationships, shared connections and representative structures.</p> <p>SLDM partnerships are being piloted in three communities: one each in remote, regional and metropolitan settings where the Aboriginal community is defining the governance structures and the process of decision-making for the SLDM partnerships as well as deciding the composition of ‘community’ for this purpose.</p>	The Strategy will see SLDM partnerships rolled out in 100% of those Aboriginal communities that choose to participate by 2031.	The Trust SAACCON	In progress – on track

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.29</b> As per clause 36(b) in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, in 2024 the Department for Education is reviewing its partnerships (including with SAACCON member SAAETCC) with a view to strengthening them in line with the Strong Partnership Elements at clauses 32 and 33 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>As part of work to build the ACCO sector in SA (Priority Reform 2 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap), the SA government is, in partnership with SAACCON, undertaking work to develop whole of government guidance on working with ACCOs. At the time of writing, this is planned to include policy deliverables by mid-2024 regarding: prioritisation and funding, capacity development, and engagement and accountability approaches.</p> <p>OECD will work in partnership with Aboriginal Communities and key Aboriginal organisations to co-design and invest in initiatives to empower Aboriginal children, with linkages to actions and priorities of the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership and the Early Childhood Care and Development Sector Strengthening Plan to support coordination under the Closing the Gap framework.</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.30</b> The SA Government has also accepted recommendations from the SA Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care relating to the role of ACCOs in delivering early childhood reforms.</p> <p>The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD), in partnership with SAACCON, is undertaking work to co-design and fund ACCO involvement in early childhood education and care and integrated early years' service delivery.</p> <p>This may include ACCO-led integrated service hubs, and ACCO provision of layered supports and child health development checks.</p>	Scoping and co-design of options - December 2025	OECD SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.31</b> Building on the whole of government guidance outlined above DfE will partner with SAACCON to develop guidance for schools (including OSHC), and OECD will partner with SAACCON to develop guidance for early childhood services on developing new, culturally responsive partnership arrangements. 'Guidance' includes information, resources, and access to advice and support. OECD and DE will partner with SAACCON to produce guidance for ACCOs</p> <p>This will be a process of 'two-way learning' that produces guidance on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the various roles and responsibilities of corporate offices, local/regional teams, and schools and early childhood services</li> <li>existing relationships between services and communities</li> <li>advice for schools and early childhood services on how they can partner with local ACCOs and some of the focus areas and opportunities that could be the subject of partnership agreements</li> </ul>	2026	OECD DfE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>advice for ACCOs on how to navigate departmental governance structures and contact points, and the non-government sector, to partner with schools and early childhood services</li> <li>types of partnership arrangements, including templates/example agreements.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.32</b> In partnership, OECD, DfE and SAACCON will map/identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>service provision to Aboriginal children in early childhood services</li> <li>funding arrangements for ACCOs to provide services</li> <li>opportunities for service delivery by ACCOs</li> <li>ACCO capacity to provide services to Aboriginal children in early childhood services</li> <li>practical considerations regarding the provision of services in childhood services (including but not limited to infrastructure/physical space)</li> <li>relevant funding streams and potential funding options for ACCO delivered services.</li> </ul> <p>OECD to support SAACCON to connect with non-government early childhood systems and services to explore partnership opportunities. This will inform further work to identify opportunities to support an increase of partnerships between early childhood services and ACCOs through the prioritisation process. Existing partnerships will also be strengthened and developed.</p>	2026	OECD DfE SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<p><b>1.33</b> OECD, DfE and SAACCON to scope opportunities and potential funding options to support cultural safety, including through training, in preschools (sector neutral).</p>	2026	OECD DfE SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<p><b>1.34</b> DfE and SAACCON will map/identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>service provision to Aboriginal students in schools</li> <li>opportunities for service delivery by ACCOs</li> <li>ACCO capacity to provide services to Aboriginal students in schools</li> <li>practical considerations regarding the provision of services in schools (e.g. infrastructure/physical space)</li> <li>relevant funding streams and potential funding options for ACCO delivered services.</li> </ul> <p>This will inform further work to explore the potential to strengthen and develop partnerships between schools and ACCOs where ACCOs are funded to provide services to learners (giving effect to clause 55 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap).</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON	In progress – on track

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Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.35</b> DfE and SAACCON member, SAAETCC, to partner to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop an evaluation framework to measure the success of identified programs</li> <li>describe the factors that underpin successful programs</li> </ul>	2026	DfE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.36</b> DfE to explore with SAACCON opportunities for ACCOs to be involved in using the framework developed to evaluate programs.</p> <p>Results of evaluations to be shared with SAACCON, DfE and non-government school authorities, as appropriate.</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.37</b> DfE to support SAAETCC to connect with non-government sectors, for SAAETCC to explore use of framework to measure outcomes for Aboriginal students in non-government schools.</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.38</b> In partnership, develop South Australia’s jurisdictional plan for the implementation of the National Framework’s Aboriginal-specific 5+5-year Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021- 2031.</li> <li>Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026.</li> <li>Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework.</li> </ul>	DCP - Subject to legislative implementation activities	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.39</b> The South Australian Government commits to working with SAACCON and Wakwakurna Kanyini to identify, review, evaluate and implement any policy, procedures, and guidelines in relation to the Contact Assessment Review Panel (CARP) that allow culturally informed decisions for the most vulnerable families.</p> <p>Review the cultural component with a view to re-design CARP or introduce an Aboriginal specific panel.</p> <p>Scope opportunity to implement culturally informed decision-making within legislation of CARP.</p>	DCP - Subject to legislative implementation activities	DCP with SAACCON, Wakwakurna Kanyini and DHS	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.40</b> In partnership, identify, review and develop services/programs to address the disparities Aboriginal families experience in equity of access to, and participation in evidence-based and culturally trauma informed early intervention services for Aboriginal families across regional and metro South Australia enabling self-determination.</p>	Ongoing	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	In progress – on track

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.41</b> In partnership, address the disparities Aboriginal families experience in equity of access to, and participation in evidence-based and culturally trauma informed decision-making processes that enable self-determination such as Family-Led Decision Making across regional and metro South Australia.</p>	Ongoing	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.42</b> Work related to the child and family sector will build on the commitment under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan – Action 2: Shift towards adequate and coordinated funding of early, targeted and culturally safe supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.</p> <p>The SA Child and Family Sector investment strategy will include strategies and actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increase targeted funding to support intensive family support approaches (including prevention, inclusive and targeted support, family support in the context of child protection) and alleviate known contributors to overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in child protection including the effects of poverty and intergenerational trauma to meet the level of community need</li> <li>increase targeted funding for intensive family support services that address the issues associated with child protection intervention, including drug and alcohol abuse, family and domestic violence and mental health.</li> </ul>	Mid-late 2026, contingent on National Strategy endorsement projected mid-late 2025.	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.43</b> Work together to design and deliver ACCO-led services that meet the needs of Aboriginal children and their families.</p> <p>The investment strategy will be implemented through reform of funding models and procurement policies to direct proportionate funding (proportionate to the level of representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection sector and community need) to the ACCO sector. Reforms will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>modelling to quantify the funding gap between community need for family preservation services and the existing supply</li> <li>quarantined proportionate funding directed to services for Aboriginal children and young people, including through redistributing existing resources and contracts for the commission of service delivery to ACCOs</li> <li>procurement policies and processes that provide for the commissioning of family support services from the ACCO sector, including via partnership and regional alliance models.</li> </ul> <p>Aboriginal community-led, place-based commissioning models to increase local control over funding priorities and allocation.</p>	Subject to negotiation and agreement	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.44</b> DCP will fund the design, establishment, and implementation of a Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People.</p> <p>SAACCON and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People will be key partners with SNAICC in this work.</p> <p>DCP has engaged SNAICC – National Voice for our Children to support an Aboriginal-led design process for a Peak Body to represent the interests of Aboriginal children and young people. The Peak will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• privilege the voices of Aboriginal children and young people</li> <li>• be child-centred in its approach, maintaining a clear focus on protecting and promoting children's safety and wellbeing</li> <li>• focus on building the ACCO sector to provide services to Aboriginal children and young people</li> <li>• partner with government in efforts to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system, including those in care.</li> </ul>	<p>Wakwakurna Kanyini commenced operations in September 2024 and is funded at \$3.984 million over 5 years.</p>	<p>DCP SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>1.45</b> DCP to support proposed option for the Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People based on community consultation.</p>	<p>Wakwakurna Kanyini commenced operations in September 2024 and is funded at \$3.984 million over 5 years.</p>	<p>DCP SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>1.46</b> DSD to engage SAACCON to inform the state-wide Skills Policy to 2030.</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>DSD (Skills SA) SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>1.47</b> DfE and SAACCON will partner to support students and their families transition from school into the workforce or further education and training by developing a State-wide Strategic Service Model that includes the expansion of existing programs (e.g. SAASTA and Workabout)</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>DfE SAACCON SAAETCC</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>1.48</b> DfE and SAACCON will partner to support students and their families transition from school into the workforce or further education and training by developing a series of industry immersion videos for Aboriginal students.</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>DfE SAACCON SAAETCC</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

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Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.49</b> Building on existing school roadshows to include Aboriginal business owners, Aboriginal RTOs, and information on traineeships and apprenticeships. Roadshows will include and showcase Aboriginal young people and their families.</p>	2026	DfE, SAACCON SAAETCC	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.50</b> The development of programs for children and young people (primary school and beyond) and their families that showcase a broad range of options for the future and provide encouragement to ‘dream big’.</p> <p>The ‘Dream Big’ concept is part of the Aboriginal Pathways vision statement, Dream, Believe, Achieve, Succeed targeted at secondary Aboriginal learners.</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON SAAETCC	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.51</b> Services will be delivered by government agencies and the ACCO sector with linkages to corporate sector/industry as appropriate.</p>	2026	DfE SAACCON SAAETCC	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>1.52</b> Explore opportunities in partnership to improve road safety and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people who experience road trauma as well as increasing employment opportunities through licence attainment and retention. Consideration may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop and implement place-based and community-led strategies. Noting, the following reference points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030.</li> <li>o National Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2025.</li> <li>o SA Road Safety Strategy to 2031.</li> <li>o Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2025.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• for driver’s license training and testing models and programs to increase the number of licenced Aboriginal drivers, including the identification of financial support mechanisms.</li> <li>• to increase the number of Aboriginal driving instructors to improve cultural safety in driving training.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DIT SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.53</b> Facilitate opportunities for additional Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) to enter into management partnerships with government departments and agencies responsible for land and waters. Management partnerships include a commitment to co-managing parks and developing new co-management agreements, country-based planning, on-ground projects and training and employment. Initial steps to implement this action will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• working with the sector on articulating directions for co-management of parks</li> <li>• progressing the development of new co-management agreements with associated funding requirements</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DEW SAACCON	In progress – on track

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improved engagement with and by Aboriginal people to identify, record and register (if desired) heritage</li> <li>working together to leverage new and maintain existing ranger/working on country programs, including partnerships, fee for service, and procurement opportunities</li> <li>work with the Pastoral Board and pastoral lease holders to build awareness and understanding of Aboriginal rights and interests on pastoral leases.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.54</b> Work with sector to progress inland waters outcomes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>strengthening the recognition of Aboriginal People's cultural authority in water planning and management</li> <li>working with Aboriginal People on a proposal for 3 per cent or greater of the total volume of water entitlements in a water resource to be set aside and held for Aboriginal People's future use</li> <li>consulting with Aboriginal People on the potential for a First Nations' Water Trust (or similar) governance model for the purpose of securing legal and beneficial ownership of water by Aboriginal People</li> <li>building Aboriginal People's water knowledge to strengthen capacity in water planning.</li> </ul>	2031	DEW SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.55</b> Develop a proposal for government consideration of land handback.</p>	Late 2026	DEW SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.56</b> Signed in 2018, the Buthera Agreement has provided capacity-building support for the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) to drive development, economic enterprise and collaborative engagement with government agencies on Guuranda (Yorke Peninsula).</p> <p>The Agreement commits the government to agency-specific place-based activities in two priority areas: economic development and social services.</p> <p>Initiatives in the Agreement include projects relating to youth justice; housing; domestic violence; health; child protection; and education and cultural studies, all of which are matters the government will continue to address in partnership with the Narungga people.</p>	2028	AGD-AAR SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>1.57</b> The SAPC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continue to implement meeting and decision-making processes and protocols that safeguard the equality of the parties.</li> <li>work to deliver the annual Shared Forward Work Plan (from partnership and other joint actions in the Implementation Plan).</li> </ul>	Ongoing	AGD-AAR SAACCON	In progress – on track

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>continue to deliver governance arrangements necessary to oversee and manage the agreement and operationalise the Shared Forward Work Plan.</li> <li>work via the 9-portfolio specific sub-committees to deliver coordinated monitoring and reporting on the implementation and outcomes associated with the socio-economic targets.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>1.58</b> The Communications and Engagement strategy has now been split into two separate components, noting the significance of each in meeting the Priority Reforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications Framework – outlining communications approaches and key messages designed to raise awareness and understanding of CTG in South Australia. *Complete.</li> <li>Engagement Strategy – outlining culturally safe and appropriate engagement strategies for engaging with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and community. *Commenced</li> </ul> <p>The CTG Communications Framework is currently in development in partnership with SAACCON, as agreed through the previous Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Once finalised, it will be approved by the SAPC and must be reviewed annually by the SAPC to ensure the content remains relevant.</p> <p>The development of the CTG Engagement Strategy has not yet commenced. The process to develop the Engagement Strategy will be agreed in partnership between SAACCON and SA Government late 2024/early 2025.</p>	Late 2025/ early 2026.	AGD SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.59</b> The South Australian Government and SAACCON, along with Commonwealth and local governments, will deliver a place-based partnership in Adelaide’s Western Suburbs, which is co-located with the Community Data Project in the Western Suburbs. This partnership will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivered in partnership between Commonwealth, State, Local Governments and SAACCON</li> <li>have established project governance, consistent with the strong partnership elements of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	AGD-AAR SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.60</b> Embed the definition of co-design into SA Government through updating PC036 and including self-determination measures within CE Agreements</p>	June 2026	DPC SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>1.61</b> Launched in 2022 and supported by the Aboriginal Voice Consultation Network Register, the Aboriginal Voice framework is a mandated internal procedure that provides a mechanism for embedding input from Aboriginal staff at all stages of the development and design of departmental policies, projects, procedures, guidelines, frameworks and standards in a flexible, sustainable and ongoing manner.</p>	Ongoing	DfE	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>1.62</b> The development of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a significant project that will establish the framework for achieving Targets 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. An Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a formal undertaking between government and Aboriginal communities to develop and implement a collaborative approach to improve justice outcomes.</p>	June 2026	AGD SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

<b>Outcome</b>	Building the community-controlled sector: There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.		
<b>Target</b>	Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p><b>2.01</b> Increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) updating mapping of ACCO sector, identification of sector's goals and growth opportunities and defining what is required to achieve these outcomes</li> <li>b) creating a data set comprising government agency approaches to working with and funding ACCOs, undertaken by the Supporting Growth in ACCOs Working Group</li> <li>c) in partnership, develop a detailed whole of government policy framework and process to develop the sector and increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs. This would consider good practice, jointly agreed targets, accountability mechanisms and timeframes for implementation, as well as investments and supports required</li> <li>d) develop a transition plan that implements the findings of a), b) and c).</li> </ul>	Late 2025	DTF SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.02</b> Leverage the procurement and contracting systems and processes to support the transition of service delivery to ACCOs, including by considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ways to strengthen policies that provides for the provision of services for Aboriginal peoples in SA, to enable the preferencing of ACCOs and other Aboriginal organisations as service providers of services for Aboriginal peoples in SA</li> <li>• review SA Government mechanisms and guidelines for funding ACCOs (including for contracted services)</li> <li>• establish Aboriginal Subject Matter Expert procurement panels for whole of government.</li> </ul>	January 2026	DTF SAACCON	<b>In progress – delayed</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.03</b> Where an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) seeks new/upgraded infrastructure to facilitate culturally responsive service delivery, SA Government will support the ACCO's infrastructure requirements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting ACCOs to build Procurement, Project Planning and Project Management capability through mentoring and training opportunities for ACCO staff</li> <li>• supporting ACCO's in mentoring and training of ACCO staff in the development of Commonwealth funding submissions</li> <li>• negotiate with ACCO's on accommodation opportunities within existing SA Government buildings which are surplus to government requirements, where ACCO's have identified a need for such accommodation</li> <li>• explore opportunities to gift or provide long term leases on SA Government buildings that are vacant, occupied by ACCOs or under-utilised.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DIT SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.04</b> ACCO infrastructure and assets needs register to be established (akin to employment register). The register will indicate identified ACCO needs. This register will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• negotiate with ACCO's on accommodation opportunities within existing SA Government buildings which are surplus to government requirements, where ACCO's have identified a need for such accommodation</li> <li>• explore opportunities to gift or provide long term leases on SA Government buildings that are vacant, occupied by ACCOs or under-utilised.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DIT SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.05</b> SA Government will provide funding to SAACCON to ensure that the SA Partnership Agreement and SA Joint Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap are adequately resourced.</p> <p>Funding requests will primarily be made through the SA Government's standard budget processes.</p> <p>There may be emerging needs associated with work directly between SAACCON and individual agencies and these needs may be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>This arrangement does not preclude SAACCON from seeking funds outside of arrangements with SA Government.</p>	Ongoing	AGD-AAR SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.06</b> Establish a two-way secondment model that supports development of the capability and capacity of both the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and SA government.</p>	To be decided	OCPSE SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.07</b> Establish a sub-committee under the SA Partnership Agreement tasked with developing a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SA Aboriginal Workforce Development Needs Analysis.</li> <li>SA Aboriginal Workforce Development Action Plan.</li> </ul>	Extended timeframe agreed between SAACCON and DSD as part of the annual report process	DSD and SAACCON	<b>In progress – delayed</b>
<p><b>2.08</b> SA Government will support the establishment of a South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body, aligned to Aboriginal governance structures in South Australia, to support capacity and growth of the Aboriginal Community Housing Sector.</p> <p>The Peak Body will seek membership of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Authority (NATSIHA). The peak body's purpose is to facilitate access to quality, accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to help empower Aboriginal individuals, families and communities to optimise their health and wellbeing and improve their employment opportunities, access to education, connection to the community and sense of home.</p> <p>Initial steps to establish a Peak Body will include a formal partnership agreement between SAACCON and The Trust.</p>	Complete	The Trust SAACCON	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>2.09</b> On the establishment of the Peak Body, SA Government and Peak Body will partner to establish an Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Organisation (ACHO) operating with financial independence and explore a range of community models as determined through shared local decision-making and co-design.</p>	Ongoing	The Trust and SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.10</b> The Peak Body and SA Government will partner to strengthen the ongoing sustainability of a housing sector ACHO. The partnership will develop capability assessment criteria to enable the Peak Body to make decisions about the delivery of services within community housing models.</p>	Ongoing	The Trust and SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.11</b> Undertake audit of houses targeted for establishing the Peak Body, including full examination of the status of the housing and associated repairs and maintenance.</p>	Ongoing	The Trust and SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.12</b> The South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031 contains several commitments related to economic participation. This will explore strategic funding models for community-based training to build long-term capability and viability with the plan developed in partnership with Aboriginal Community Councils and ACCOs.</p>	Ongoing	The Trust DSD SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.13</b> In partnership, develop a plan for sustainable growth in the ACCO sector, aligning to the whole of government policy framework and process to develop the sector and increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs.</p>	Subject to negotiation and agreement	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.14</b> The SA Child and Family Sector investment strategy should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>staged implementation with sufficient safeguarding to ensure stability for ACCOs and Aboriginal families and children</li> <li>embed mechanisms for jurisdictional data sharing that improves data infrastructure of the ACCO sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Subject to negotiation and agreement.</p> <p>Mid-late 2026, contingent on National Strategy endorsement projected mid-late 2025.</p>	DCP AGD-AAR DSD DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.15</b> DCP to provide funding support for an Aboriginal Child and Family Policy Officer.</p> <p>The role will include the provision of support for the implementation of Target 12 and to enable a dedicated SAACCON representative on the establishment steering committee for the establishment of a Peak Body for Aboriginal children and families in South Australia. The role will otherwise be at the discretion of SAACCON to support their focus in the child and family support sector.</p> <p>The term of the grant is 9 June 2023 until 30 June 2025.</p>	Funding for the position was for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025	DCP SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>2.16</b> In support of the whole of government workforce development initiatives, partners commit to sector activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>culturally safe, trauma-informed (including intergenerational trauma) and healing focused services across all service delivery (i.e., government, NGO, mainstream and Aboriginal specific)</li> <li>develop strategies to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in family support and child protection through vocational and tertiary training pathways and direct support to ACCOs to attract, develop and train staff.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DCP SAACCON DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Progress the development of Aboriginal-led design and implementation of evidence-based assessment tools and practice underpinned by Aboriginal ways of child rearing and family including and not limited to Family lead decision-making processes.</p>			
<p><b>2.17</b> In addition, the SA Government commits to work with SAACCON and other Aboriginal partners to deliver on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus area 4 - Strengthening the child and family sector workforce capability of the Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026.</li> <li>Action 4 – Listening to Lived Experience of the Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026.</li> </ul> <p>Develop a national approach to continue building a sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and family sector workforce.</p>	<p>Timeframe contingent on national progress under Safe and Supported Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Action Plan Action 4.</p>	<p>DCP SAACCON DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>2.18</b> Support and participate in the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People’s Inquiry into the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.</p> <p>On 30 June 2022, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP) launched the inquiry.</p> <p>The Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection gave evidence throughout the Inquiry to inform the Final Report to Government.</p>	<p>The Commissioner’s final report ‘Holding on to our Future’ was tabled in Parliament on 5 June 2024, and the State Government provided its formal response on 28 November 2024.</p>	<p>DCP DHS SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>
<p><b>2.19</b> Implement recommendations of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People’s Inquiry into the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle as agreed in partnership with SA Government, SAACCON and Peak Body.</p>	<p>Subject to negotiation and agreement</p>	<p>DCP DHS SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.20</b> Support the development and establishment of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support to develop a targeted research agenda and commission research into best practice in culturally safe child protection and family support work.</p> <p>Including consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of best practice</li> <li>• research guidelines</li> <li>• collaboration on the development of culturally safe tools</li> <li>• understanding and addressing racism</li> <li>• investment priorities</li> <li>• develop Aboriginal measures of success</li> <li>• Aboriginal-led evaluation</li> <li>• develop culturally appropriate tools including assessment tools.</li> </ul>	<p>Timeframe for SA's involvement with the National Centre contingent on Safe and Supported progress towards establishment, which is still in early stages.</p>	<p>DCP DHS SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>2.21</b> DHS to work in active partnership to align efforts and share research and evidence with the Aboriginal Child and Family Research Centre of Excellence.</p>	<p>December 2026</p>	<p>DCP DHS SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini</p>	<p><b>This action is led by the Child Protection Sub Committee and is on track for progression</b></p>
<p><b>2.22</b> Disaggregated data and information from all agencies are to be shared with ACCO's to support decision-making. Regional data sets must provide sufficient information about regional populations and priority focus areas to allow informed decisions to address inequities for the most vulnerable families.</p>	<p>Subject to negotiation and agreement</p>	<p>DCP DHS SAACCON DTF-ODA</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.23</b> SA is committed to meet Australian Government specifications of agreed definition and approach to Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and to actively work with Aboriginal partners to identify data requirements in the child and family sector at state and regional levels.</p> <p>The Early Intervention Research Policy Data Set (EPDS - overseen by Pathways, Evidence and Partnerships) data will identify population needs, inequity in access to services, and explore outcomes relevant to Aboriginal families and communities. Essential to these activities is the development of methods that are appropriate for assessing service models and reporting the data collected.</p>	Subject to negotiation and agreement	DCP DHS SAACCON DTF-ODA	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.24</b> In partnership with SAACCON, the Peak and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, work to fully implement the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle across legislation, policy, programs, processes and practice.</p> <p>This will be implemented through undertaking the section 169 legislative review of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and related policy reform with a view to supporting self-determination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>require government to take active efforts to fully implement the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle including each of the five principles to increase consistency and accountability</li> <li>embed the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle as the paramount framework for decision-making for Aboriginal children and young people in care (without displacing safety)</li> <li>enable delegated authority to Aboriginal organisations of certain statutory powers and functions (e.g., powers of investigation, case management, care) in relation to an Aboriginal child or young person to be delegated to an ACCO, Aboriginal person, or Aboriginal community</li> <li>increase the number of registered ACCOs as per section 12 of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (consultation on placement)</li> <li>ensure all services and care environments across the entirety of the child protection sector (including out of home care) are culturally safe, trauma-responsive and therapeutic</li> <li>legislative reform occurs in partnership with SAACCON, providing ACCOs an opportunity to inform the amended legislation</li> <li>needs to be coupled with necessary policy reform to ensure funding for ACCOs to provide intensive support to address drivers/causes of child abuse and therapeutic approaches to care.</li> </ul>	<p>DCP -Legislative implementation project execution phase commences September 2025</p> <p>Full implementation of ATSI CPP across remaining areas is subject to legislative implementation activities</p>	DCP DHS SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.25</b> Commitment to support Aboriginal business development in primary industries, food, wine, fisheries and aquaculture. Through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PIRSA development of a SA Aboriginal Business Strategy to increase the number of Aboriginal businesses and build capacity and capability in these sectors in collaboration with SAACCON</li> <li>Development and implementation of PIRSA’s Aboriginal Procurement Strategy to support the creation of Aboriginal jobs and enable economic participation in these sectors.</li> </ul>	June 2026	PIRSA SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>2.26</b> Build the capacity of ACCOs to cope with the demands of climate change and engage in activities to improve sustainability, through providing them with information and support to enable them to apply for funding for projects focussed on climate resilience, revegetation activities, and carbon farming.</p>	Ongoing	DEW SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>2.27</b> National Sector Strengthening Plans – Early Childhood and Development, Health, Housing and Disability.</p> <p>Representatives from respective agencies will represent their sector and participate in Working Groups during development of the Plans, which aim to provide a national framework for a joined-up approach to build a strong community-controlled sector</p>	Ongoing	DfE DHW The Trust DHS SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<p><b>2.28</b> SA Government to support Aboriginal workforce development (in ACCOs and mainstream government agencies), by way of funding and in-kind support, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>additional funding in service contracts for provision of accredited training to Aboriginal workforce</li> <li>capacity building of accredited Aboriginal training providers 2025 - 2026 OCPSE SAACCON 56 Priority Reform 2: Building the Community-Controlled Sector # Action Milestones Lead Partners</li> <li>TAFE and Universities implement targets for Aboriginal graduates by discipline as a percentage of total graduates</li> <li>SA Government to provide targeted financial support for pre-employment training that advances Aboriginal participants on identified career pathways</li> <li>further study to gain qualifications in management (similar to previous programs which provided support for Aboriginal staff to gain a Diploma in Management or Master of Business Administration)</li> <li>workplace mentoring (particularly middle management).</li> </ul>	2026	OCPSE SAACCON	In progress – delayed

## Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>2.29</b> Delivering for Community - Tauondi Aboriginal College</p> <p>Supporting business and commercial development capability.</p>	Ongoing	DSD (Skills SA)	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.30</b> Responding to concerns about escalating antisocial behaviour among Aboriginal youth cohorts in Port Lincoln and Whyalla:</p> <p><b>Port Lincoln:</b> Currently funding Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY) Aboriginal Corporation for two Aboriginal Youth Worker positions, and West Coast Youth and Community Support (WCYCS) for a night bus service.</p> <p><b>Whyalla:</b> Funding committed towards similar services through Plaza Youth (youth workers and night bus service), commencing August 2024.</p>	Ongoing	DHS	<b>In Progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.31</b> DHS has been funding the Australian Red Cross since 2018 to provide backbone support to Port Adelaide Aboriginal Leadership Group - Tiraapendi Wodli, for the coordination and implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Port Adelaide Initiative. This action spans across multiple targets.</p> <p>Tiraapendi Wodli uses a community-led, place-based and holistic approach to working alongside the community to identify and influence system level changes and outcomes for Aboriginal families. Tiraapendi Wodli takes a grass-roots and practical approach to building local leadership and capacity for community to identify and lead their own solutions.</p> <p>More recently, DHS contribute an additional grant which made it possible to engage the Kowa Collaboration to co-design the Tiraapendi Wodli Understanding, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (UMEL) framework. The TW UMEL formed the basis of discussions to implement the evaluation funded by with the Paul Ramsay Foundation.</p>	30 June 2026	DHS	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>2.32</b> Deliver assertive outreach and Return to Country service. This action spans across multiple targets.</p> <p>DHS has funded Umoona Community Council from January 2024 to January 2025 to deliver an assertive outreach and Return to Country service alongside DHS led return to country coordinated programs.</p>	Until 30 June 2026	DHS	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>2.33</b> Through the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce, DHS is working in partnership the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community, service providers, and three levels of government to resolve a Port Augusta community safety and wellbeing plan, to support safety and wellbeing in the region and ensure a sustainable and culturally appropriate service response for the next four years.</p>	Until 30 June 2027	DHS	<b>Complete</b>

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

<b>Outcome</b>	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.		
<b>Target</b>	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>3.01</b> Identify, develop or strengthen an independent mechanism or mechanisms to support, monitor and report on the transformation of government.	Ongoing	AGD-AAR SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<b>3.02</b> Develop and implement a Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement co-designed with SAACCON. This will include tools and guidance for how it's used, which will detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>policy criteria when it's applied</li> <li>the process of applying a CTGPIS</li> <li>guidelines for agencies and statutory authorities on best practice</li> <li>guidelines on engaging SAACCON / ACCOs to support completion of CTGPIS on an ongoing basis, including:</li> <li>guidance on development of remedies for disproportionate impacts identified through process</li> <li>an impact assessment tool which includes Closing the Gap Targets as measures.</li> </ul>	June 2027	DPC AGD-AAR	
<b>3.03</b> Embed the Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement into departmental policies and Cabinet processes, including through its addition to approval standards.	June 2027	DPC AGD-AAR	
<b>3.04</b> Report on the implementation of the Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement through the Annual Report.	June 2027	DPC AGD-AAR	

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>3.05</b> Identify and eliminate racism by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a whole of government anti-racism strategy, reviewed in partnership with SAACCON.</li> <li>Delivering ongoing programs that improve cultural competence of agency workforce, leadership and governance acknowledging that cultural learning requires non-Aboriginal people to engage in self-reflective practice, to recognise their privileges and role in addressing ongoing systemic racism. SAACCON and OCPSE will co-design the learning programs and materials in partnership.</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the strategy in partnership with SAACCON.</li> </ul>	Anti-Racism Strategy established with Action Plan for delivery from 2023 to 2028	OCPSE SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>3.06</b> Embed and practice cultural safety by identifying key learnings, points of consistency and alignment, best practice, shared challenges, and opportunities across SA government. An environmental scan will include learnings from current national Closing the Gap initiatives.</p>	Ongoing	OCPSE AGD-AAR SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>3.07</b> Develop and implement a whole of government approach to transformation that embeds cultural safety and practice in partnership with SAACCON.</p>	Ongoing	OCPSE AGD-AAR SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>3.08</b> The Partners will evaluate a select list of Aboriginal-specific programs to identify success factors, evidence gaps and build a culturally responsive knowledge base.</p> <p>The list of programs will be jointly developed and agreed.</p> <p>The evaluations will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be Aboriginal led</li> <li>be jointly selected by SAACCON and SA Government</li> <li>incorporate measures of success which have been jointly determined by SAACCON and SA Government</li> <li>establish mechanisms to measure outcomes at program and population levels with learnings available to both Partners.</li> </ul>	June 2027	DPC SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>3.09</b> Review the public sector’s Work Health and Safety Framework for cultural safety in partnership with SAACCON.</p>	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	In progress – delayed

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<b>3.10</b> Review Aboriginal cultural competencies across the public sector, including measurement of a baseline that gives consideration to the level of cultural capacity required for specific roles and functions (e.g. assessment, decision-making etc).	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<b>3.11</b> In partnership with SAACCON, review cultural awareness training programs. Learnings may be demonstrated through case study outcomes.	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<b>3.12</b> Implement whole of government cultural learning programs, which will be developed and delivered in partnership with SAACCON and will consist of multiple levels of learning.  This multi-level approach acknowledges that understanding Aboriginal cultures and being culturally responsive is an individual journey, and not everyone will be at the same stage of that journey.  This approach must acknowledge that cultural learning requires non-Aboriginal people to engage in self-reflective practice, to recognise their privileges and role in addressing ongoing systemic racism.	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<b>3.13</b> The learning programs will be delivered via multiple mediums including online face-to-face and cultural immersion elements and will be mandatory for all executive and front-line service staff, at a minimum and accessible to members of Boards and Committees.	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<b>3.14</b> The impact of the reviewed Work Health and Safety Framework and cultural learning programs will be evaluated in partnership with SAACCON.	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<b>3.15</b> Review and develop strategies to increase the representation of Aboriginal peoples in agency governance and support their development.	To be determined	OCPSE SAACCON	In progress – on track
<b>3.16</b> In establishing the SA social worker registration scheme, and in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, embed cultural capability requirements as part of the registration and ongoing professional learning requirements.	Subject to broader SWRS timeframes	DCP SAACCON	In progress – on track
<b>3.17</b> Work with the tertiary sector to advocate that social work graduates have obtained appropriate cultural competencies as part of their degree.	Subject to broader SWRS timeframes	DCP SAACCON	In progress – on track
<b>3.18</b> Review outcomes from action taken to improve trauma-informed, healing focussed and strength-based service delivery for Aboriginal peoples in health, education, human services, youth and adult justice systems.  The review will:	To be determined	AGD-AAR OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify key learnings, points of consistency and alignment, best practice, shared challenges and opportunities across SA government. An environmental scan will include learnings from current national, Closing the Gap initiatives</li> <li>determine priorities to inform future work including updates to cultural awareness and sector-specific practice training.</li> </ul>			
<b>3.19</b> Develop and implement a whole of government standard of practice in partnership with SAACCON.	To be determined	AGD-AAR OCPSE SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<b>3.20</b> Emergency management safeguards people at risk during and following an emergency with specific consideration given to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This will be achieved through collaborative engagement, comprehensive and integrated planning to enhance coordination, information sharing and outcomes.	Ongoing	DPC SAACCON	In progress – on track
<b>3.21</b> DHS and SAACCON, will, in partnership co-design and implement an Aboriginal Youth Justice Practice Framework for South Australia.	January 2026	DHS SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<b>3.22</b> DHS and SAACCON will, in partnership co-design and implement an Aboriginal model of care in youth justice systems that supports culturally trauma informed care and rehabilitation practices through culture. The partnership will also co-design monitoring mechanisms.	January 2026	DHS SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<b>3.23</b> The new whole of government State Disability Inclusion Plan will be developed in line with the requirements set out in the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) and the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Act 2024. The new State Disability Inclusion Plan will acknowledge and address Aboriginal people with disability as a legislated priority group.	22 August 2025	DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track
<b>3.24</b> DHS will conduct targeted consultation with SAACCON and its members during the development stages of its agency Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure the DAIP can address the overlapping barriers to access and inclusion experienced by Aboriginal people with disability, including women and children who have experienced violence.	February 2026	DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track
<p><b>3.25</b> In partnership DCS and SAACCON to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal prisoners leaving prison, with a particular focus on reducing the rate of recidivism. This will include (at a minimum):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development and co-design of a best practice framework for engaging ACCOs in partnership with SAACCON noting this will have to comply with SA procurement legislation and piloted by a few government agencies</li> </ul>	Complete	DCS SAACCON	Complete

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>receive updates of current reintegration and transitional support programs to determine the proportion of released prisoners that access these programs</li> <li>consideration of all release episodes, given the overwhelming majority of prisoners will be released to bail, off court or sentence served and most likely following a period of remand.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>3.26</b> In partnership establish a Women’s and Family Safety Partnership Committee co-chaired by SA Government and SAACCON representing relevant service divisions that will provide advice and oversee implementation of any actions undertaken that will directly affect Aboriginal women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.</p>	July 2025	DHS-OFW SAACCON	<b>Completed</b>
<p><b>3.27</b> The South Australian Government committed to a Royal Commission into Family and Domestic Violence within South Australia starting July 2024. It is anticipated to be completed in June 2025 and will engage with SAACCON to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific issues are included.</p>	August 2025	DHS-OFW SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>3.28</b> The Office for Women will engage with SAACCON to develop an accompanying action plan focused on responding to violence against Aboriginal women and children in SA. The development of this dedicated action plan will be a commitment within the new strategy frameworks in SA.</p>	Pending – as this action is now tied to the finding as recommendations of the Royal Commission into DFSV and government are yet to provide a formal response, a timeframe for this action needed to be delayed	DHS-OFW SAACCON	<b>In progress – delayed</b>
<p><b>3.29</b> Work with the Pastoral Board and pastoral leaseholders to build awareness and understanding of Aboriginal rights and interests on pastoral leases. This has been built into the Pastoral Board’s Strategic Plan 2023-2025. The plan has an action to provide pastoral leaseholders with information about Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage.</p> <p>Information about leaseholders’ obligations regarding Native Title, Aboriginal Heritage and Aboriginal access to pastoral leases has been included in a pastoral lessee handbook, to be released in 2024.</p>	December 2025	DEW SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Information on Aboriginal rights and interests will also be included in other Board policies and guidelines, such as its new Guideline on Stockproof Boundary Fencing (April 2024), and forthcoming Guideline on Changes of Land Use on Pastoral Land.</p> <p>Future guidelines will also include similar information where relevant.</p> <p>DEW also undertakes regular consultation on Aboriginal rights and interests with SA Native Title Services and First Nations of SA to ensure these are incorporated in Pastoral Board decision making.</p>			
<p><b>3.30</b> Government agencies will support greater Aboriginal representation on government boards and ensure that boards are aligned to and actively engaged with a relevant Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>DPC will coordinate a review of current Board appointment and management practices across government and support each portfolio to determine the most appropriate approach to achieving this action. Each portfolio will then be supported to implement the agreed changes.</p>	Ongoing	DPC	Not yet due to commenced
<p><b>3.31</b> The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee will provide strategic across-government leadership and endorsement of workplans to address whole of government strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal peoples, including Closing the Gap-related work. It will also create opportunities to identify and develop emerging Aboriginal leaders across the public sector.</p> <p>The AAEC has established four working groups to progress Shared Forward Work Plans that address four specified South Australian Government strategic priority areas for Aboriginal affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the Criminal Justice Sector</li> <li>• supporting the Growth in Community Controlled Organisations (Shared Forward Work Plan to be developed in partnership with SAACCON)</li> <li>• building Capacity in Vulnerable Families</li> <li>• economic Participation (Employment and Procurement).</li> </ul> <p>The AAEC is co-chaired by the CE of the Department for Correctional Services and the ED of AGD-AAR. Each working group is co-chaired by a senior Aboriginal public servant and a CE from an unrelated agency.</p>	2028	DCS	In progress – on track

## Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Shared Forward Work Plans will be provided to the NACTG IRG for endorsement and inclusion in this Implementation Plan where relevant.</p>			
<p><b>3.32</b> All Chief Executive Council (CEC)<sup>1</sup> agencies will have current Reconciliation Action Plans.</p> <p>DPC will coordinate the implementation of a whole of government Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>	June 2027	DPC	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p><b>3.33</b> The Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce established a temporary site at Edwards Park called a ‘Safer Place to Gather’ where remote visitors who are rough sleeping and often impacted by alcohol misuse and chronic health conditions can seek shelter and access support services in a safe setting.</p> <p>DHS also coordinates a Return to Country (RtC) program throughout South Australia that enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose primary place of residence is a remote or regional community, to return home, should they desire.</p> <p>A multidisciplinary DHS Remote Visitor Outreach Team (RVOT) works closely with other government agencies, including SAPOL, The Trust and local government to provide a coordinated and joined-up service approach, with daily visits to Adelaide and Port Adelaide parklands to provide assertive outreach and the Return to Country program. The Team also conducts targeted visits to individuals to address specific concerns or needs.</p>	Until 30 June 2026	DHS	<b>Complete</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Chief Executive Council is now the Senior Leadership Committee

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

<b>Outcome</b>	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.		
<b>Target</b>	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.		
Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>4.01</b> Develop and implement a plan for continuous and sustained collaboration between SA Government agencies, statutory authorities and SAACCON / ACCO sector on data and information sharing. This plan will align with the outcomes and actions of the Data Development Plan endorsed by Joint Council in August 2022.</p> <p>Regional level data outcome is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regional data sets matched to data needs of local / regional Aboriginal community groups and organisations</li> <li>data on Aboriginal specific programs and outcomes to support evaluation of those programs.</li> </ul> <p>Statewide data outcome is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the ACCO sectors' initial priority is to share regional data and information to support decision-making. The regional data sets should provide sufficient information about regional populations and priority focus areas to make informed decisions to address inequities (for example, for the most vulnerable families)</li> <li>progress a place-based data sharing agreement to inform Aboriginal-led service design, delivery, review and community-driven evaluations. Community-driven evaluations will be designed in partnership with the community and evaluation findings provided to enable the community to design solutions.</li> </ul>	End 2026	DTF-ODA SAACCON	In progress – delayed
<p><b>4.02</b> The Partnership Agreement will necessitate regular data collection and analysis to understand the impact of actions and outcomes specifically related to Aboriginal peoples and communities. Data is being collated by the Productivity Commission and both Parties will have access to this. To improve shared access to data and information to enable Aboriginal communities to make informed decisions, SAACCON, in partnership with the Office for Data Analytics, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement (and adapt if necessary) the Maiam Nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles in a South Australian context, ensuring that appropriate governance structures are developed in relation to collection, authorisation and use of data</li> </ul>	End 2026	DTF-ODA SAACCON	In progress – delayed

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>develop mechanisms and timelines for building the capacity of SAACCON and ACCOs to independently collect and manage data, in accordance with the Maiam Nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles</li> <li>progress the work of the SA Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap that relates to Priority Reform 4, including:</li> <li>investigate mapping ACCO sector digital/information technology infrastructure (including hardware and software), identifying workforce capability and training needs and existing data governance and controls environment, with consideration to any relevant work that Commonwealth may be progressing and the relevant Commonwealth timeframes</li> <li>investigate mechanisms and infrastructure to support data capability of the ACCO sector</li> </ul> <p>develop a plan to map existing data collections and assess data needs based on agreed priority areas of government and ACCO sector.</p>			
<p><b>4.03</b> The Office for Women will share appropriate de-identified data/key themes collected through the Family Safety Portal for use in the Women’s and Family Safety Partnership Committee to assist in decision-making.</p>	<p>December 2025 – delayed from July 2025 as the Committee has only just been established</p>	<p>DHS-OFW SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – delayed</b></p>
<p><b>4.04</b> The Office for Women will engage with SAACCON to ensure any review of the Family Safety Framework (FSF) incorporates culturally responsive tools and practices.</p>	<p>Pending – a review of the FSF has yet to be scheduled due to OFW awaiting response to Royal Commission into DFSV</p>	<p>DHS-OFW SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>4.05</b> The Office for Women will explore opportunities to increase ACCO engagement under the Family Safety Framework.</p>	<p>This was previously reported as TBD, however, it is more aligned with BAU as OFW explores how we can work with ACCOs around the FSF – this action has been dependent on the findings of the Royal Commission to align with any review of its contents</p>	<p>DHS-OFW SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – delayed</b></p>
<p><b>4.06</b> In consultation with SAACCON, the Department for Education will develop and deliver or work with other relevant agencies to develop and deliver a series of workshops for SAACCON and its membership regarding what data is publicly available, and how to access and interpret the data.</p> <p>Workshops will cover the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skills funding</li> <li>• skills data</li> <li>• schools funding</li> <li>• schools data</li> <li>• early childhood education and care funding</li> <li>• early childhood education and care data</li> <li>• Aboriginal education program-specific data.</li> </ul>	<p>2025</p>	<p>DfE SAACCON</p>	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p>
<p><b>4.07</b> Following the completion of these workshops, the Department for Education will work with SAACCON to understand SAACCON’s data requirements, and any further supports required to develop the expertise of the ACCO sector to access and interpret data. Further actions will be discussed and agreed at that time.</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>DfE SAACCON</p>	<p><b>Not yet due to commence</b></p>

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>4.08</b> DfE and SAACCON to participate in Data Sub-Committee being convened by DTF-ODA.</p>	Ongoing	DfE DTF-ODA SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>4.09</b> SAACCON, in partnership with AGD-AAR and DTF-ODA will identify relevant agency and ACCO representatives (who will work with Commonwealth and local government representatives if they wish), to lead community engagement required to inform potential site nominations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a process, criteria and governance arrangements for determining priorities and approving community data projects.</li> <li>Nominate community data projects to Joint Council for consideration.</li> </ul> <p>External research organisations and institutions may be invited to participate, including universities, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.</p> <p>The community data project will be established by way of a localised agreement. That is, SA Government and all relevant parties will enter into a local partnership agreement, consistent with Priority Reform One, with participating Aboriginal organisations in the region. The community data project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>enable an Aboriginal community and participating Aboriginal organisations to access and use location-specific data on the Closing the Gap outcome areas</li> <li>support an Aboriginal community to analyse and use regional specific data to help drive their own</li> <li>development and discussions with governments on Closing the Gap</li> <li>enable an Aboriginal community and participating Aboriginal organisations to collect and access other data which they consider important.</li> </ul>	Complete	DTF-ODA SAACCON	Complete
<p><b>4.10</b> The <i>Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016 (SA)</i> provides a legal framework to share public sector data between government departments and other trusted entities in South Australia. This is a multi-stage project and will require project management resources / champions to scope and define the project parameters and develop approach and a project plan.</p>	To be determined	DTF-ODA SAACCON	Not yet due to commence

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish commitment from SAACCON, DPC and Office of Data analytics.</li> <li>• Establish Project Management Team.</li> <li>• Conduct workshops with SA Government agencies, SAACCON and ACCO partners, to inform data required and presentation formats.</li> <li>• Develop Project Plan.</li> <li>• Audit of parties' ability to meet 5 SAFE Controls (see Data Controls action below).</li> <li>• Conduct workshops for user centred (UX) design with key stakeholders, SA Government and community-controlled sector.</li> <li>• Develop prototype solutions / specify data requirements.</li> <li>• Validate data specifications / reporting solutions with key stakeholders, SA Government and community-controlled sector.</li> <li>• Finalise data sharing agreement.</li> <li>• User Acceptance testing (validate data sharing against agreement and specifications) with test groups representing key stakeholders, SA Government and community-controlled sector.</li> <li>• Communicate and train users as required.</li> <li>• Integration with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.</li> </ul> <p>It is expected that the SA Government will need to support the community-controlled sector to build capacity in order to improve upon elements of the Five Safes Framework (see separate subsidiary project below).</p> <p>Data sharing will also necessitate an ongoing program of data cleansing and improvement in order to maximise the benefits of shared data. All data and information sharing projects should, as a principle, move toward the state-wide standardisation of data definitions and collection principles to improve data integrity, reliability, usability and allow for consolidation and integration of data sets across government agencies and the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.</p>			

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p><b>4.11</b> Data SA is SA Government’s Open Data Registry and contains links to over 1,600 data sets including some local government community profiles (Port Adelaide Enfield and Onkaparinga local government areas for example). In the first instance, SA Government could support ACCOs to build capability in using and interpreting data by providing training which assists ACCOs to identify, access and use data sets already available via Data SA.</p>	To be determined	DTF-ODA SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>4.12</b> Utilise the mapping of digital/information technology infrastructure (including hardware and software), identification of specialised workforce and levels of previous investment in relevant workforce development and training by organisation, sector and location to develop an investment map for prioritisation and action by SA Government and SAACCON.</p>	To be determined	DTF-ODA SAACCON	Not yet due to commence
<p><b>4.13</b> The Data Sharing Act applies the Five Safes framework to shared data proposals and determines whether they are satisfied, and the parties are able to enter an approved Data Sharing Agreement. The Five Safes break down the decisions surrounding data access and use into five related but separate dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe projects - Is this use of the data appropriate, lawful, ethical and sensible?</li> <li>• Safe people - Can the users be trusted to use it in an appropriate manner?</li> <li>• Safe data - Does the data contain sufficient information to allow confidentiality to be breached?</li> <li>• Safe settings - Does the access facility limit unauthorised use or mistakes?</li> <li>• Safe outputs - Is the confidentiality maintained for the outputs of the management regime?</li> </ul> <p>The steps to address the Five SAFES across ACC sector could be managed as a state-wide data project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish commitment from SAACCON, DPC and Office of Data analytics.</li> <li>• Establish Project Governance and Project Management Teams.</li> <li>• Develop Project Plan.</li> </ul>	To be determined	DTF-ODA SAACCON	Not yet due to commence

## Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit the Safe Settings of ACCO's control environment and identify gaps (this will necessarily include mapping of digital/information technology infrastructure (including hardware and software), identification of specialised workforce and levels of previous investment in relevant workforce development and training by organisation, sector and location) in addition to the controls environment.</li> <li>Project Governance team to determine phased approach dependent on the size and spread of identified gaps.</li> <li>Develop Action Plans to identify gaps and assign responsibility to implement and monitor action plans to Project Management team members.</li> <li>Commence phased implementation as approved by Project Governance team.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>4.14</b> DHS has facilitated the Ceduna Data Sharing Agreement which is now signed with all agencies and the West Coast Partnership. The agreement establishes formal partnerships to share relevant data between various Government agencies and Far West Coast Partnerships, the backbone organisation coordinating community action for the Far West Coast Region. The data shared under the agreement will improve local capacity to collect, manage and interpret data to inform shared decision-making.</p>	Ongoing	DHS SAACCON	<b>Complete</b>
<p><b>4.15</b> Establish a working group with membership from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and the State Records of South Australia Aboriginal Reference Group to improve access to archives by developing criteria to be used when assessing applications for access to restricted records in the State's archive. This working group will also review and develop a strategy of how the access process is communicated to the community.</p>	2026	SRSA	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

<b>Target</b>	Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department for Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Refresh and launch campaigns and resources to encourage Aboriginal people toward smoking cessation.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress - delayed</b>
Provide grants that support the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to strengthen culture and improve wellbeing.	2024-2025	Preventive Health SA	<b>Complete</b>
Partnering with South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) to address racism in local sports and find evidence-based solutions.	December 2025	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Developing an evidence-driven plan focused on the determinants of social and emotional wellbeing for South Australian Aboriginal children and adolescents.	2025-2026	Preventative Health SA	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Partnership with Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia to fund the establishment and implementation of local Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress - delayed</b>
Delivering community education and awareness of the National Cancer Screening programs, including One Stop Screening Shop.	Ongoing	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Develop a formal partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to co-design health and wellbeing initiatives and partnering with South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Network (SAACCON) to support the implementation of Closing the Gap in South Australia, with an embedded approach to Health in All Policies.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress – on track</b>
The draft South Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2024-2030 aims to prevent and reduce the harms and risks associated with alcohol and other drugs in South Australia. It outlines progressing the Closing the Gap priorities on partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and communities, and shared access to data and information embedding Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.	2027 mid-term review  2030 final evaluation	Preventive Health SA SAPOL	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Developing formative research to determine a culturally appropriate campaign to prevent/reduce alcohol consumption when planning and during pregnancy, and while breastfeeding to avoid risks of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).</p> <p>Exploring partnership opportunities with Women's and Children's Health Network, in providing a culturally safe environment, to increase the community knowledge and awareness about the harms of drinking alcohol during pregnancy, when planning a pregnancy and during breastfeeding.</p>	Ongoing	Preventive Health SA	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 2: Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong

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

**Lead Agency** Department for Health and Wellbeing

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Undertake initial scoping to explore steps to implement (linked to a memorandum of understanding between LHNs and ACCHOs) this action include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birthing centres on Country or birthing at local hospitals for better mother and child outcomes.</li> </ul> <p><u>Please see the detailed information for DHW each LHN below:</u></p> <p>DHW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Aboriginal Health Branch is engaging with LHNs and ACCHOs to scope opportunities for culturally safe birthing models, including the incorporation of the Continuity of Care Protocols into Birthing on Country initiatives. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting place-based conversations with Aboriginal women, Elders and health professionals</li> <li>reviewing current service capabilities; and</li> <li>identifying pathways for co-designed models of care linked to formal partnership agreements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>AHB is also working across divisions to align with broader maternity reform, infrastructure planning, and workforce development strategies.</li> </ul> <p>WCHN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WCHN is leading the review of Regional Aboriginal Family Birthing Model of Care (MOC) for statewide implementation. One of the aims of this process is to further strengthen the scoping of Birthing on Country centres.</li> </ul> <p>BHFLN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single ACCHO within BHFLHN catchment area, an MOU with Moorundi ACCHO is underway and will be completed by December 2025. Once MOU is in place will further develop joint service provision to include maternity services closer to home.</li> </ul>	To be confirmed	DHS DHW SAACCON	<p><b>In progress – on track</b></p> <p><b>BHFLN – Not yet due to commence</b></p>

### Outcome 3: Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

<b>Target</b>	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%		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department for Education		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Co-design an Aboriginal Workforce strategy with the Aboriginal Community Sector, to be launched in mid-2025.	September 2025	OECD	<b>In progress – on track</b>

### Outcome 4: Aboriginal children thrive in their early years

<b>Target</b>	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 to 55%		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD)		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
In partnership with Aboriginal leadership, local Aboriginal communities, the community-controlled sector and Aboriginal peak bodies, co-design initiatives to retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool for Aboriginal children, for rollout from 2026.	For rollout from 2026	OECD	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 5: Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential

**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 Agency** Department for Education

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>Continue to implement the Aboriginal Education Strategy, through which the Aboriginal education community and the Department for Education have set a vision that each Aboriginal child and young person is a proud and confident learner, achieving at their highest potential.</p> <p>Three goals underpin this vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal children establish foundations for success in the early years</li> <li>Aboriginal children and young people excel at school</li> <li>Aboriginal young people are on pathways to success.</li> </ul>	2029	DfE	In progress – on track
<p>Learner Support Services assists students facing complex barriers to successfully complete their training and transition post school to further study or employment; and embeds structured mentoring and cultural diversity awareness training in funded activities. Learner Support Services became Success and Wellbeing Services from October 2024</p> <p>DSD invests in Learner Support Services for Vocational Education and Training (VET) student who need support, over and above what their registered training organisation (RTO) is expected to provide, to stay in and succeed in their training and in the transition to further training or employment.</p> <p>Specialist services are available to Aboriginal students.</p>	Ongoing	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track

## Outcome 6: Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways

<b>Target</b>	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%
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department of State Development (Skills SA)

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>Skills SA are working with SAACCON to develop an Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy in partnership with Aboriginal communities including consideration of the following elements:</p> <p>supporting training pathways for all Aboriginal learners including VET in schools, and adult learners seeking to build, deepen or broaden their skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delivery at all levels including pre-vocational community learning, foundation skills and certificate courses at all levels</li> <li>• culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal learners, recognising Aboriginal cultural leadership</li> <li>• building capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled RTOs</li> <li>• building capability of RTOs to support Aboriginal learners</li> <li>• targeted support for students to improve retention.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy will consider social, community and economic outcomes for Aboriginal learners and community, noting that skills contribute to workforce development across a variety of Closing the Gap priority areas.</p> <p>To develop the Strategy, Skills SA and SAACCON will work together to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish shared governance for developing and delivering the strategy</li> <li>• undertake desktop research to identify needs and inform discussions</li> <li>• identify key stakeholders</li> <li>• facilitate community engagement</li> <li>• identify shared priorities, goals and outcomes</li> </ul>	To be determined	DSD (Skills SA) SAACCON	<b>In progress – delayed</b>

## Outcome 6: Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify and establish course delivery partnerships</li> <li>consider a range of funding arrangements to provide stability of Aboriginal RTOs to deliver courses</li> <li>identify short-, medium- and long-term actions</li> <li>prioritise actions and opportunities to align these to existing and planned activities supporting adult education and training.</li> </ul>			
<p>The Office of the Industry Advocate (OIA), with assistance from DTF, will seek approval to establish links to its SA Aboriginal Business Checklist for State and Local Government Procurement on agency websites to increase awareness of available services.<sup>2</sup></p>	2024	DTF-OIA SAACCON	<b>No longer being progressed</b>
<p>OIA and SAACCON will review and identify any unaddressed factors that impact the growth and participation of Aboriginal businesses based on the outcomes of increasing the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs and consider mechanisms for addressing these.<sup>3</sup></p>	2026	DTF-OIA DPC (The Circle) SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>DTF, OIA, DSD, The Circle (DPC) and SAACCON to draft plan for preparing a broader Economic Participation Strategy for Aboriginal people and businesses that would bring together the pieces of work being undertaken across agencies and be a central repository of links to different services offered.</p> <p>This plan should draw on work being undertaken to increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs.<sup>4</sup></p>	2026	DTF-OIA DPC (The Circle) SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>

<sup>2</sup> The SA Aboriginal Business Checklist is available on the OIA website. This document is designed to support Aboriginal business owners to navigate the government and industry business development support and is best placed to remain on the OIA website. The Buying4SA website has links to the OIA website for Aboriginal businesses seeking support.

<sup>3</sup> The Aboriginal Enterprise Procurement Strategy as a part of the ESG Framework is in development by Procurement SA. OIA has provided advice to Procurement SA and is an ongoing stakeholder in the development of the strategy. This is in progress and on track with Procurement SA.

<sup>4</sup> The Aboriginal Enterprise Procurement Strategy as a part of the ESG Framework is in development by Procurement SA. OIA has provided advice to Procurement SA and is an ongoing stakeholder in the development of the strategy. This is in progress and on track with Procurement SA.

## Outcome 7: Aboriginal youth aged 15–24 is engaged in employment or education

<b>Target</b>	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department of State Development (Skills SA)		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>The South Australian Government invests heavily in supporting apprentices and trainees including Aboriginal South Australians.</p> <p>Skills SA has a range of existing and new initiatives that offer flexible skills and training approaches that are Government-funded and co-designed with business and industry to support apprenticeship and traineeship growth.</p> <p>The South Australian Group Training Program provides funding based on training contract commencements and completions in the current financial year. Aboriginal learners are a 'targeted group', eligible for double the standard payment rate per commencement/completion.</p> <p>The Program was available in 2023-2024 and will continue to be available in 2024-2025.</p>	Ongoing	DSD (Skills SA)	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>The Fee Free TAFE Tranche 2 for First Nations learners commenced in 2024 and will continue for three years (to December 2026), offering 1,500 fee free training places for delivery by non-government training providers to Aboriginal students in South Australia.</p> <p>These places are supported by \$4.8 million of funding by the Australian and South Australian Governments and they are additional to fee free places being offered to Aboriginal students by TAFE SA.</p>	December 2026	DSD (Skills SA)	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

<b>Target</b>	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 who are employed to 62%		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department of State Development (Skills SA)		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
An Aboriginal Arts Strategy has been developed and is a key area of focus in the government's Cultural Policy – A Place to Create to grow South Australia's leadership in arts and cultural development and expression and build pathways to sustainable careers.	Complete and ongoing	DPC	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>With the aim of continuing facilitate improved access to employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) supports the Aboriginal Economic Participation Policy (embedded in the South Australian Industry Participation policy). DEM will work closely with the Department for Innovation and Skills Procurement Team to increase the number and diversity of Aboriginal-owned businesses in winning procurement contracts for infrastructure projects with the department.</p> <p>Incorporated within DEM's procurement policy and procedures, the Aboriginal Economic Participation Policy aims to promote and stimulate the use of registered Aboriginal businesses throughout the department, particularly for contracts under \$220,000 where purchasing officers can utilise direct negotiation with a prequalified Aboriginal business.</p>	Ongoing	DEM	<b>In progress – on track</b>
In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, negotiate with the landowners (APY) a rehabilitation plan for the former Mintabie township in South Australia's Far North, and oversee the implementation of the agreed plan.	March 2025	DEM	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>Review of Government Building and Civil Construction industry capacity to stretch targets for relevant contracts. Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional Owner participation and project partnerships</li> <li>• Traditional Owner and other Aboriginal cultural expression in urban design</li> </ul>	Ongoing	DIT	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>labour hours for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</li> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees and apprentices</li> <li>spend on sub-contracts with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses</li> <li>improve employment opportunities in Government Building and Civil Construction industry</li> <li>deliver greater transparency and reporting on targets and Aboriginal employment/procurement outcomes.</li> </ul>			
<p>Working Group of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – with a vision to make the South Australian Government a culturally-safe employer of choice for Aboriginal South Australians and provide greater procurement outcomes for Aboriginal-owned businesses.</p>	To be determined	DHS	In progress – delayed
<p>An initiative to Incorporate carbon-based income streams into North West Indigenous Pastoral Project Indigenous pastoral operations.</p> <p>Deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduce carbon farming sequestration activity on Aboriginal-held pastoral operations where appropriate and viable</li> <li>improved fiscal viability of Aboriginal-held pastoral operations</li> <li>establish carbon-based funding streams to enable ongoing pastoral development (infrastructure) on Aboriginal-held pastoral lands.</li> </ul>	To be determined	PIRSA	In progress – delayed
<p>The Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre (AACC) to be built at Lot Fourteen will be a global tourism attraction that showcases the past, present and future of Aboriginal cultures, while supporting contemporary visual, performing and multimedia arts and events.</p> <p>Construction of the AACC is scheduled to commence in late 2021, and the centre is due to open to the public in 2025. In 2021, the project will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-design of the facility in partnership with the AACC Aboriginal Reference Group</li> <li>Implement the AACC Stakeholder Engagement Action plan, ensuring ongoing involvement of key stakeholders in the project development and delivery</li> </ul>	To be determined.	DPC	In progress – delayed

## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an Aboriginal Economic Participation Strategy, which will define and articulate opportunities across all AACC project phases including project development, design and construction delivery, and future operation of the AACC.</li> </ul>			
<p>The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub has been established to assist the South Australian Aboriginal business sector with support to build their businesses through increased connections, capacity, capability and confidence. The initiative will focus on five key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case Management – Streamlined access to existing support and services through individual case management, referral and connection to the Aboriginal Entrepreneur Hub community.</li> <li>Access to new markets – Facilitating connections and building business to business relationships in a culturally safe and appropriate way</li> <li>Expert business advice</li> <li>Capability growth – networking opportunities</li> <li>Access to the physical Entrepreneur Hub.</li> </ul>	June 2026	DPC	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>SAPOL are working to increase Aboriginal Employment in the South Australia Police Workforce.</p> <p>A landing page for First Nations employment has been approved for new recruitment, and First Nations specific recruitment material representing First Nations people in police, PSO, CC and ASO careers to attract First Nations applicants have also been developed.</p> <p>A review of the Community Constable Foundational Program is currently in the investigation stage. It will include attraction, recruitment, development, support and backgrounds, educational experiences and foundational skills of potential applicants and incorporate culturally responsive delivery and assessment methodology.</p> <p>SAPOL has also committed to a marketing strategy for Community Constables as well as a broader strategy for First Nations employees.</p>	June 2026	SAPOL	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>The Screening Unit will implement measures to make the assessment process more accessible to Aboriginal applicants and to ensure that these applicants have culturally appropriate information and support to respond to requests for information, including:</p>	December 2024	DHS	<b>In progress – delayed</b>

## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a tailored information sheet for Aboriginal applicants to ensure that the information is clear and relevant and include a pro-forma to offer Aboriginal applicants the option of consenting to a support person contacting the Screening Unit on their behalf.</li> <li>Facilitating option for Aboriginal applicants to give a verbal submission.</li> <li>Engaging an Aboriginal Liaison Officer (or utilising an existing Aboriginal Liaison Officer from within DHS).</li> <li>Engaging the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement or other free legal advice providers to provide assistance to applicants.</li> </ul>			
<p>Dedicated financial support pathways are available for Aboriginal peoples to become qualified in early childhood education and care.</p>	<p>Dedicated financial supports are available from mid-2024 until 2027</p>	<p>OECD</p>	<p><b>Complete</b></p>

## Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing aligned with their priorities and need

<b>Target 9a</b>	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%
<b>Target 9b</b>	By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. within discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard</li> <li>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'.</li> </ol>
<b>Lead Agency</b>	South Australian Housing Trust

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Review existing actions under Pillar 4 of the AHS to work in culturally responsive services (with a view of being an ACCO-led service delivery model). This action will be undertaken in Partnership with SAACCON.	Ongoing	The Trust, DHS, SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Improve / increase referral pathways and specialist supported infrastructure e.g., crisis accommodation and supported accommodation for people who require these services.	Ongoing	The Trust, DHS, SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Collate existing data and research and partner with SAHMRI on Environmental Health Impacts to inform Community Infrastructure needs to facilitate conversations with Aboriginal Communities for Healthy Housing outcomes.	Ongoing	The Trust, DHW, SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Review and consolidate the Return to Country to be Aboriginal Community Controlled, led and delivered to ensure consistency.	Ongoing	The Trust, DHS, SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Improved integration and coordination of assertive outreach, culturally responsive support within Housing and Homelessness services.	Ongoing	The Trust, DHS, SAACCON	<b>In progress – on track</b>
The Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) provides electricity to the Aboriginal communities on the APY lands, Oak Valley and Yalata. The service consists of generation operations and maintenance, distribution maintenance, meter reading and retail. These services are provided by a single contractor Cowell Electric Supply – contract conditions include:	Ongoing	DEM	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing aligned with their priorities and need

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of annual profits as contribution to Yalari Limited - Educating Indigenous Children.</li> <li>Partnership Alliances and Agreements with Aboriginal businesses for the purpose of identifying Aboriginal employment and other economic opportunities arising from the program.</li> <li>Utilises services from Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporations (RASAC) and Furnell Plumbing services on APY Lands.</li> <li>Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc.: Generation operations and meter reading contract with Cowell Electric for Oak Valley community.</li> <li>Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation (YAAC): Generation operations and meter reading contract with Cowell Electric for Yalata community.</li> <li>Cultural competency and awareness training for Cowell Electric personnel and subcontractors.</li> </ul>			
<p>Develop a standard for a basic level of safe and reliable potable water for self-supplied remote communities, including Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Undertake groundwater assessments to inform water security planning for self-supplied remote communities at high risk of water insecurity.</p> <p>Identify and progress water infrastructure projects to improve water security for high-risk self-supplied remote communities.</p>	2031	DEW	In progress – on track
<p>Developed in consultation with clients and their guardians, delivery of a culturally appropriate service model for Aboriginal people receiving care and support through the Department for Human Services' Disability Accommodation Service.</p>	Complete	DHS	<b>Complete</b>
<p>Develop a Strategic Implementation Plan to embed and progress Closing the Gap activity across the agency.</p> <p>The Strategic Implementation Plan aims to ensure the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is embedded agency wide into business as usual.</p>	Complete	The Trust	<b>Complete</b>

## Outcome 10: Aboriginal adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

### Target 10

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

### Lead Agency

Department for Correctional Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>The Aboriginal Strategic Framework aims to encompass the needs of prisoners, offenders, staff and community. It provides a culturally informed and tailored approach to address the needs of Aboriginal prisoners and offenders and ensures that DCS programs, policies and supports are culturally safe. The Framework was informed through consultation with prisoners, staff and the community and outlines three components to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure access to programs and services that are responsive to the unique cultural and gendered need of Aboriginal prisoners</li> <li>• Build a culturally competent and responsive workforce</li> <li>• Increase Aboriginal economic participation and strengthen partnerships with organisations, businesses and Aboriginal communities.</li> </ul>	2025	DCS	In progress – on track
<p>Over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the Criminal Justice Sector Working Group (Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee).</p> <p>A Working Group of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – with a vision to reduce the rate of incarceration and reoffending of Aboriginal South Australians through the delivery of more culturally appropriate and joined-up programs and services.</p> <p>The Department is committed to reducing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent by 2031.</p>	2028	DCS	In progress – on track
<p>Improve access to culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug support for Aboriginal prisoners by formalising partnerships with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group and Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA.</p>	2026/2027	DCS	In progress – on track
<p>Ensure South Australia’s Road Safety Strategy and associated action plans include a focus on improving road safety outcomes for Aboriginal people. The areas of attention will include research, community engagement and collaboration to address over the representation of Aboriginal road users in road trauma and reduce traffic offending rates through road safety education and behaviour change.</p>	2026/2031	DIT	In progress – on track

## Outcome 11: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

### Target 11

By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-

### Lead Agency

Department of Human Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
Youth Justice Services Forum with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.	27 March 2025	DHS	Complete
The Aboriginal Cultural Community of Practice now incorporates the Cultural Champions Network and has a broader range and scope. It is led by senior Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff. Membership is voluntary and driven by staff dedicated to improving cultural competency, safety and practice across DHS Youth Justice.	Complete	DHS	Complete
<p>Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisors and Consultants provide advice and support to staff working with Aboriginal young people across Community Youth Justice and Kurlana Tapa. There is also an emphasis on family mapping and scoping in collaboration with a young person and/or their families to identify young people's kinship networks and important community members.</p> <p>Key projects to further this action include the Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment Pilot Project with RAW Group (Aboriginal owned and managed Australian company), engagement with Aboriginal Cultural Consultants, in partnership with Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services (MAYFS), and use of the Genopro Program to assist with Family, Kinship and Community mapping.</p> <p>In Kurlana Tapa in 2023 two operational Aboriginal Cultural Support Worker roles were created and these were implemented in 2024. The Therapeutic Services teams strive to action the objectives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Principal by providing operational and cultural support and advocacy to Aboriginal young people admitted to Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.</p> <p>The Therapeutic Services teams based in Kurlana Tapa are culturally informed in their work and liaise closely with the Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor when conducting therapeutic work with young people.</p>	Business as usual	DHS	In progress – on track

## Outcome 12: Aboriginal children are not overrepresented in the child protection system

<b>Target 12</b>	By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%		
<b>Lead Agencies</b>	Department for Child Protection and Department of Human Services		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
South Australian Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People – Design. In 2022, a Development of options for a South Australian Aboriginal Children and Families Peak Body: Final Report, was provided to government which included a clear plan for establishment, through a community designed model.	SA Government invested \$3.2 million to establish	DCP	<b>Complete</b>
South Australian Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People – Implementation.	Wakwakurna Kayani, was established in July 2024 and commenced operations on 30 September 2024	DCP	<b>Complete</b>
Strategy to Reduce the Over-representation of Aboriginal Children and Young People. Implementation of the SA Jurisdictional plan for the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children will be subject of negotiation and agreement.	Ongoing	DCP, DHS and multiple agencies	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 13: Aboriginal families and households are safe

### Target 13

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 per cent, as progress toward zero.

### Lead Agency

Department of Human Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
Continue work to improve the current service delivery model for the Independent Children's Lawyer involving Aboriginal children in litigation arising in the Adelaide registry of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.	2026-2027	ALRM	In progress - delayed
Building Capacity in Vulnerable Families Working Group (Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee).	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	In progress - delayed
<p>The Ceduna Services Collaboration supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe, healthy and supportive family and community environments</li> <li>• Positive child development and prevention of family violence and self-harm</li> <li>• Positive engagement, active participation and achievement by individuals, families and communities, including with education. Now adopted as business as usual.</li> </ul>	Until 30 June 2029	DHS	Complete
<p>A new whole of government State Disability Inclusion Plan will be developed in line with the requirements set out in the <i>Disability Inclusion Act 2018</i> (SA) and the <i>Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Act 2024</i> (SA).</p> <p>The new State Disability Inclusion Plan will acknowledge and address Aboriginal people with disability as a legislated priority group.</p>	June 2025	DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track
DHS will conduct targeted consultation with SAACCON and its members during the development stages of its agency Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure the DAIP can address the overlapping barriers to access and inclusion experienced by Aboriginal people with disability, including women and children who have experienced violence.	December 2025	DHS SAACCON	In progress – on track

## Outcome 14: Aboriginal people enjoying high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

### Target 14

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

### Lead Agency

Department for Health and Wellbeing

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
<p>DEW will work with First Nations groups and other partners to co-design a repatriation policy for repatriation of old people (ancestral remains and materials) to Country on National Parks and Crown land. Key deliverables include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a repatriation policy and work with First Nations groups on the policy and its procedures, which also contributes to a proposed SA Government Repatriation Plan.</li> <li>• First Nations groups provide input into the draft policy and/or procedure and are involved in subsequent consultation processes and evaluation, including ensuring that sites of cultural significance along with cultural knowledge and interests are appropriately considered and respected throughout the process.</li> </ul>	2025	DEW	<b>Complete</b>
<p>Establish and sustain Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Networks - aligned with current and new suicide prevention networks across South Australia.</p>	To be confirmed	DHW – (Office of the Chief Psychiatrist)	<b>In progress – delayed</b>
<p>DHS currently funds two ACCOs to deliver Aboriginal Gambling Help Services in a number of locations across South Australia from the Gambler’s Rehabilitation Fund (GRF).</p> <p>Following legislative reform governing the GRF for the first time in almost 30 years, the administrative body responsible for the GRF, the Office for Problem Gambling, has been undertaking a rigorous consultation exercise to inform a future investment framework in line with the new legislation.</p> <p>This has involved ACCOs, Aboriginal people, communities and those impacted by gambling harm co-designing future interventions to ensure the future model of gambling harm support for Aboriginal people is designed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>As and when Aboriginal Gambling Help services are re-commissioned, a portion of funds will be dedicated to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Additionally, in mainstream tenders, providers will be required to demonstrate their capacity to work with Aboriginal clients, their families and communities.</p>	Action complete – service ongoing	DHS	<b>Complete</b>

## Outcome 14: Aboriginal people enjoying high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status
Engage and establish a new Aboriginal Coordinating Partner service to strengthen the program's cultural responsiveness, commission new Aboriginal Community Partner (ACP) services to strengthen Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing, and commission an evaluation of ACP services to be designed and delivered in partnership with ACP service providers.	Commissioning and evaluation complete. Evaluation report response to be considered in 2025-2026.	DHS	In progress – on track
<p>The Services to Aboriginal Youth Program currently funds the following Aboriginal community-controlled organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Family Support Services.</li> <li>• Ceduna Aboriginal Council.</li> <li>• Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation.</li> <li>• Koonibba Aboriginal Corporation.</li> <li>• Raukkan Community Council.</li> <li>• Yalata Community Council.</li> </ul>	The program is ongoing	DHS	In progress – on track
Through the SA Anti Racism Strategy Preventive Health SA will develop the Race Equity Appraisal Tool to support government agencies to identify and address institutionalised racism.	2026/2027	Preventative Health SA	In progress – on track

## Outcome 15: Aboriginal people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their lands and waters

<b>Target 15a</b>	Land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests
<b>Target 15b</b>	Sea mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department for Environment and Water

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Flinders Ranges World Heritage Nomination – obtain free and prior informed consent from Adnyamathanha to Flinders Ranges World Heritage.	2027	DEW	<b>In progress – on track</b>
National Water Reform Committee – Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests.	Ongoing	DEW	<b>In progress – on track</b>
<p>Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB) is an approximately \$70 million program, which will contribute to managing the Coorong for long-term ecological health.</p> <p>HCHB will be implemented by the South Australian Government (delivered by DEW WIO).</p> <p>The current phase of the program is focused on the delivery of wetland improvements are Teringie, Tolderol, and Lake Hawdon North.</p>	2027	DEW	<b>In progress – on track</b>
Efforts will continue on an ongoing basis to embed Aboriginal engagement in water planning and management processes and to incorporate Aboriginal values and interests within water allocation plans as they are reviewed and amended.	Ongoing	DEW	<b>In progress – on track</b>

## Outcome 16: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

<b>Target</b>	By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department of the Premier and Cabinet		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
<p>Establish a new Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service (ALIS) within the Interpreting and Translating Centre in DHS to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support improved access and delivery of critical services to Aboriginal people with limited or no English</li> <li>• Strengthen fair representation within the justice systems</li> <li>• Enable direct participation in forums on matters that directly impact their lives.</li> </ul> <p>The ALIS service delivery model is being co-designed with key stakeholders including government service agencies, Aboriginal language speakers, communities and organisations.</p> <p>A key target for the ALIS is the expansion of the number of trained and experienced interpreters of Aboriginal languages. DHS is working with TAFE SA, Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, and Aboriginal community organisations to support Aboriginal Language speakers to undertake training, gain qualifications and be employed as interpreters in the ALIS.</p>	Action complete – service is ongoing	DHS	<b>Complete</b>

## Outcome 17: Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

<b>Target</b>	By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.		
<b>Lead Agency</b>	Department of Treasury and Finance		
<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead Partners</b>	<b>Status</b>
Improve Aboriginal peoples' Access to Archives in State Records of South Australia's custody, including developing a training program for Aboriginal community researchers.	The development of the training program is expected to be completed in 2026-27. The program once developed will be ongoing.	SRSA	<b>In progress - delayed</b>
<p>Amendments to the <i>Mining Act 1971</i> (SA) and Regulations came into effect on 1 January 2021.</p> <p>These amendments support public access to a broader range of information held on the Mining Register, which will be accessible via the internet.</p> <p>This will help Aboriginal people monitor the progress of mining and exploration projects and will provide a real time indication of what is happening on their land.</p> <p>The amendments also give DEM broad discretionary powers to release information on the Mining Register, unless release would be contrary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any other Act or law</li> <li>breach an order of a court or tribunal</li> <li>involve disclosure of a trade secret</li> <li>or be contrary to any requirement or restriction outlined in the Regulations.</li> </ul>	2025	DEM	<b>In progress – on track</b>



**Government  
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COMMUNITY CONTROLLED  
ORGANISATION NETWORK



**CLOSING THE GAP**

