



PRIORITY REFORMS

PRIORITY REFORM 1

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

Priority Reform 1 is about building and strengthening structures to ensure the full involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with governments on closing the gap at every level.

We want to see new formal partnerships established across the country at state and territory and regional levels between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and governments on closing the gap which reflect elements consistent with the **Partnership Agreement**.

Where there are existing partnerships, we want them strengthened to ensure that representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are chosen by those communities and are properly supported to share decision making about closing the gap in their locations.

PRIORITY AREA FOR ACTION ONE

Formal partnerships between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on closing the gap



Priority Reform 1 is intended to take us beyond the old ways of governments setting up their own structures to consult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

There should be formal agreements in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives and governments about how they will work together to close the gap.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should choose their own representatives, not governments.

It is essential that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives have independent policy support and advice made available to them to support their decision making.

It is also important that, in a formal partnership, everyone has access to the same information and data. This helps support fair and informed decision making.

There was widespread support from the Coalition of Peaks led engagements for Priority Reform One being included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

PRIORITY REFORM 2

Building formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service sectors to deliver closing the gap services

Priority Reform 2 is about support for the building of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors to deliver Closing the Gap services and programs.

We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled services are better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are often preferred over mainstream services.



Priority Reform 2 is an act of self-determination for our people. No other way of delivering and governing services guarantees Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander empowerment and protects our identity and culture for the long term.

We want to see community-controlled services supported to delivered closing the gap services and programs.

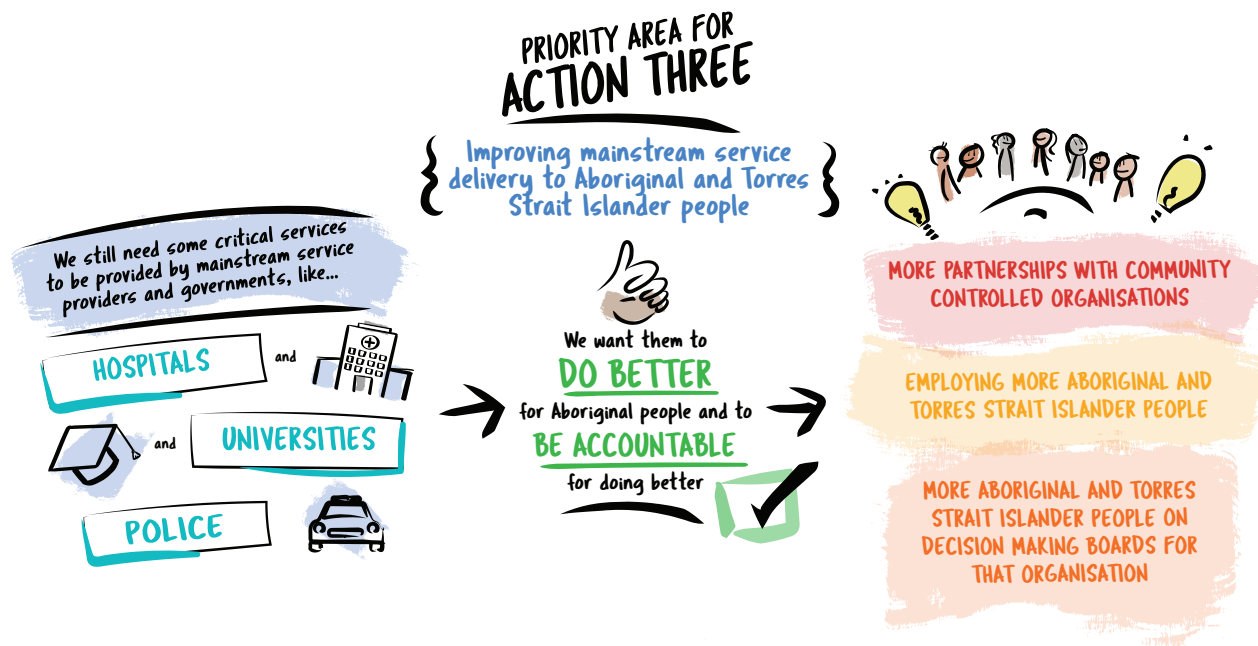
There was widespread support from the Coalition of Peaks led engagements for Priority Reform Two being included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

PRIORITY REFORM 3

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

Priority Reform 3 is focused on making sure government agencies and institutions undertake changes to transform the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are held publicly accountable for their actions and contribution to Closing the Gap.

Mainstream organisations include hospitals, police, universities, courts, prisons and government agencies like Services Australia that delivers income support and Medicare to all Australians. They receive substantial funding to deliver services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and need to do much more to improve our people's life outcomes.



We want to see governments putting in more effort into tackle systemic racism and promote cultural safety, transfer power and resources to communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play a key role in decision making in these organisations.

There was widespread support from the Coalition of Peaks led engagements for Priority Reform Three being included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

PRIORITY REFORM 4

Ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to monitor the implementation of the Priority Reforms, the closing the gap targets, and drive their own development.

Priority Reform 4 arose from the Coalition of Peaks engagements in late 2019.

The engagements made clear that access to data and information and being able to use it to support achieving better outcomes, underpins the achievement of the other priority reforms and needs to be recognised and pursued as a separate priority reform. As a result, the Coalition of Peaks put to governments a fourth priority reform to be included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

On 23 January 2020, the Prime Minister hosted an historic meeting with senior representatives of the Coalition of Peaks. The Coalition of Peaks shared the outcomes of the recent engagements with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the development of the new National Agreement, where there was overwhelming support for the adoption of the Priority Reforms.

The Coalition of Peaks also discussed that, during the engagements, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consistently said communities needed access to data and information on Closing the Gap priorities and targets at the local level to support decision-making about our communities.

The Prime Minister responded quickly to the engagements and committed \$1.5 million for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data led project and agreeing in-principle for this additional reform to be included in the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap as the Fourth Priority Reform.

There was widespread support from the Coalition of Peaks led engagements for Priority Reform Four being included in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.