

Sixth Meeting of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap

6 August 2021, Communiqué

The Joint Council acknowledged the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the many lands and waters that members joined from and paid respects to Elders past and present. The previous meeting was held on 16 April 2021 via Videoconference.

Joint Council is pleased to receive all Parties' Closing the Gap **Implementation Plans**, noting Queensland provided a verbal update and the Australian Local Government Association provided a draft Implementation Plan. This is a major milestone in the evolution of the Partnership and is turning the ambition of the National Agreement into practical action. The Implementation Plans outline the actions each Party is taking and proposes to take to deliver on the Priority Reforms and to achieve the socio-economic outcomes, including how each is delivering on the specific commitments in the National Agreement. The Closing the Gap website will have links to Implementation Plans as they are released.

The Joint Council will consider, at its next meeting, its role in monitoring implementation and a consistent approach to all Parties' annual reports, which will provide information on their progress. Implementation Plans will be updated annually.

Joint Council considered and approved the details of the new **Justice Policy Partnership** to be established in late August of this year, including a draft Agreement to Implement the Partnership and a draft Agenda for its first meeting. The Justice Policy Partnership is one of five policy partnerships to be established by 2022 to identify opportunities to work more effectively across governments, reduce gaps and duplication, and improve outcomes under Closing the Gap. The Justice Policy Partnership will focus on actions that will accelerate progress toward meeting socioeconomic Targets 10 (reducing adult incarceration) and 11 (reducing youth detention), including through implementing the Priority Reforms as they relate to justice. The establishment of the Justice Policy Partnership ahead of the 2022 timeframe reflects the urgent need for joined up action to drive back the rate at which Indigenous people are incarcerated.

The Joint Council did not reach consensus on new targets on community infrastructure and inland waters and therefore agreed to defer consideration of both targets to the November 2021 Joint Council. The Joint Council further agreed the Commonwealth will complete a statistical baselining exercise, in consultation with all Parties, to improve understanding of existing levels of Indigenous corporations' water ownership to support final consideration of the inland waters target.

Joint Council agreed to meet again in November 2021 to progress further actions under the National Agreement.

Members attending

Member	Representing
The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP (Co-Chair)	Commonwealth
Pat Turner AM (Co-Chair)	Coalition of Peaks
Muriel Bamblett AO	Coalition of Peaks
Jamie Lowe	Coalition of Peaks
Esme Bamblett	Coalition of Peaks
Vicki O'Donnell	Coalition of Peaks
David Warrener	Coalition of Peaks
John Paterson	Coalition of Peaks
Scott Wilson	Coalition of Peaks
Wynetta Dewis	Coalition of Peaks
Priscilla Atkins	Coalition of Peaks
Robert Skeen	Coalition of Peaks
Lynnice Church	Coalition of Peaks
Donella Mills	Coalition of Peaks
The Hon Don Harwin MLC	New South Wales
Gabrielle Williams MP	Victoria
The Hon Craig Crawford MP	Queensland
The Hon Stephen Dawson MLC	Western Australia
The Hon Vickie Chapman MP (representing The Hon Steven Marshall MP)	South Australia
The Hon Roger Jaensch	Tasmania
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA	Australian Capital Territory
The Hon Chansey Paech MLA (representing The Hon Selena Uibo MLA)	Northern Territory
Cr Linda Scott	Australian Local Government Association