



The Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Peak Bodies

Who are the Coalition of Peaks

The Coalition of Peaks is a representative body consisting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander national and state and territory community controlled peak organisations who have worked for their communities for decades to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing.

The Coalition of Peaks structure is based on self determination and its members have come together as formal partners with the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to improve the life outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation delivers services, including land and resource management, that build the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and is:

- governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body
- controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- generally not-for-profit and is incorporated under relevant legislation
- connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services

Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap

The work on closing the gap is supported by the Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap, which sets out how the Coalition of Peaks and governments will work together. It has been signed by the Coalition of Peaks as well as the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory Governments and the Australian Local Government Association.

The Partnership Agreement is an historic agreement. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations having been saying for a long time that they need a much greater say in how programs and services are delivered to their people, in their own places and on their own country.

The Partnership Agreement means, for the first time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through their community controlled peak body representatives, will share decision making with governments on Closing the Gap.

The Coalition of Peaks believe that shared decision making between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in the design and delivery of Closing the Gap policies and programs is essential to improving the life outcomes of our people.

The Partnership Agreement resulted from a real concern that governments were going to decide the new policy and targets on Closing the Gap without genuine input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations.

In October 2018, a group of peak bodies, who later became the Coalition of Peaks, asked for those representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to be able to negotiate and agree a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap and to have an ongoing role in its implementation. The Prime Minister Scott Morrison met with us and agreed we should share ownership and decision making on Closing the Gap. In December 2018, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) also agreed.

The Partnership Agreement came into effect in March 2019 and will be in place for 10 years.

[Read the Partnership Agreement](#)

How We Work Together

The Partnership Agreement establishes the Joint Council on Closing the Gap to support national leadership, coordination and cooperation on closing the gap and provide advice to COAG.

In addition to the 12 representatives from the Coalition of Peaks, who are chosen by the Coalition of Peaks, the Joint Council is made up of a Minister from the Commonwealth Government and each State and Territory government, as well as a representative from the Australian Local Government Association.

The Joint Council is co-chaired by a Minister nominated by the Commonwealth Government and a representative of the Coalition of Peaks. The Joint Council meets twice a year publishes a communique following each meeting.

[Read communiques](#)

It is important that the Coalition of Peaks chooses our own representatives for the Joint Council as this is best practice for partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments.

The Partnership Working Group on Closing the Gap, established by the Joint Council, develops and progresses work for Joint Council consideration. In addition to the representatives from the Coalition of Peaks, the Partnership Working Group is made up of officials from the Commonwealth Government and each State and Territory government, as well as a representative from the Australian Local Government Association.

The Coalition of Peaks has almost 50 member organisations and is supported by a small secretariat, hosted by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (NACCHO), a member of the Coalition of Peaks.

The Coalition of Peaks meet regularly, through fortnightly teleconferences, to discuss policy matters and agree positions that we take to our meetings with governments. It is not easy to come together in this way, by teleconference and email, with almost 50 members. We also come together in face-to-face workshops a few times throughout the year to reconnect, progress large pieces of work and to get stuck into the details.

Membership

If you think your Peak body meets the membership criteria and you want to join the Coalition of Peaks, please [click here](#) or visit our website for more information.

www.coalitionofpeaks.org.au



Coalition of Peaks Members

National members

- Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
- First Nations Media Australia
- First Peoples Disability Network
- Indigenous Allied Health Australia
- Lowitja Institute
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- National Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services Forum
- National Native Title Council
- SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children
- The HealingFoundation Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

Victorian members

Victorian Aboriginal Executive Council:

- Victorian Aborigines Advancement League
- Koori Youth Council
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated
- Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
- Djirra
- Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations (FVTOC)
- Victorian Aboriginal Housing Board
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd

Western Australia member

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

Tasmanian member

- Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Queensland members

- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd
- Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Limited
- Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Services

South Australian members

South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network:

- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Kornar Winmil Yunti
- NungaMi:Minar
- InComPro
- South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council
- Family Violence Legal Services Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantatjara Yankunytjatjara Womens Council
- Kura Yerlo

New South Wales members

NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peaks (CAPO):

- NSW Aboriginal Land Council
- NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Services
- Link Up NSW
- NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
- NSW Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
- NSW Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat
- First Peoples Disability Network

Australian Capital Territory member

- ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

Northern Territory members

Aboriginal Peak organisations Northern Territory:

- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT
- Central Land Council
- Northern Land Council
- Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory

