

CLOSING THE GAP

Round 2 Engagement Community Companion

**COALITION OF ABORIGINAL PEAK ORGANISATIONS
(CAPO)**



This booklet has been developed by the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) with the assistance of a grant from the NSW Government.



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACCO	Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation
Coalition of Peaks	Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
National Joint Council	Joint Ministerial and Coalition of Peaks Council on Closing the Gap
National Agreement	National Agreement on Closing the Gap
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NSW	New South Wales
NSWIP	NSW Implementation Plan
Partnership Agreement	COAG and Coalition of Peaks Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap 2019-2029

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BACKGROUND

In July 2020, the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap was signed by Australian Governments and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks).

The new National Agreement on Closing the Gap is a commitment between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve better life opportunities and improve physical, mental, cultural and spiritual wellbeing for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As part of its commitment within the NSW Partnership, NSW CAPO is committed to leading regular and ongoing engagement with Aboriginal communities and organisations.

This Community Companion document is intended to be read together with the NSW Implementation Plan 2021-22 and NSW Community Engagement Report.

The NSW Community Engagement Report 2021 summarises the April 2021 Engagements.

You can read a full report on the outcomes of April 2021 round of consultations by visiting the [NSW CAPO website](#).

The [NSW Implementation Plan on Closing the Gap 2021-2022](#) sets the baseline of activities in NSW and provides the foundation for future plans in delivering against the Closing the Gap reforms in NSW.

INTRODUCTION

NSW CAPO will continue to lead engagements with Aboriginal communities in NSW. We will maintain our role in understanding what Aboriginal people, communities, and organisations need, listening to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal people and refining how we work with communities through ongoing engagements.

While NSW CAPO works in partnership with the NSW Government, we acknowledge that engagements with communities must be led by Aboriginal people.

This round of engagements builds on the previous 2019 and April 2021 NSW engagement sessions. We want communities to give their input into the 17 socio-economic targets and how we achieve these goals. These consultations have been separated into focus areas so community members can decide which sessions are most relevant to them.

REVISED ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak in NSW has delayed the planned comprehensive approach to engagements.

We have since adopted a revised approach to allow Aboriginal people and organisations to provide feedback. This revised approach combines virtual and face-to-face engagement sessions and online surveys.

NSW CAPO acknowledges the limitations of these engagements but believes that seeking some feedback is better than not receiving any community input at this time.

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

There will be 13 online sessions, each based on a different focus areas (e.g Health, Justice, Data-sharing) that cover the Priority Reforms and Socio-Economic Outcomes of the Closing the Gap National Agreement. Registrations for these sessions is through [Eventbrite](#). The sessions have been split up to allow community to attend sessions on topics they are most interested in.

These sessions will be facilitated using Zoom video conferencing software and incorporate Mentimeter. Mentimeter is easy to use and allows participants to interactively answer questions with responses displayed in real time. Participants will need two devices such as laptop and smartphone to participate in online engagement sessions.

ONLINE SURVEYS

The Closing the Gap online survey has been developed to seek feedback and input on the same themes as online sessions with short strategic questions. This survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/L779T99>.

An online survey to seek feedback on the NSWIP is also available separately on the NSW Government 'Have Your Say' website www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/closing-the-gap.

FACE-TO-FACE ENGAGEMENTS

Face to face engagements have had to be suspended due to COVID-19. NSW CAPO remains committed to regular and ongoing engagement including comprehensive future face-to-face engagements.

OTHER WAYS TO ENGAGE & PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Community can also register for information and updates through the [NSWCAPO website](#).

You can also send an email to closingthegap@alc.org.au.

The NSW CAPO secretariat can record input from verbal feedback through this channel, however due to resource constraints this will not be widely promoted.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TARGETS & FOCUS AREAS

The 17 socio-economic outcomes have been identified in focus areas that include education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and languages. Government, NSW CAPO, and other Aboriginal stakeholders are working together to improve socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities in NSW.

Currently, working groups of CAPO members and Government representatives are developing new and enhanced initiatives for each of these 13 focus areas, as listed below, which will inform the NSW Implementation Plan 2022-24. These engagements will allow community to attend sessions they are interested in and provide feedback to guide these initiatives.

FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA 01:

PARTNERSHIPS

PRIORITY REFORM 1: PARTNERSHIPS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

FOCUS AREA 02:

COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

PRIORITY REFORM 2: COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

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.

FOCUS AREA 03:

TRANSFORMATION

PRIORITY REFORM 3: TRANSFORMATION

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.

FOCUS AREA 04:

DATA, REPORTING & EVALUATION

PRIORITY REFORM 4: DATA, REPORTING & EVALUATION

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.

FOCUS AREA 05:

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

PRIORITY REFORM 5: EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW are empowered to access pathways through education, training and employment that align with their aspirations, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses grow and flourish.

TARGET 7

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.

OUTCOME 7

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education.

TARGET 8

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 who are employed to 62%.

OUTCOME 8

Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

FOCUS AREA 06:

HEALTH

TARGET 1

Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.

OUTCOME 1

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives.

TARGET 2

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91 per cent.

OUTCOME 2

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong.

TARGET 4

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55 per cent.

OUTCOME 4

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years.

TARGET 14

Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.

OUTCOME 14

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

PRIORITY REFORM 2: COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

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.

FOCUS AREA 07:

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & TRAINING

TARGET 3

By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95 per cent.

OUTCOME 3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years.

TARGET 5

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20-24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96 per cent.

OUTCOME 5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential.

TARGET 6

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 per cent.

OUTCOME 6

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways.

TARGET 7

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67 per cent.

OUTCOME 7

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education.

PRIORITY REFORM 2: COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

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.

FOCUS AREA 08:

JUSTICE

TARGET 10

By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent.

OUTCOME 10

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

TARGET 11

By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by 30 per cent.

OUTCOME 11

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

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%, as progress towards zero.

OUTCOME 13

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe.

FOCUS AREA 09:

FAMILIES

TARGET 12

By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent.

OUTCOME 12

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system.

PRIORITY REFORM 2: COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

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.

FOCUS AREA 10: HOUSING

TARGET 9

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88 per cent.

OUTCOME 9

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.

PRIORITY REFORM 2: COMMUNITY CONTROLLED SECTOR

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.

FOCUS AREA 11:

LAND & WATERS

TARGET 15

By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.

By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea.

OUTCOME 15

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters.

FOCUS AREA 12:

LANGUAGES & CULTURE

TARGET 16

By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.

OUTCOME 16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing.

PRIORITY REFORM 1: PARTNERSHIPS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.

FOCUS AREA 13:

DIGITAL INCLUSION

TARGET 17

By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.

OUTCOME 17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives.

WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY HEARD

Feedback from the April 2021 Consultations is outlined on the [NSW CAPO resources page](#).

We heard specific information regarding each of the five priority reform areas. We also heard that culture and heritage need to underpin the entire NSW Implementation Plan. Truthful, honest feedback on the five priorities is needed regularly and consistent communication around the NSWIP is needed.

We heard that the best way to know what communities need is to get involved with community and respect people's time, advice, and attendance in consultations.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

There are several ways you can stay involved and provide feedback:

- Complete the online survey via Survey Monkey. The survey will be open for a 6-8 week period.
- Speak to a CAPO representative on 1800 476 777
- Email closingthegap@alc.org.au
- Signup to the [NSW CAPO mailing list](#)

Findings from community engagements will be summarised and provided to all participants and people registered on the NSW CAPO mailing list. Feedback from the engagements will be used to inform the development of the NSWIP 2022-2024.

NSW CAPO will be organising further engagement opportunities to talk about a range of issues, including planning for the 2022 – 2024 NSWIP, initiatives and programs. We will keep you updated on the work of NSW CAPO, Closing the Gap, NSWIP and other opportunities to be involved in the self determination of Aboriginal people.

MORE INFORMATION

National



**Coalition
of Peaks**

<https://coalitionofpeaks.org.au/>

**CLOSING THE GAP
IN PARTNERSHIP**

<https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/>

NSW

**NSW Coalition of Aboriginal
Peak Organisations**

<https://alc.org.au/nsw-capo/>



Aboriginal
Affairs



<https://www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au/closingthegap/outcomes/>