



## First Nations Health Governance Group

### Communique – December 2024

The first meeting of First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) was held on Monday 25 November 2024. At the meeting, key priorities discussed included, endorsement of the Terms of Reference, nomination of Sector Co-Chair and the 2025 FNHGG workplan.

The FNHGG is a genuine partnership between the Department of Health and Aged Care and First Nations health experts and leaders and will be in place until 2031, aligning with the term of the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031](#) (the Health Plan). The FNHGG seeks to co-design and share decision making to drive improvements in outcomes, including the three Closing the Gap health-related targets, by embedding expert First Nations perspectives in the department's policy design, delivery and advice to government.

Following [Minister Butler's announcement at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\) conference on 25 October 2023](#), the FNHGG was established in partnership with the First Nations sector through an external Expressions of Interest (EOI) process in June 2024. Following this EOI and determination by the shared selection panel, 8 skills-based members have been appointed for 2-year terms to provide expertise across data, research, workforce, mental health, hospitals, comprehensive primary health care – urban and rural, and an independent First Nations health expert/professional.

Membership also includes representatives from key national organisations and skills-based members with subject matter expertise. Organisational based members include:

- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- National Indigenous Health Leadership Alliance (NIHLA)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council (NAATSIAAC)

The FNHGG is co-chaired by a First Nations member and the department Secretary. It will meet up to 6 times each year, including annual meetings with:

- Australian Government Health Ministers
- the department's Closing the Gap Steering Committee and
- engagement with other relevant cross portfolio meetings, as determined by the FNHGG key priorities.

#### Related documents

- [National Agreement on Closing the Gap \(especially Priority Reforms and Targets\)](#)
- [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031](#)
- [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031](#)
- [The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UNDRIP\)](#)