First Nations Health Governance Group

Communique – March 2025

The second meeting of First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) was a joint meeting with the Department of Health and Aged Care’s Closing the Gap Steering Committee (Steering Committee) held on Monday 17 March 2025.

The Steering Committee is chaired by the Chief Operating Officer, with members including senior executives from across the department. The Steering Committee aims to champion and drive action to embed the Priority Reforms in the department’s structures, processes, and work.

This joint meeting highlighted the importance of both groups coming together to develop solutions and to further strategic partnerships and shared decision making between sector and the department.

The meeting considered updates on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (Health Plan), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan (Workforce Plan), Aged Care priorities, Steering Committee overview and 2025 FNHGG workplan priorities. Members discussed these updates and identified the following areas of focus for further consideration and action:

* Delivering accountability
* Eliminating institutional racism
* Embedding the Priority Reforms.

The FNHGG will also continue to progress priorities in the Health and Workforce Strategic Plans and ensure it is supported by strong governance arrangements and robust data and accountability frameworks.

The department also provided an update on the co-designed procurement process, to engage an experienced First Nations organisation to facilitate the creation of the Accountability Framework with the FNHGG and the department. This facilitated partnership process will commence with FNHGG members in late March.

## Related documents

* [National Agreement on Closing the Gap (especially Priority Reforms and Targets)](https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap)
* [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-plan-2021-2031?language=en)
* [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-workforce-strategic-framework-and-implementation-plan-2021-2031?language=en)
* [The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)](https://social.desa.un.org/issues/indigenous-peoples/united-nations-declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples)