



First Nations Health Governance Group

Communique – July 2025

The First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) convened on Monday 14 July 2025 and brought together sector leaders and senior departmental executives to advance strategic priorities under the Health Plan and Closing the Gap reforms.

The FNHGG reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening accountability mechanisms to support implementation of the Health Plan. Members discussed the ongoing co-design of an Accountability Framework to improve transparency, measure progress and ensure sector perspectives are reflected in policy outcomes. The FNHGG also welcomed the formation of a Data Framework Working Group, which will ensure data collection and use is culturally safe, locally relevant, and supports community-led decision-making.

The FNHGG endorsed the establishment of a national Workforce Plan Working Group to support implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031. The working group will support strategic oversight and implementation, with representation from jurisdictions and sector leaders.

The meeting highlighted the importance of eliminating institutional racism by embedding cultural safety, equity and anti-racism into governance arrangements and reform initiatives. Members provided input into the design of the Australian Centre for Disease Control, reinforcing the need for inclusive representation and responsive, real-time data to support culturally safe public health advice.

The meeting considered how the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap continue to shape FNHGG's work. There was strong support for maintaining a First Nations-led approach across all reform efforts, with a focus on improving collaboration between the health, aged care and disability sectors. The FNHGG supported action to identify and appoint a dedicated disability sector representative to better reflect the group's whole-of-portfolio remit.

The FNHGG remains committed to progressing the Health Plan and Closing the Gap through a strong partnership approach that centres First Nations voices and leadership. The next meeting is scheduled for September and will be a meeting with one or more Commonwealth Health Ministers.

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 \(UNDRIP\)](#)