



First Nations Health Governance Group

Communique – September 2025

The First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) convened on 22 September 2025, bringing together sector leaders, senior departmental representatives, and relevant ministers.

Discussions focused on the implementation of the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms. Members reaffirmed their commitment to genuine partnership and representation and committed to walking alongside communities to drive structural reform. Members specifically highlighted the importance of improving the transition of funding arrangements under the First Nations Health Funding Transition Program to maintain service continuity and support for community-led organisations. The importance of culturally safe data collection and the sector's role in driving evidence-based reform was emphasised.

The need for greater collaboration across national organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services was discussed, particularly in remote communities with high disease burdens. Members supported a coordinated approach to improve outcomes and strengthen relationships across the health, aged care, and disability sectors.

The meeting addressed systemic racism in the health system. Members called for cultural safety to be embedded across governance, service delivery, and workforce structures, and highlighted the importance of representative leadership, ongoing training, and accountability mechanisms. Members identified accountability as a central concern and highlighted ongoing challenges in securing jurisdictional agreement on outcomes and funding measures.

Concerns were raised about safety, quality, and underinvestment in the First Nations health sector, with links to systemic racism. While the National Health Reform Agreement was seen as a potential lever for change, FNHGG emphasised the need for deeper institutional reform and stronger accountability at all levels.

Minister Butler reflected on Australian government priorities, including efforts to address legacy issues, improve cultural safety, and strengthen accountability. He raised questions around piloting new approaches, measuring outcomes, and enhancing workforce training. The uniting of health and disability portfolios was discussed as an opportunity to improve service delivery and resource efficiency.

Both the FNHGG and the Government remain committed to co-design and accountability as central pillars for progressing reform.

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 \(UNDRIP\)](#)