



FIRST NATIONS HEALTH FUNDING TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP

Communique

19 November 2025

The First Nations Health Funding Transition Advisory Group met virtually on 19 November 2025. The meeting was chaired by David Hicks, First Assistant Secretary, Financial Management Division.

Program Transitions

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing continues to transition key health programs to First Nations-led organisations, supporting self-determination and culturally safe service delivery. These transitions are central to the government's commitment to Closing the Gap and empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

A further two programs have recently transitioned, marking an important milestone towards greater community control and culturally responsive delivery:

Indigenous Health Scholarship Program (IHSP)

The IHSP supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are enrolling in or currently undertaking health-related degrees. The program aims to empower more First Nations people, including those from remote and rural areas, to complete their studies and enter the health workforce. It provides both financial support and culturally safe mentoring, helping improve retention and graduation rates. The IHSP is now led by Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA).

Indigenous Lived Experience Centre (ILEC)

Formerly part of the Black Dog Institute, the ILEC has now transitioned to the Indigenous Australian Lived Experience Centre (IALEC). The IALEC is a First Nations-governed organisation dedicated to embedding lived and living experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices into mental health, suicide prevention, and social and emotional wellbeing initiatives. The Centre informs, influences, and enhances culturally appropriate mental health and suicide prevention initiatives, supports mainstream organisations, and helps ensure First Nations expertise guides service design and delivery to strengthen self-determination and culturally responsive systems change. It also leads the development of local lived experience networks and national advocacy.

Engagement and Further Information

Organisations and individuals seeking to engage with the review should feel comfortable to reach out to Advisory Group members. Further information on the review is available by emailing: funding.transition@health.gov.au.