



## First Nations Health Governance Group

### Communique – November 2025

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The First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) convened on 17 November 2025, bringing together First Nations sector leaders and senior departmental executives to advance strategic priorities under the Health Plan and Closing the Gap reforms.

The FNHGG discussed key reform priorities under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031, including accountability and data improvements. Members reaffirmed the importance of genuine partnership, co-design, and mutual accountability across government and community-controlled organisations.

Members noted Commonwealth health reforms underway, including changes to Medicare, aged care, and bulk billing arrangements, and discussed implications for First Nations communities. Members emphasised the importance of sector involvement, flexibility for remote communities, and trauma-informed delivery.

The Chair confirmed that negotiations on the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) and disability reforms are advancing, led by the Cross-Portfolio Negotiating Group and supported by the System Reform Deputies Group. Discussion focused on opportunities to embed shared decision-making and drive system-wide reform across health and disability portfolios.

Members discussed funding opportunities and the need for investment that aligns with Priority Reforms. Members highlighted the need for additional funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and transition requirements, alongside short-term actions to maintain momentum.

Members reviewed priority areas for the 2026 FNHGG Workplan and reinforced the need to maintain momentum on long-term reforms, including workforce development, data governance, accountability mechanisms, and localised models of care.

Both the FNHGG and the Government reiterated their commitment to reforms shaped by First Nations voices, grounded in co-design, accountability, and culturally safe approaches.

#### 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 \(UNDRIP\)](#)