



First Nations Health Governance Group

Communique – April 2026

The First Nations Health Governance Group (FNHGG) met on 16 April 2026, bringing together First Nations sector leaders and senior Commonwealth officials to progress priorities on Indigenous data governance and accountability.

Members reaffirmed the importance of genuine partnership, shared decision-making and strong accountability to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly in a constrained fiscal environment.

The FNHGG discussed the department's preparedness arrangements in response to emerging global risks, emphasising the need for early and structured engagement with the First Nations health sector during crises to ensure continuity of essential services, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Members considered the development of a future National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement (NMHSPA), and the opportunity for a dedicated First Nations schedule. Members emphasised culturally safe, family-centred, life-course approaches and raised concerns about workforce burnout, racism and ableism, and the need for surge funding and rapid responses during periods of trauma, disaster or suicide clusters.

Members discussed the new National Health Reform Agreement, with concerns raised about prison health, transition funding and administrative duplication. Members emphasised the need for funding mechanisms that support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to deliver primary health care, including in correctional settings.

The FNHGG welcomed updates from the Australian Centre for Disease Control and Genomics Australia on Indigenous data governance. Members highlighted the importance of Indigenous data sovereignty, culturally appropriate and strengths-based approaches, and strong governance to support equitable use of data, including genomics and emerging technologies. Coordination across jurisdictions and collaboration with key data agencies were emphasised to avoid duplication.

The FNHGG reaffirmed its commitment to action grounded in co-design, accountability, culturally safe systems and Indigenous data sovereignty, with sustained engagement critical to lasting change.

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 \(UNDRIP\)](#)