



FIRST NATIONS HEALTH FUNDING TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP

Communique

17 December 2025

The First Nations Health Funding Transition Advisory Group met virtually on 17 December 2025. The meeting was chaired by Dr Dawn Casey PSM, Deputy CEO, NACCHO.

Program Transition updates

The department continues its transition of programs to Aboriginal Community-Controlled and First Nations-led Organisations, offering support and practical assistance to build culturally responsive services.

Integrated Team Care (ITC)

The department held a public ITC webinar in October to share the proposed transition approach and timelines. The ITC data project has concluded which provides early insights into ITC's impact on life expectancy and other Closing the Gap targets. An ITC advisory group including National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (NACCHO) and other key partners will be established in early 2026 to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are central to the new ITC model's design, and implementation. The ITC advisory group will also address funding and service delivery complexities.

Indigenous Primary Health Care

The department has issued Twenty-six activity-based grants under the program; 17 of these will conclude on 30 June 2026 and organisations were formally notified in December 2025, while nine ACCHS-delivered grants remain pending government decision. These grants stem from legacy funding arrangements and were not intended for transition to ACCHSs, with funds from expiring agreements to be redirected to IAHP program priorities. The Department has also extended funding for six state-operated health services in areas without established ACCHSs, with early transition discussions underway in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, though no formal transition arrangements have been agreed at this stage.

To support transparency and stakeholder confidence, the Department continues ongoing engagement with state entities, NACCHO, affiliates and affected organisations. Communication regarding funding cessation for expiring activity-based grants occurred formally in December 2025, with offers for follow-up engagement. All state service agreements include provisions enabling transition when appropriate. The Department will continue to focus on how it can improve consultation and communication with the community-controlled sector and grant recipients impacted by transition arrangements.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – Quality Assurance (QAAMS)

The QAAMS Program delivers culturally appropriate, clinically effective point-of-care testing to support timely diabetes diagnosis and management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The department, in partnership with NACCHO and Flinders University,

is transitioning QAAMS to the ACCO sector under the guidance of a joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by NACCHO and Flinders International Centre for Point of Care Testing (ICPOCT), which oversees best practice in cultural, clinical, and scientific governance. QAAMS transition planning incorporates governance recommendations, training, program onboarding, funding and stewardship. The final transition plan is due early 2026.

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.