



FIRST NATIONS HEALTH FUNDING TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP

Communique

18 June 2026

The First Nations Health Funding Transition Advisory Group met virtually on 18 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by Dr Dawn Casey, CEO, NACCHO

Transition roadmap

The department provided members with an update on the transition roadmap. The department advised that it is continuing to implement a culturally responsive approach to transition, including through the co-development of transition plans and early engagement with both existing and prospective grant recipients. The department noted that a number of programs have received grant extensions, resulting in adjusted transition timeframes. Advisory Group members emphasised the importance of working in genuine partnership, consistent with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Disability and Carers programs review

Members received a summary of further analysis of non-targeted Disability and Carer Program funding, including the proportion directed to community-controlled or First Nations-led organisations. Members also noted broader reforms occurring in the disability sector with recent changes announced by Minister Butler in relation to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Program Transition updates

Program owners from Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Division and First Nations Health Division provided updates on the following programs:

Headspace

Members were updated on the headspace program, including efforts to strengthen culturally safe service delivery and support a culturally capable workforce. Discussion highlighted the importance of improving accessibility and responsiveness of services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and continuing to embed culturally appropriate approaches within mainstream service models.

Red Dust

Members were updated on the Red Dust Role Models program, a culturally grounded, strengths-based initiative delivering social and emotional wellbeing programs in First Nations communities. The program was recognised for its community-led approach and positive outcomes in supporting engagement and wellbeing, with discussion also noting the complexity of future transition options and the importance of maintaining continuity of culturally safe services for communities.

Comprehensive Primary Health Care – Group 2 (Formerly Tranche 2)

Members were updated on progress of Group 2 grants, noting that some will conclude at the end of the current grant agreement. A number of Group 2 grants have been extended for a further 12-months and work continues to determine the long term future of individual grants, including opportunities to strengthen First Nations involvement in service delivery where appropriate.

The Department continues working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector to inform future delivery arrangements for programs not currently delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services.

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.