Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH FUNDING TRANSITION ADVISORY GROUP

Communique

23 September 2026

The First Nations Health Funding Transition Advisory Group met virtually on 23 September 2026. The meeting was chaired by David Hicks, First Assistant Secretary, Financial Management and Assurance Division.

Members received updates on key initiatives supporting the First Nations Health Funding Transition Program, including ongoing work on grant recipients' reporting burden which will inform opportunities to streamline reporting requirements, and the program's annual report, showcasing achievements in 2025-2026 and key activities.

Transition Roadmap

The Department provided members with an update on the transition roadmap, including advice that discussions continue regarding future funding arrangements for remaining Group 2 services. The Department also noted transition-related resourcing requirements are being considered on a program-by-program basis to support effective transition planning and implementation.

Program Transition updates

Program owners from Technology Assessment and Access Division and First Nations Health Division provided updates on transition planning for the following programs:

Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology

Members were updated on the proposed First Nations grant stream under the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology Program (QUDTP), which would dedicate a portion of existing program funding to support First Nations health initiatives. Discussion focused on proposed priority areas, partnership and consortium arrangements, and opportunities to align consultation with existing sector engagement processes.

Members supported approaches that promote First Nations leadership, including partnership models where First Nations organisations act as lead applicants, and noted the value of existing collaborations between ACCHOs and mainstream organisations in strengthening workforce capability, expertise and service delivery outcomes.

Members welcomed ongoing consultation with NACCHO and other stakeholders to inform development of the grant stream and future Grant Opportunity Guidelines. Subject to Government approval, grants are anticipated to commence from 2028.

Integrated Team Care

Members were updated on progress to transition the Integrated Team Care (ITC) program with arrangements being co-designed through a dedicated working group that ensures First Nations voices remain central to planning and implementation. The Department advised that transition planning is progressing well, and implementation is anticipated to commence from 1 July 2027.

Indigenous Primary Health Care

Members were updated on opportunities to transition state-managed primary health care services to community-controlled delivery across several jurisdictions. Discussion highlighted progress in Victoria and Western Australia, while noting that some transitions remain at an early stage and are dependent on community readiness, service capacity and the identification of suitable receiving organisations. Members acknowledged the complexity of transition planning and funding arrangements and welcomed ongoing work to support future transitions and strengthen community-controlled service delivery over time.

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.

Further information on the program can be found on the FNHFTP page.