

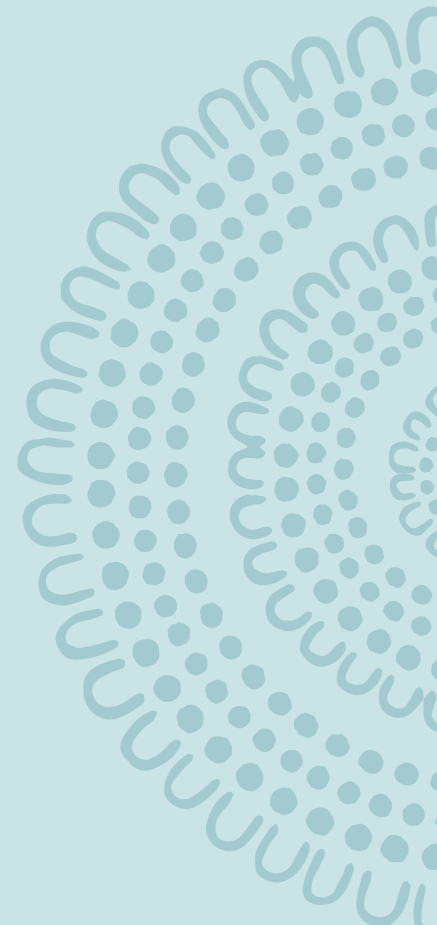


Focus area:

Inclusive Community

QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

A self-determined and inclusive society where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are valued, respected, and experience a life free of racism and systemic discrimination.





41. Priority Action: Support the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relevant Ministerial Advisory Councils to ensure that advice to the ACT Government is informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and priorities

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Support the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relevant Ministerial Advisory Councils to ensure that advice to the ACT Government is informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and priorities.
2. Detailed action description	<p>Review and potentially reform existing recruitment processes for relevant Ministerial Advisory Councils to ensure that it clearly specifies that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply and the Ministerial Advisory Councils aim to maintain a culturally safe environment.</p> <p>The Terms of reference for some Ministerial Advisory Councils (e.g., the LGBTIQ+ Ministerial Advisory Council) specifically include an identified position for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person to be filled.</p> <p>Communicate Ministerial Advisory Council opportunities to the Elected Body and other community networks for distribution and promotion.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate HCSD is responsible for the related Ministerial Councils.</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Directorates that support a relevant Ministerial Advisory Council</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	Ministerial Advisory Council discussions and advice that relate to other directorates will be informed with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>All Ministerial Advisory Councils supported by diversity offices (except for the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> include specific information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants in their recruitment processes. forward information about vacancies to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body for distributing and promotion to their communities. include information about representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on Ministerial Advisory Councils in directorate annual reporting. undertake targeted communications and promotion strategies (e.g., ads in Koori Mail or other community-controlled publications) where applicable. <p>Note: The Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM) has a close working relationship with the ACT Reconciliation Council and links with Multicultural leaders from across Canberra. MACM actively encourages ongoing recruitment processes to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to apply for positions of leadership.</p> <p>HCSD will share updates with the Elected Body on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people appointed to Ministerial Advisory Councils.</p> <p>HCSD will share updates with the Elected Body on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people appointed to Ministerial Advisory Councils.</p>
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Inclusive Community - A self-determined and inclusive society where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are valued, respected and experience a life free of racism and systemic discrimination.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap





FIELD	DETAILS
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>Ministerial Advisory Councils are designed to ensure that Ministers consider a breadth of experience and perspectives to inform their decision making, beyond the administrative advice that may be prepared by the ACT Public Service. Seeking to appoint Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members in relevant Ministerial Advisory Councils ensures that these perspectives inform broad ACT Government and mainstream decision making, not just those decisions specifically relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>This approach also supports the ACT Government taking an intersectional approach and considering where the experiences of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member may also be informed by their experiences as a person with disability, a woman, an LGBTIQ+ person (and/or Sistergirl, Brotherboy), as an older person or a veteran. The expected impact will depend upon how the Minister works with their Ministerial Advisory Council, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members that apply for these opportunities.</p>
9. Evidence of change	Appointment of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people to Ministerial Advisory Councils

42. Priority Action: Recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities at ACT Government delivered multicultural events, festivals, awards and ceremonies

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Recognition and inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities at ACT Government delivered multicultural events, festivals, awards and ceremonies
2. Detailed action description	<p>Ensure all ACT Government delivered multicultural events, festivals, awards and ceremonies remain culturally responsive and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) will continue to proactively engage with Traditional Custodians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and relevant directorates to ensure ACT Government multicultural events are culturally appropriate and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>HCSD will also ensure that it provides support to any directorate supporting Minister's attending a multicultural event.</p> <p>This action is an ongoing commitment for delivered events, festivals, awards and ceremonies such as the National Multicultural Festival, citizenship ceremonies, and the ACT Multicultural Awards.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: HCSD</p> <p>Supporting stakeholders: the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (advisory) on communication and information sharing on success or learnings of initiatives.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	<p>Provide advice and support to directorates delivering or supporting a Minister's attendance at a multicultural event, festival, or ceremony. HCSD will continue to engage and collaborate with directorates through platforms, such as at attendance at meetings and providing input/ advice to briefing requests.</p> <p>This approach will ensure a consistent and inclusive approach is being delivered across government.</p>

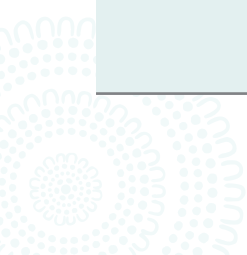




FIELD	DETAILS
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>In 2026 and beyond, HCSD will proactively engage with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Include an Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome to Country and or Smoking Ceremony in multicultural events, festivals, awards, or ceremonies delivered by the ACT Government. 2. Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content is considered and included in multicultural event programs. 3. Give priority to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants to the National Multicultural Festival, and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives to support and coordinate a strong stallholder presence, aligned with the showcase program delivery. 4. Improve social cohesion in the ACT through increased engagement and presence of Traditional Custodians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities at ACT Government delivered multicultural events, festivals, awards, and ceremonies.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Inclusive Community - A self-determined and inclusive society where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are valued, respected, and experience a life free of racism and systemic discrimination. Engagement with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures. HSCD recommends adding this item to Focus Area Action Plans to ensure consistent reporting against initiatives.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	Embedding inclusive and culturally appropriate practices in the planning and delivering events is an integral part of the ACT Government commitment to be a multicultural and inclusive community where diversity is embraced, and everyone feels a sense of belonging. It also aligns with the values under the Charter for Multiculturalism and Multiculturalism Act 2023.
9. Evidence of change	<p>As part of its quarterly reporting requirements, HCSD will report to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on engagement with the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Traditional Custodians and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT Government deliver multicultural events, festivals, awards and ceremonies.</p> <p>HCSD will also increase its engagement with the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and meet quarterly to improve communication and information sharing.</p>

43. Priority Action: Indigenous Data sovereignty and data management and the supporting arrangements

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Indigenous Data sovereignty and data management and the supporting arrangements
2. Detailed action description	<p>Continue to work with officials in the Health and Community Services Directorate as they work with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partner in developing principles and approaches to Data Sovereignty.</p> <p>Develop a data partnership with the Elected Body, exploring the issues associated with provision of ACT government data to the Elected Body and the community (including ACCOs). This data agreement could perform two functions, one to determine a minimum set of high level, whole of Territory, descriptive statistics that would be valuable to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community in the ACT. Separately the data partnership could also establish processes to facilitate Elected Body/community engagement with the university sector in relation to research of interest to the Elected Body/community.</p> <p>Engage with the Elected Body in relation to research projects that might be undertaken arising from the Life Course Data initiative being progressed with the Commonwealth.</p>





FIELD	DETAILS
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: CMTEDD, PCD – principles and policy development. Pathway to facilitate the provision of data as agreed between the partners. Agreement around a single point of contact within government as the gateway to data custodians (agencies) within government</p> <p>Co-Lead: Digital Canberra</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: all directorates, particularly through the Data Reform Group; HCSD in focus for Phase 3</p> <p>Key stakeholders: ACT Elected Body, National Data Policy Partnership, Data and Digital Ministers, National Data and Analytics Working Group.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	<p>The cross-agency/cross jurisdiction evidence base is currently being established through partnerships with the Commonwealth Government, through the Life Course Data Initiative, with the ANU through the ACT/ANU Strategic Research Partnership, and with Data61 (CSIRO) for the development of analytical tools, and the University of Canberra for ACT and region survey work.</p> <p>In August 2025, Strategic Board made several decisions intended to, among other things, support the ongoing development of a fit-for-purpose evidence base for the ACT that will underpin ongoing work being piloted by ACT Health and Community Services.</p> <p>Agreed arrangements include the establishment of a senior, cross-agency, working group which has occurred. A core purpose of the working group is to develop high-level strategic directions for the next steps in embedding wellbeing arrangements across the ACT Government, including those related to advancing data sharing. The coverage of this working group includes data sharing in relation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT.</p> <p>Agencies that hold, and are the custodians of, data assets have legitimate interests and responsibilities in relation to how that data is collected, managed, and used alongside the legitimate interests of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT often determined by specific legislative or by other policy requirements and need to be clearly understood and taken into account.</p> <p>To support the Working Group, and as a mechanism to deal with the different interests, it was also agreed that the ACT Wellbeing Team work with human services agencies to progress the development of formal data sharing agreements that link the strategic objectives of those agencies, including as they relate to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, to the data that underpins understanding of priorities, policies, investment, and of progress. This includes the opportunity for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT to take advantage, subject to effective processes, of the evidence base currently being developed, including available, disaggregated regional data and information with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>The Data Reform Group (DRG) will continue to play a coordination mechanism role for this initiative, and Data Sovereignty remains a standing agenda item for the DRG. The DRG is accountable for deliverables to Strategic Board, and it reports to the Board regularly.</p>
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>Develop a DRG work program around building the data sharing culture in the ACT Government, building on the Strategic Board discussion paper related to the Life Course Data Initiative (LCDI).</p> <p>Develop a pathway to facilitate the provision of data as agreed between the partners.</p> <p>Through the Data Reform Group (DRG), roll out of principles across the ACT Government, and hold Directorates to account for implementation through the bi-annual data maturity assessment (with reporting to Strategic Board). Directorate results for data sovereignty maturity will be made available to the Elected Body.</p> <p>Through the DRG, hold directorates to account for populating the ACT data catalogue to create visibility to the relevant datasets they collect and manage. Provide the version of the Data Catalogue which identified datasets relevant to ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the Elected Body.</p> <p>Agreement around a single point of contact within government as the gateway to data custodians (agencies) within government.</p> <p>Agreed arrangements that the community and government see as effective and enduring in giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access, control and understanding around data relevant to them.</p>
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Core focus areas: Inclusive Community, Health and Wellbeing</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Four: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level</p> <p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.</p>





FIELD	DETAILS
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>The primary function of the recently established Data Policy Partnership (DPP) is to make recommendations to the Joint Council to progress Priority Reform Four. The DPP will focus on strategies and actions that will deliver progress towards the implementation of Priority Reform Four. Jurisdictions, including the ACT, have signed an agreement to use their best endeavours to implement the priorities arising from the DPP.</p> <p>That agreement outlines the DPP as a mechanism to develop a joined-up approach to progress Priority Reform Four, including supporting shared access to all relevant government-held data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and data policies relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p> <p>Areas the DPP will focus on include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. strategies and actions that relate to the drivers of data governance, availability and access, which have direct and tangible effects on progress measurement of socioeconomic outcomes and targets2. strategies and actions related to best practice for data systems and shared decision-making. <p>The provisions and arrangements described above in Section 4 - Inter-Directorate integration strategy, are intended to underpin the ACT's commitment to achieving the objectives of the DPP and consequently of the Closing the Gap objectives.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<p>The level of understanding between the partners of aspirations and constraints in data provision. The level of flow of requested data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> A clear understanding by the community of the data holdings of the government that contain information pertaining to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Enduring arrangements in place giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people access, control and understanding around data relevant to them.

