

# ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019-2028

Delivering equitable outcomes for  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

## PHASE TWO FOCUS AREA ACTION PLAN

July 2022 – December 2024

### 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.

### WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS OUTCOME BY FOCUSING ON:

- Honouring and celebrating the richness and diversity of the world's oldest living culture.
- Reviewing our structures, systems, and practices to remove institutionalised racism.
- Enabling Canberra to be an inclusive community that respects diversity.
- Valuing and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from diverse backgrounds to participate in the community and have opportunities to contribute to decision-making in a way that meets their needs and ensures that they feel heard.

### CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS

**National Priority Reform Area Four:** *Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level (PR4)*

- Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.
- By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.
- By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.

### ACT HEADLINE INDICATORS

- Number of government initiatives established to make data more accessible and usable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations.
- Increase in the visibility and use of Aboriginal languages of the Canberra region.
- Number of opportunities to share data and strengthen access to and capability to use relevant data and information.
- Number of government agencies working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations to build expertise in data collection and analysis.



## PHASE-BASED QUALITATIVE STATEMENTS

### Closing off on Phase One implementation

While some key actions have been completed, work towards many of the Phase One actions in the Inclusive Community focus area are still in progress, and this work will continue to be advanced in parallel to implementation of the Phase Two Action Plan. In addition, some actions under Phase One represent commitments to ongoing work. Full detail on the status of the actions under Phase One is available on the Community Services Directorate website under the section on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Policy Development.

Successes of the Agreement that are evident at the end of Phase One include the Agreement Outcomes Framework was finalised and work on the first statement of progress, or impact statement, commenced. Completion of the impact statement for 2020-21 was delayed until 2022 due to the COVID pandemic. Canberra Health Services published *Together Forward* in collaboration with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consumer Reference Group, incorporating national, territory and organisational level data to identify priority areas for reform.

### To be achieved in Phase Two implementation

By the end of Phase Two implementation:

- practical guidance and tools that will enable us to gather and use data in a way that helps us better understand and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.
- the identification of opportunities to improve our understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in the Canberra region, to support the design of better services, policies, and wellbeing initiatives.

# PRIORITY ACTIONS

New Priority Actions for Phase Two Implementation



Action Number	Priority Actions
1	ACT Public Service to develop general guidelines on identifying systemic racism in systems and processes, including expert input on barriers and governance to progress.
2	Co-design Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data sovereignty principles with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and develop implementation guidance for use across Directorates.
3	Co-design an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language data standard with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The language data standard should support the consistent collection of information about the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages in the Canberra region, support consistency with the Australian Standard Classification of Languages, and is supported with implementation guidance for use across Directorates.
4	Develop an implementation-ready roadmap that will support an improved understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander demographic information at different statistical geography levels. The roadmap should support the improved use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander demographic information for service and policy design, and for wellbeing initiatives. The roadmap could consider data sharing or commissioning of survey collection activities.
5	Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service and product design capability across Directorates and ensure it is seen as integral to delivering on policy intent.
6	Increase diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander user perspectives for all programs and services early and often.
7	Co-design mainstream government policy and service pathways with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
8	Design ACT Government services in an integrated way, from end to end, ensuring it makes sense to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans.
9	Increase opportunities across the ACT Government to promote the public use and visibility of Aboriginal languages in the Canberra Region including through funding and grants.
10	The ACT Government will collect wellbeing data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT and region, to help identify barriers experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and support self-determination in seeking solutions.

## STATUS BAR | 10-YEAR PLAN

The status bar provides an at-a-glance timing of Agreement phases highlighting the current Phase.

Phase One	Phase Two	Phase Three	Phase Four
Feb 2019 – Jun 2022 Status: Complete	Jul 2022 – Dec 2024 Status: <b>In progress</b>	Jan 2025 – Dec 2027 Status: Not started	Jan 2028 – Dec 2028 Status: Not started