

# 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:

Connecting the Community

### QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are connected to strong families, and social and support networks building upon the foundation of community leadership.

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

- Recognising the value that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community brings to supporting strong families.
- Providing holistic family supports and engagement with government services, other service providers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Identifying opportunities for the establishment of community-controlled organisations and arrangements that strengthen community connections.
- Partnering with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers with a view to building trusting relationships and fostering self-determination, leadership, and improved outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Delivering and participating in community events with a focus on showcasing and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, cultures, and history.

### CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS

**National Priority Reform Area Two:** *Building the Community-Controlled Sector (PR2)*

- Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

### ACT HEADLINE INDICATORS

- Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled organisations contracted by government across the Closing the Gap socio-economic outcome areas of the Agreement.
- Number of government contracts awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled organisations:
  - By agency with funding prioritisation policies across all Closing the Gap outcomes [as per Clause 55.a].
  - Under new funding initiatives decided by government which are intended to service the broader population across socio-economic outcome areas [as per Clause 55.b].
- Number of sectors with elements of a strong sector [clause 45], by element:
  - Number with sustained investment in capacity building.
  - Number with a dedicated workforce and wage parity.
  - Number supported by a peak organisation with strong governance and policy development capability.
  - Number with consistent and sustained funding arrangements to support agreed service delivery standards.



## 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 Connecting the 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 ACT Government invested in the establishment of new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations. Two specific areas of focus are the creation of a community-controlled housing organisation and a community-controlled services sector focusing on children, young people, and families. In collaboration, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, the Community Services Directorate and the ACT Reconciliation Council successfully delivered the 2021 Reconciliation Day event, one of the most successful on record; and the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Ngunnawal communities, has identified public spaces at the Lyneham shops, Greenway Park, John Knight Park and Narrabundah shops for the installation of Aboriginal cultural art. There are plans for future sites across the city.

### To be achieved in Phase Two implementation

By the end of Phase Two implementation:

- an increase in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander providers available to provide holistic support services.
- an increase in funding for services going through community-controlled organisations.
- an increase in participation in activities that showcase, and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, culture, and history.

# PRIORITY ACTIONS

New Priority Actions for Phase Two Implementation



Action Number	Priority Actions
1	Further develop the <i>Strengthening Partnerships – Investing for Social Impact</i> (Commissioning Framework) to support delivery of services and new initiatives, including communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about these opportunities.
2	Establish a cross directorate framework that will guide the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Sector within the ACT. The framework will demonstrate our commitment to genuinely partner with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community to develop the capacity of current and future organisations in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Sector.
3	Develop an engagement plan to increase awareness of the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy</i> across government and the community, to increase the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses obtaining ACT Government contracts.
4	Establish whole of government cultural standards and protocols, to build the cultural effectiveness of ACT Public Service staff to enable more impactful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members.
5	Ensure that the voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is reflected in the operation of Yarramundi Cultural Centre and Boomanulla Oval, as we continue progression towards returning these assets to full community control.
6	Identify training to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander board members to perform effectively on government boards and committees. If suitable and appropriate training is not available, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate will work with Canberra Institute of Technology to explore development of new options.
7	Incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural perspectives into ACT Government infrastructure projects.
8	The Office for LGBTQI+ Affairs will actively encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to participate as members of the ACT LGBTQI+ Ministerial Advisory Council, and to seek grant funding through the Capital of Equality grants program.
9	The ACT Government will seek to ensure decision-making processes, including through Budget and Cabinet, are informed by the impact of policies, projects, and programs on the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans including through seeking input from partners and the community.

## 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