



NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap

COMMUNIQUÉ – 2 June 2023

The NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap met on 2 June 2023. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty co-chaired the meeting with NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) acting co-chair John Leha. Attendees included senior government representatives from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and NSW CAPO members. Key discussions and outcomes are detailed below.

Welcome Hon David Harris MP and NSW DPC Acting Secretary, Peter Duncan. This was the first meeting chaired by the newly appointed Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, the Hon David Harris MP. The Minister introduced himself and recommitted the NSW Government's support for Closing the Gap. The Joint Council also welcomed Peter Duncan, the incoming NSW DPC Acting Secretary.

Forward Evaluation Schedule In the 2022-24 NSW Implementation Plan, the NSW Government committed to producing a forward schedule to prioritise evaluation of all Aboriginal-specific initiatives. This is key to address the under-evaluation of Aboriginal initiatives and to build the evidence base for future initiatives. The NSW Joint Council endorsed the guidance that will be sent to government agencies for fulfilling this commitment. The guidance will require all Aboriginal initiatives to be evaluated in a culturally appropriate way by 2031 and for a forward schedule of evaluations to be agreed in partnership between NSW CAPO and NSW Government organisations.

Partnership Agreement Work is underway in NSW to develop a state-based Partnership Agreement. This agreement will detail the role and function of the NSW Partnership and assist to guide the operational capacity on a day-to-day basis.

NSW Closing the Gap Governance Model The NSW Partnership Health Check report was delivered in June 2022, with key findings and recommendations around governance. In response to this, the NSW Partnership have been developing a governance model that is fit-for-purpose and best meets the need of the program.

Consultation Principles & Coordination Tool The NSW Joint Council endorsed principles for organising community consultations. These principles are based on input from Aboriginal communities across NSW on better practice for consultations. These principles will be adopted by Government and non-Government organisations when organising their consultations with Aboriginal communities. The NSW Joint Council also endorsed a tool to better coordinate Government and non-Government sector consultations and engagements with Aboriginal communities. Sharing information and coordinating consultations will aim to reduce the levels of consultation fatigue being experienced by Aboriginal communities.