

The NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap met on 26 September 2022. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs co-chaired the meeting with NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisation (CAPO) co-chair Councillor Anne Dennis. Attendees included the Secretary and senior government representatives from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, and NSW CAPO members. Key discussions and outcomes are detailed below.

2022-2024 NSW Implementation Plan on Closing the Gap Delivery Plans: The NSW Joint Council endorsed the submitted 2022-24 NSW Implementation Plan Delivery Plans. The Delivery Plans include descriptions of the initiatives and how they will be delivered to fulfill the commitments of the NSW Implementation Plan, as well as key milestones, risks, and measurement indicators for the success of the program. There are some outstanding delivery plans, and the Joint Secretariat are working with Clusters to address these issues.

NSW Partnership Health Check: NSW recently undertook a Partnership Health Check. The NSW Joint Council endorsed the proposed response to the Partnership Health Check. The primary response to the findings of the Partnership Health Check are the proposed revisions to the Closing the Gap governance structures in NSW. A facilitated workshop will be held with CAPO and government members in November to determine further details of these potential governance reforms.

NSW CAPO Community Engagement report and upcoming community engagements: NSW Joint Council endorsed the NSW CAPO community engagement report which captures the content and feedback from the March 2022 round of consultations. Joint Council noted the plan for further community consultations in October – November 2022 to report back to community and conduct engagements that were not completed in March due to Sorry Business and severe weather.

Western Sydney Community Data Project: NSW CAPO held a community information session at Kimberwalli on 1 September 2022 to build awareness of the project with local Blacktown Aboriginal community organisations. The next information session for community organisations will be held on 13 October 2022.

Virtual Joint Fund for Sector Strengthening: NSW Joint Council noted the update on the Virtual Joint Fund for Sector Strengthening. In June 2022 NSW dispersed \$1.85 million to the Aboriginal Community Housing Industry Association (ACHIA) for housing sector strengthening in line with the National Agreement. Aboriginal Affairs NSW are currently in consultation with the other sectors to distribute the funds.

Community and Place Grants Programs: In June 2022 the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, announced a \$30 million 'Community and Place Grants Program' over 2 years, offering grants of up to \$250,000 to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to deliver locally focused activities targeting Closing the Gap outcomes. Applications are open for the first round of grants from 5 September to 14 October 2022 through *SmartyGrants*.