

The NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap met on 28 November 2022. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs co-chaired the meeting with NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisation (CAPO) co-chair Robert Skeen. 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.

**NSW Partnership Health Check:** NSW recently undertook a Partnership Health Check. The primary response to the findings of the NSW Partnership Health Check are the proposed revisions to the Closing the Gap governance structures in NSW. A facilitated workshop was held with NSW CAPO and government members in November 2022 to discuss potential governance reforms. The Partnership will do further work to map out and refine the details of this fit-for-purpose governance arrangement.

**Virtual Joint Fund for Sector Strengthening:** 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 close consultation with the health, disability, and early childhood care and development sectors to distribute the funds.

**NSW CAPO Community engagements:** NSW CAPO completed a second round of community engagements across NSW to report back to community in person and promote the 2022-2024 NSW Implementation Plan. These engagements were completed between 18 October – 2 December 2022. Consultations were prioritised in the communities where engagements were postponed in March 2022 due to severe weather and Sorry business.

**Western Sydney Community Data Project:** NSW CAPO organised the first community information day for the Community Data Project in September 2022. This session was targeted at local community organisations to receive more information and discuss community priorities for data-sharing. A follow up session will be held to target organisations that were unable to attend the first session, and a workshop will be conducted to finalise the prioritisation activities.

**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 closed on the 14 October 2022 and successful applicants will be notified in December/January. Successful projects will begin in 2023.

**Priority Reform 5 indicators:** NSW developed a fifth, additional Priority Reform: Employment, business growth and economic prosperity. As this Priority Reform is not included in the National Agreement, it does not have associated outcome indicators. Outcome indicators were developed in consultation with the Aboriginal business sector. The indicators were endorsed-in-principle and will be used to measure progress against Priority Reform 5 in NSW and included in reporting mechanisms.