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NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap

COMMUNIQUÉ – 15 November 2023

The NSW Joint Council on Closing the Gap met on Gadigal land (Sydney) on 15 November 2023. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, the Hon David Harris MP, co-chaired the meeting with NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) Co-chair John Leha. Attendees included senior leaders from NSW CAPO and the NSW Premier's Department. Key discussions and outcomes are detailed below.

Acknowledgement of Country and opening statements

NSW Joint Council paid respects to the Elders, acknowledging their continuing custodianship of lands. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty and NSW CAPO members highlighted the significance of ongoing efforts for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW. The Minister emphasised the commitment of the NSW Government to Closing the Gap and embedding this across government.

NSW Partnership on Closing the Gap – Governance Refresh

NSW Joint Council members discussed the proposed revised governance refresh and linkages to the national governance arrangements, Ministerial progress meetings and NSW Implementation Plans. It was agreed a proposed model would be finalised for implementation in early 2024.

NSW Partnership Agreement

The NSW Joint Council noted the update on the NSW Partnership Agreement and that supporting addendums are currently being developed through the NSW Partnership Working Group.

Ministerial progress meetings and reporting

The first Ministerial Progress meetings with the new government were held in November 2023. NSW Joint Council members discussed the Ministerial progress meetings and reflected on how these meetings could be enhanced in 2024.

Update on National Governance

NSW Joint Council members heard an update on the key outcomes and actions from recent national governance meetings.

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