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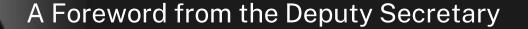
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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are resilient people. We are survivors. Over many millennia, Aboriginal people have occupied these lands, with deep spiritual connections to Country. As a collectivist culture, we cared for each other, our families and our Country, our land, waters, and natural resources.

This is why we have reset our vision and purpose as set out in this plan. Our vision is that every Aboriginal person and community is thriving and celebrated. Our purpose is to connect, listen, advocate, and enable Aboriginal communities, and to lead accountability and change across government. Put simply, this is about putting the voice of Aboriginal people at the centre of decision-making. Our focus is on truth-telling and healing, supporting self-determination, strengthening Aboriginal culture, and bringing the voice of Aboriginal people within government.

We are at a unique time in history, the opportunity to really stand on the shoulders of our ancestors to influence government and make sustainable change for the better. I believe we will do this through the mechanisms government are committed to establishing over the coming years. We must start with truth telling, allowing the stories of Aboriginal people to be told. We are positioned uniquely in the centre of government in order to do just that.

Our strategic priorities and goals outlined in this plan, demonstrate our commitment to representing community voices, leading reform and most importantly healing. We will work across these priorities in everything that we do and drive government to do the same. We will lead, influence and collaborate to ensure that we incrementally but systematically shift the dial.

Shane Hamilton
Deputy Secretary Aboriginal Affairs

About the Artwork



'In the Footsteps of Our Ancestors' Amy Allerton

From the beginning of the journey, travelling along the paths that have been forged, we move forwards in the footsteps of our Ancestors and carry the legacy that they fought for. They are forever with us and within us; the past, present and future united in one story, reminding us of our history, grounding us in purpose and driving us towards our vision.

Walking hand in hand, side by side, we partner, collaborate and connect with community, culture and Country. Every step is planted firmly in truth, giving us strength to speak, wisdom to educate and opportunity to heal along every path we tread.

We care for, come from and belong to community. Strengthened by our diversity, we come together to listen to, advocate for and empower each other to lead and create change.

On the journey ahead, travelling along the paths we forge, we move forwards in the footsteps of our Ancestors to see that every person and community is thriving and celebrated.

Our History

1962: All Indigenous people are given the vote in Commonwealth elections.

1967: Referendum held to count Indigenous
Australians in the census – 90.7% of Australians
voted YES

1969: Abolishment of the Aborigines Welfare Board (AWB)

1983: Aboriginal
Land Rights Act
1983 (NSW)
recognizes
dispossession and

displacement.

1982: Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs established in NSW

1975: Racial Discrimination Act 1972: Tent Embassy established outside old Parliament House. It adopts Harold Thomas designed Aboriginal flag.

1972: White Australia policy abolished.
Department of Aboriginal Affairs established in Federal Government.

1988: Office of Aboriginal Affairs created in NSW

1991: Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody presents report with 339 recommendations

1993: Native Title Act passed in Federal Government

1995: Department of Aboriginal Affairs established in NSW

1997: National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal Children from their Families, Bringing them Home report tabled

2003: Two Ways
Together

2008: Federal Government (Kevin Rudd) National Apology

2008: First
National
Agreement on
Closing the Gap

2010: Amendment to Constitution Act 1902 (NSW) to recognise Aboriginal peoples as First Peoples of NSW, their cultural association with the land, waters, and contribution to NSW.

2013: OCHRE

2016: NSW Government response to the Unfinished Business Report accepting majority of the recommendations.

2016: NSW Parliament
General Purpose Standing
Committee tabled Unfinished
Business Report in the inquiry
into Stolen Generation
reparations.

2013: Regional alliances formed for Local Decision Making negotiations with the NSW Government.

2017: Enactment of Aboriginal Languages Act 2017 - First Act in Australia to recognise Aboriginal Languages and establishes the Aboriginal Languages Trust.

2017: NSW Stolen
Generations
Reparations Scheme

2023: Legislation for

Voice to Parliament

a Referendum for

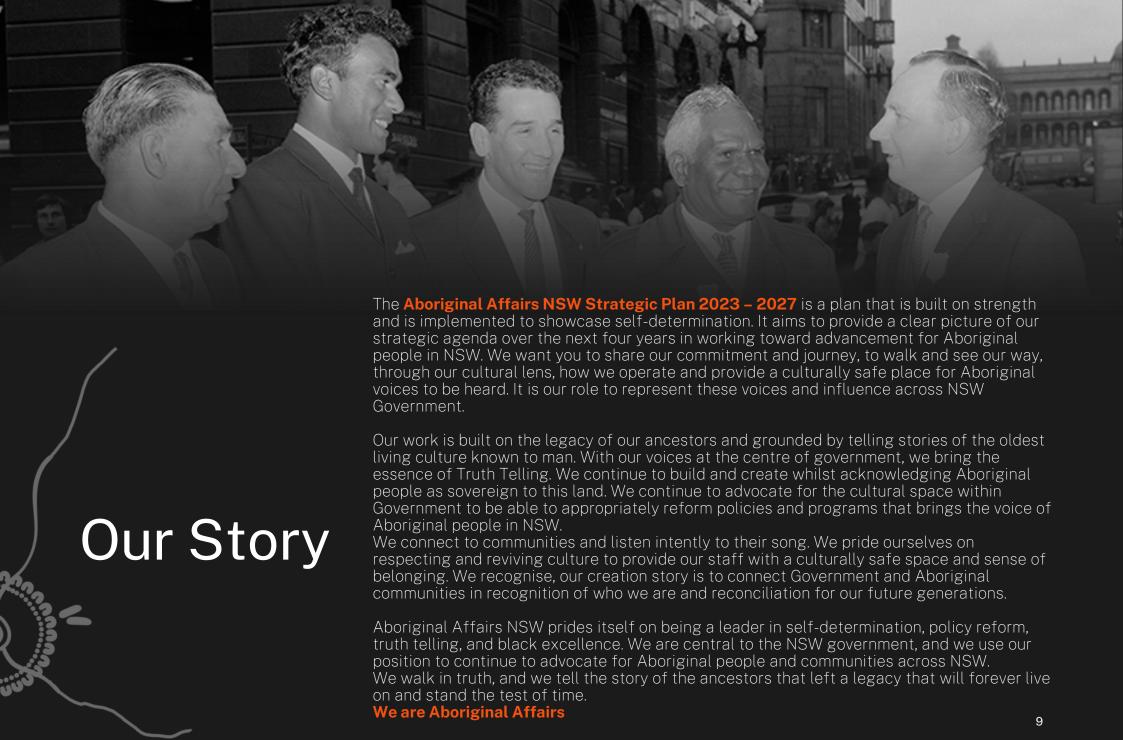
passed

2019: Second
National
Agreement on
Closing the Gap

2018: First Evaluation of

OCHRE

2019: NSW Coalition of
Aboriginal Regional Alliances
(NCARA) sign accord with NSW
Government



Our Vision

Every Aboriginal person and Community is thriving and celebrated.

Our vision statement describes the future state or goal that the agency is working towards achieving. We want Aboriginal people and Communities to thrive and be celebrated by others and this is our guiding light for the work at Aboriginal Affairs. The statement will help guide decision-making and strategic planning, providing direction and focus for the agency's initiatives. By having a shared understanding of the visions, we can work together effectively towards achieving our goals.







We connect, listen, advocate and enable Aboriginal Communities to lead accountability and change across Government

Our purpose statement is a succinct and inspiring statement that summarises our primary activities, values, and goals while emphasising our contribution to the broader community. Our role is work in partnership with Community to influence government to ensure accountability of Government and drive positive change across Government.

Our Values

Leadership

At Aboriginal Affairs we all play a role as Leaders

Relationships

At Aboriginal
Affairs we start
with
relationships

Community

At Aboriginal
Affairs we
value
Community,
Culture and
Country

Truth Telling

At Aboriginal
Affairs we
honour truth
telling

Advocacy

At
Aboriginal
Affairs we
advocate
for one
another



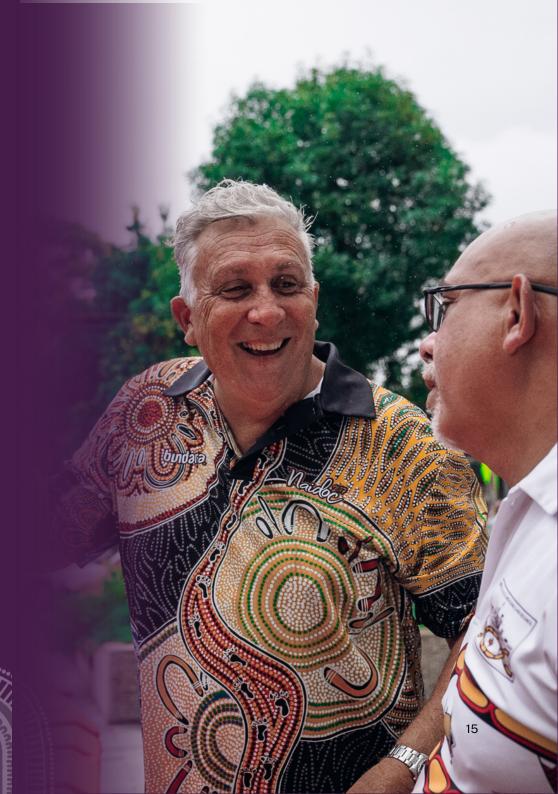




Strategic Priority Three:

Transformation & Influence

From a foundation of evidence, we drive change through transformative policy development and program design to challenge and influence our Government partners.



Our Goals Empowering the voice of Goal 1 community to; guide research, evaluation and Community policy; black excellence and expertise; and Voice deliver on Treaty annanana Goal 3 -Coordinate across NSW Goal 2 -Lead truth telling Government, to drive Healing to embed healing, change informed by community, embedding Reform as we continue to uphold and self-determination; while celebrate culture we design and deliver culturally responsive reforms and evaluation. 16



Level 6, 201 Coward Street, Mascot NSW 2020

1800 019 998

enquiries@aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au