

Closing the Gap

Priority Reform One: NSW 2022 Partnerships Stocktake Analysis



NSW's 2022 Partnerships Stocktake is a key component of Priority Reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making

Priority Reform One of Closing the Gap: Priority Reform One, delineated in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, places a strong emphasis on Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making as a pivotal component. The primary objective of this priority reform area is to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, affording them a meaningful role in the decision-making process alongside government bodies. This overarching goal is to accelerate progress, encompassing both policy and place-based advancements, in bridging the Gap through the establishment of formal partnership arrangements.

NSW 2022 Partnership Stocktake: At the heart of this commitment is the NSW 2022 Partnership Stocktake, a vital element intricately linked to Priority Reform One, notably specified in Clause 36 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This clause mandates the comprehensive review of existing partnership arrangements between Aboriginal partners and the NSW government in New South Wales. In the fulfillment of this obligation, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, joined forces with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) to execute the Partnerships Stocktake in 2022. This initiative entailed the collection of pertinent information from various NSW Government departments, agencies, and Local Government Councils. The objective was to gain a holistic perspective on the current partnership landscape in NSW and, importantly, to discern opportunities for the enhancement and fortification of these collaborative endeavours.



NSW's 2022 Partnerships Stocktake is based on self-reported data and provides indicative insights about the landscape of partnerships in NSW

We found 31 formal partnerships: We successfully identified 31 formal partnerships among the data we gathered, which encompassed information from more than 230 self-reported partnership arrangements reported by local councils and government agencies in NSW. It's important to note that this data was self-reported and couldn't be independently verified. Our analysis aimed to establish whether these arrangements met the criteria for partnerships, primarily the presence of shared decision-making, as opposed to functioning as advisory bodies, service delivery setups, events, or other non-partnership structures. Following rigorous analysis, we verified the existence of these 31 formal partnerships.

Assessment process: The assessment process involved a thorough evaluation of these formal partnerships against the 'Strong Partnership Elements' outlined in clauses 32 and 33 of the National Agreement. These elements encompassed aspects such as membership, formal agreements, decision-making processes, and funding. Each assessment was conducted independently by both NSW CAPO and Aboriginal Affairs NSW, and their results were cross-checked to reach a consensus assessment. It's important to mention that the information provided by government agencies and councils was not validated with Aboriginal partners. This was due to the complexities of confirming specific partners, particularly in the case of local government partnerships, and the necessity for maintaining consistency in the assessment process across all partnerships.

Analysis only indicates state-wide trends: It's vital to underscore that our analysis primarily reveals statewide trends. Consequently, the primary outcome of this review is the identification of overarching trends within the data, rather than providing individual scores for each partnership. Given the self-reported nature of the data and variations in the level of detail provided, our analysis can only offer indicative trends. Nevertheless, these indicative trends collectively offer a comprehensive overview of partnership dynamics in NSW, forming a valuable foundation for initiatives aimed at bolstering these partnerships. This wealth of information is currently being harnessed to develop a practical and tailor-made toolkit designed to support and strengthen partnerships across the state of NSW.



Type of Partnership Findings



Aboriginal Affairs

Over half of the partnerships were place-based initiatives



52% of the reported partnerships were place-based initiatives.

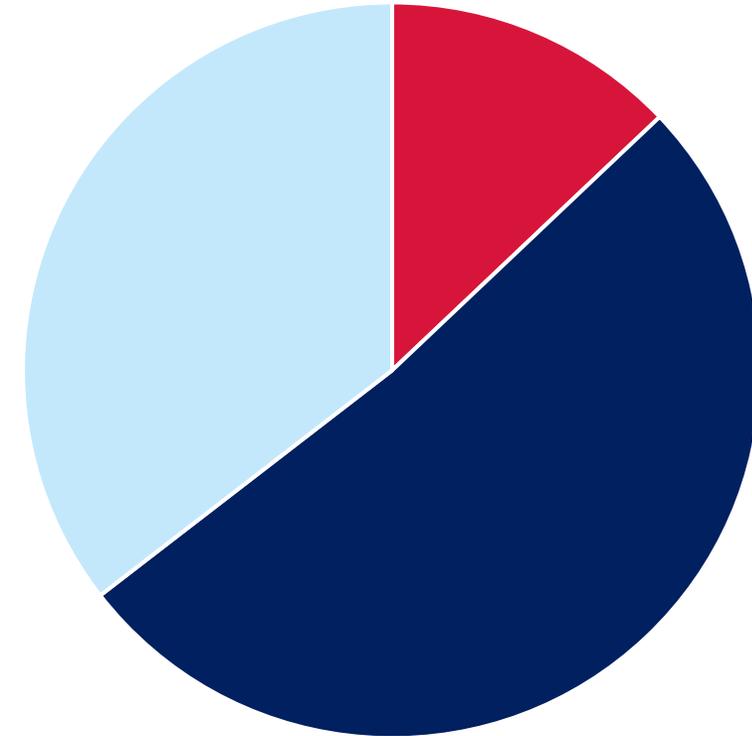


A further 35% of partnerships were policy-based initiatives.



The remaining 13% were both policy and place-based initiatives.

Type of Partnership



■ Both policy and place-based ■ Place-based ■ Policy



Geographical Findings



Aboriginal Affairs

Partnerships existed in 68 unique Local Government Areas



12% of partnerships were found statewide

Leeton Shire
Bega Valley Shire
Wollongong
Bourke Shire
City of Liverpool
Kempsey Shire
Penrith
City of Lismore
City of Coffs Harbour
Dubbo Regional Council
Walgett Shire
City of Broken Hill
Central Darling Shire
Tamworth Regional Council
City of Blue Mountains
City of Shoalhaven
Moree Plains Shire

Wingecarrabee Shire
City of Albury
Cootamundra Shire
Deniliquin Council
City of Griffith
Hay Shire
Narrandera Shire
Snowy Valleys Council
City of Wagga Wagga
Glen Innes Severn
Uralla Shire
Armidale Regional Council
Walcha Shire
Ballina Shire
Byron Shire
Clarence Valley Council
Kyogle Council

Richmond Valley Council
Tweed Shire
Brewarrina Shire
Cobar Shire
Coonamble Shire
Wentworth Shire
Gosford
Municipality of Kiama
City of Shellharbour
Municipality of Woollahra
City of Sydney
Waverley
City of Randwick
Bayside Council
Sutherland Shire
Blacktown City
Camden Council

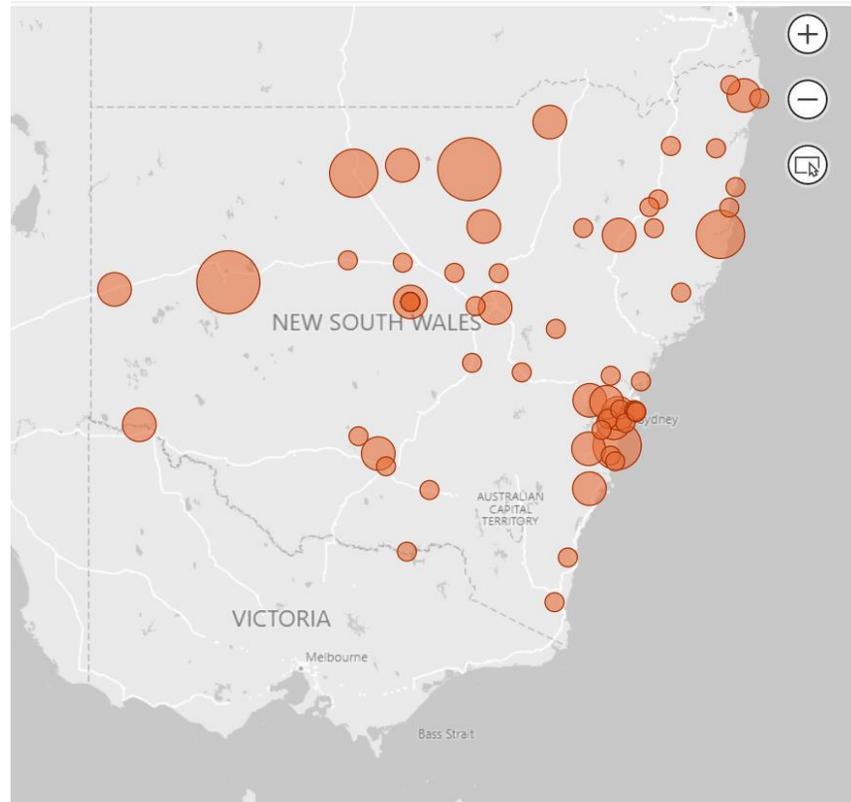
City of Campbelltown
City of Fairfield
City of Hawkesbury
Cumberland County, New South Wales
Wollondilly Shire
Nambucca Shire
Gunnedah Shire
Eurobodalla Shire
Mid-Coast Council
Bathurst Region
Gilgandra Shire
Mid-Western Regional Council
Narromine Shire
Bogan Shire
City of Orange
Parkes Shire
Warren Shire



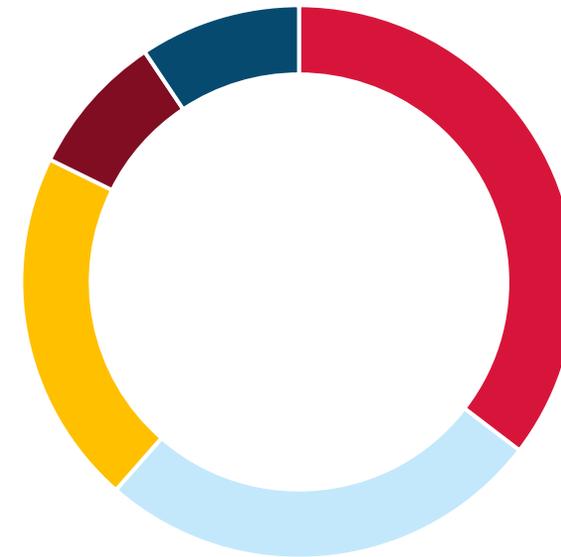
Note: Some partnerships were present in more than one Local Government Area (LGA), total numbers will not equal the number of partnerships identified in the survey.

Most partnerships were found in Inner Regional areas

Remote and Very Remote areas had the fewest examples of partnership



Proportion of Partnerships by Remoteness



■ Inner Regional ■ Major Cities ■ Outer Regional ■ Remote ■ Very Remote



Note: Some partnerships were present in more than one Local Government Area (LGA), total numbers will not equal the number of partnerships identified in the survey.

Note: Remoteness Areas used were the Australian Standard Geographical Classification System.

Sector Findings

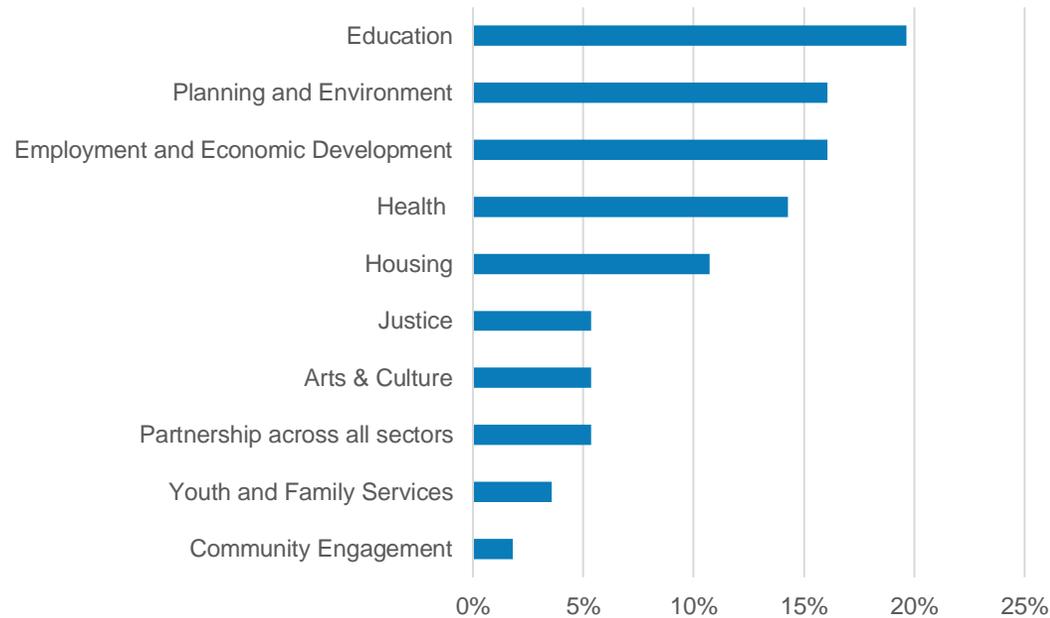


Aboriginal
Affairs

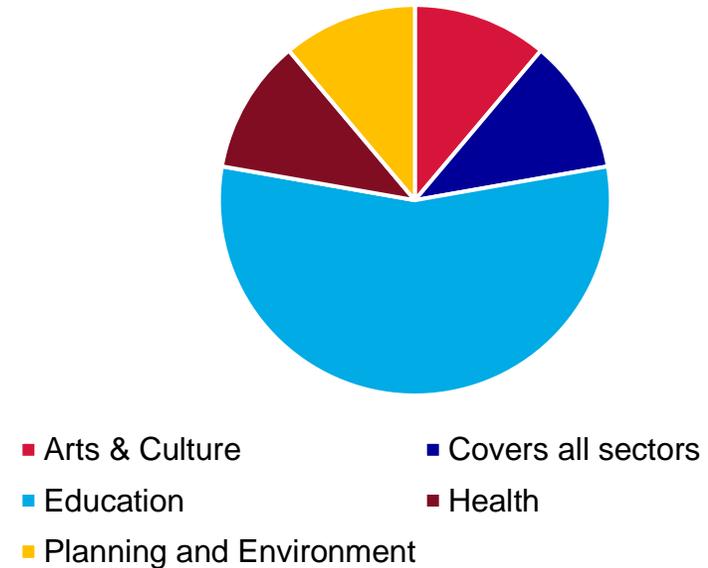
The Education sector had the highest proportion of self-reported partnerships

Of the reported partnerships that exist state-wide, 56% are based in the education sector

Proportion Of Partnerships by Sector



Proportion of state wide partnerships by sector



Note: Some partnerships covered more than one sector, total numbers will not equal the number of partnerships identified in the survey.

Partnership Elements Findings



Aboriginal
Affairs

What are the Partnership Elements in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap?

Membership

Partnerships are accountable and representative

Agreement

A formal agreement is in place between members

Decision-Making

Decision making is shared between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Funding

Adequate funding is provided for participation in the partnership



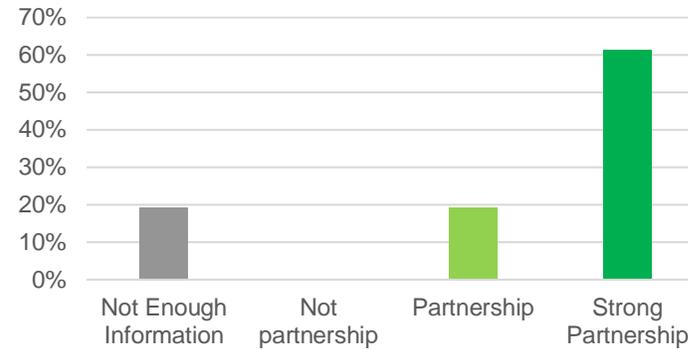
The most met partnership element was “Membership”, while few partnerships met the “Funding” element

Among the partnerships evaluated, "Membership" was the most frequently met element, with an 80% compliance rate. None of the partnerships were found not to meet this criterion, though for the remaining 20%, there was insufficient information to make an assessment.

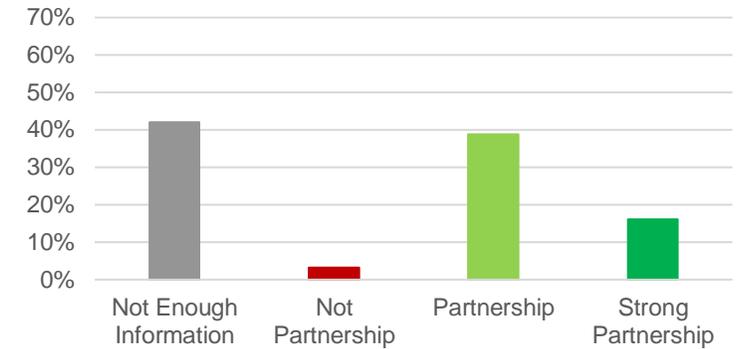
A significant portion of partnerships couldn't be evaluated against the "Decision-Making" (42%) and "Formal Agreements" (29%) elements. However, of the 58% that could be assessed, 55% were determined to meet the "Decision-Making" element, and 42% fulfilled the "Formal Agreements" requirement.

In contrast, a small proportion (23%) of partnerships were found to satisfy the "Funding" element.

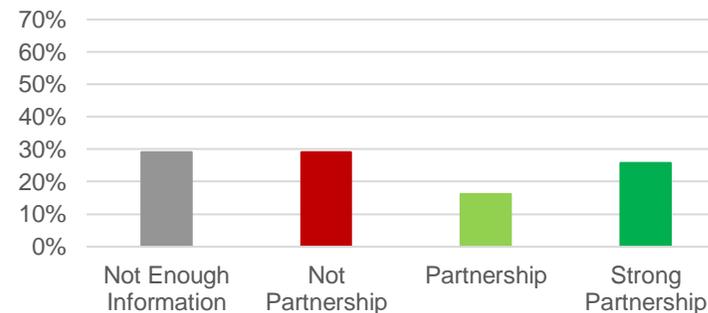
Assessment of Membership



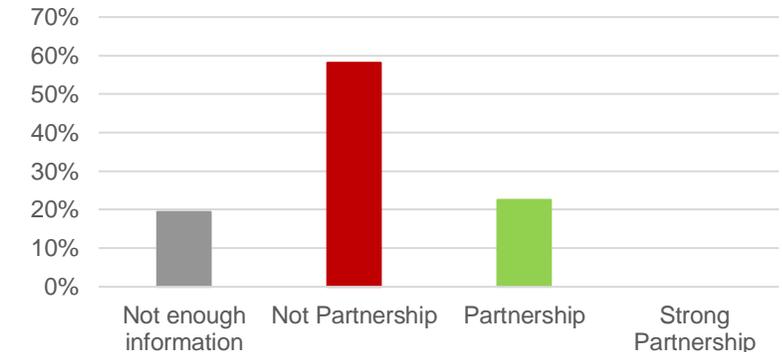
Assessment of Decision-Making



Assessment of Formal Agreements

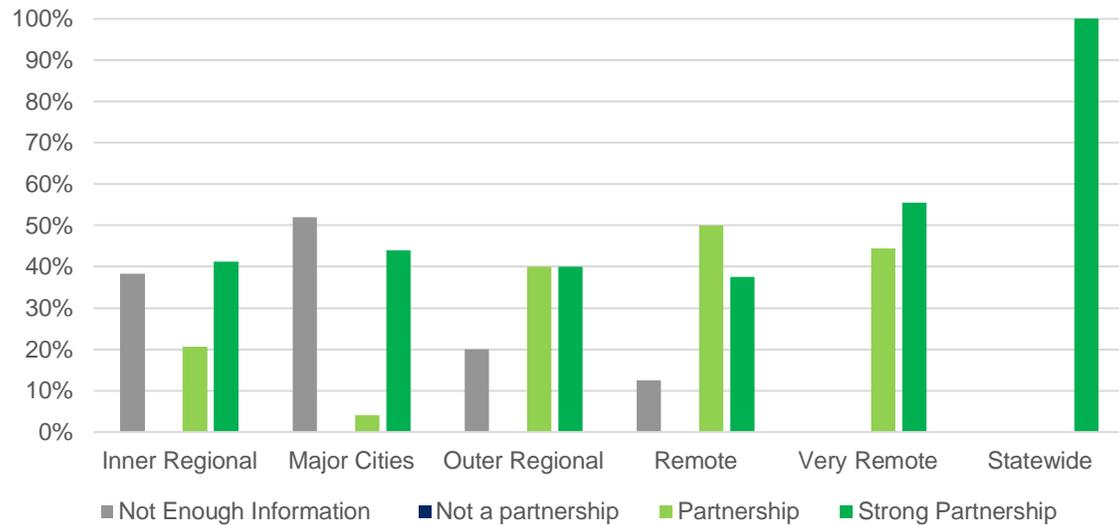


Assessment of Funding

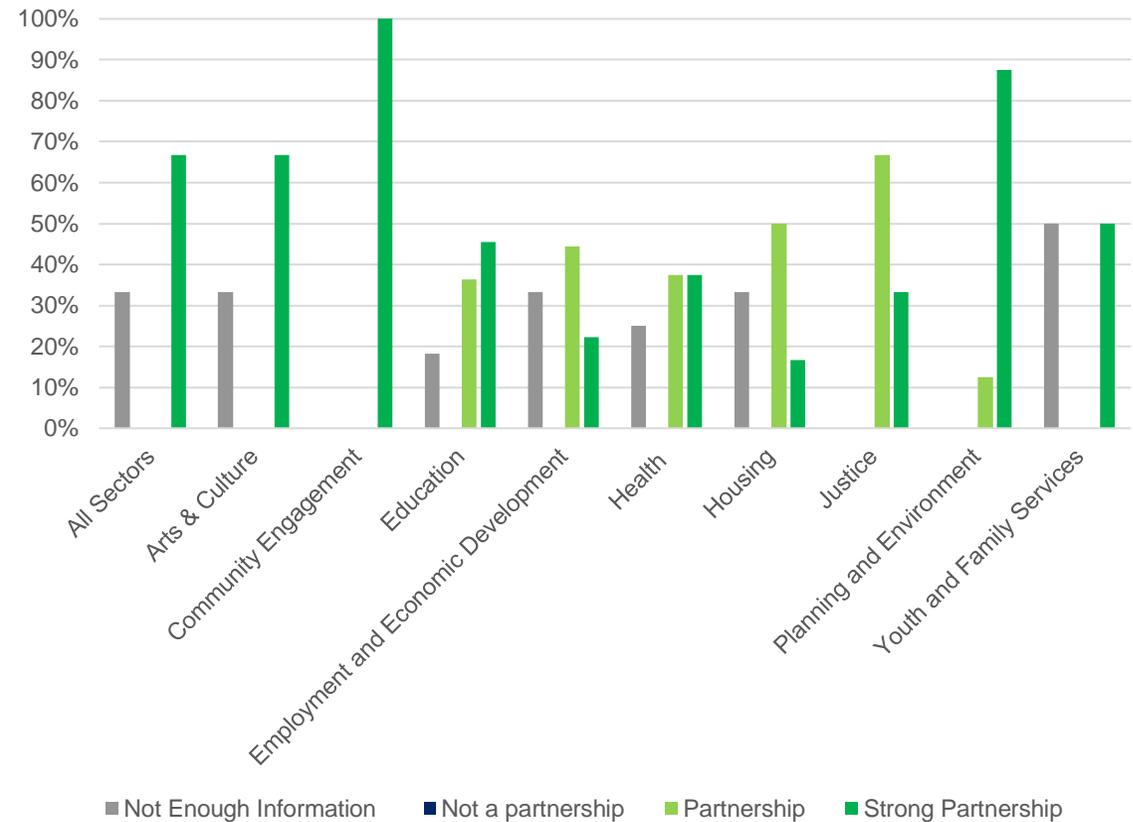


Most partnerships were found to meet the “Membership” elements of partnership

Assessment of Membership by Remoteness Area



Assessment of Membership by Sector

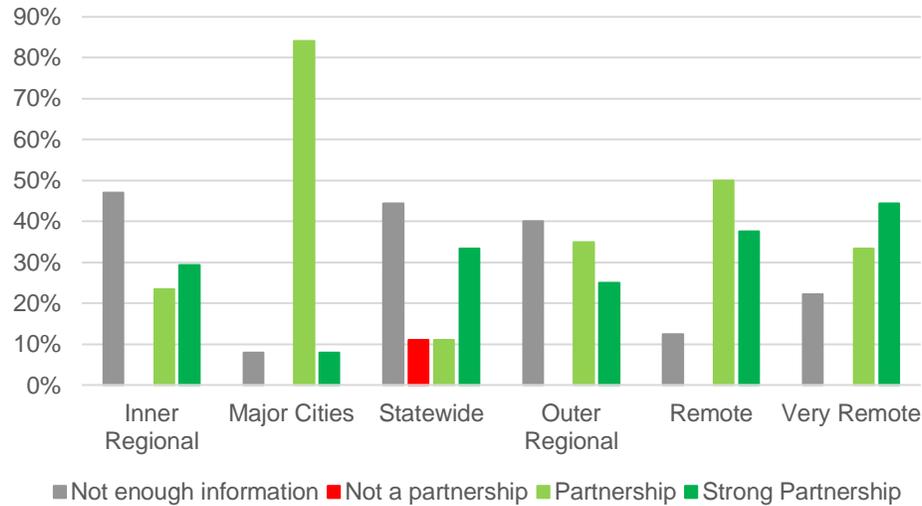


All partnerships that exist at a state-wide level were assessed as being strong in the “Membership” element.

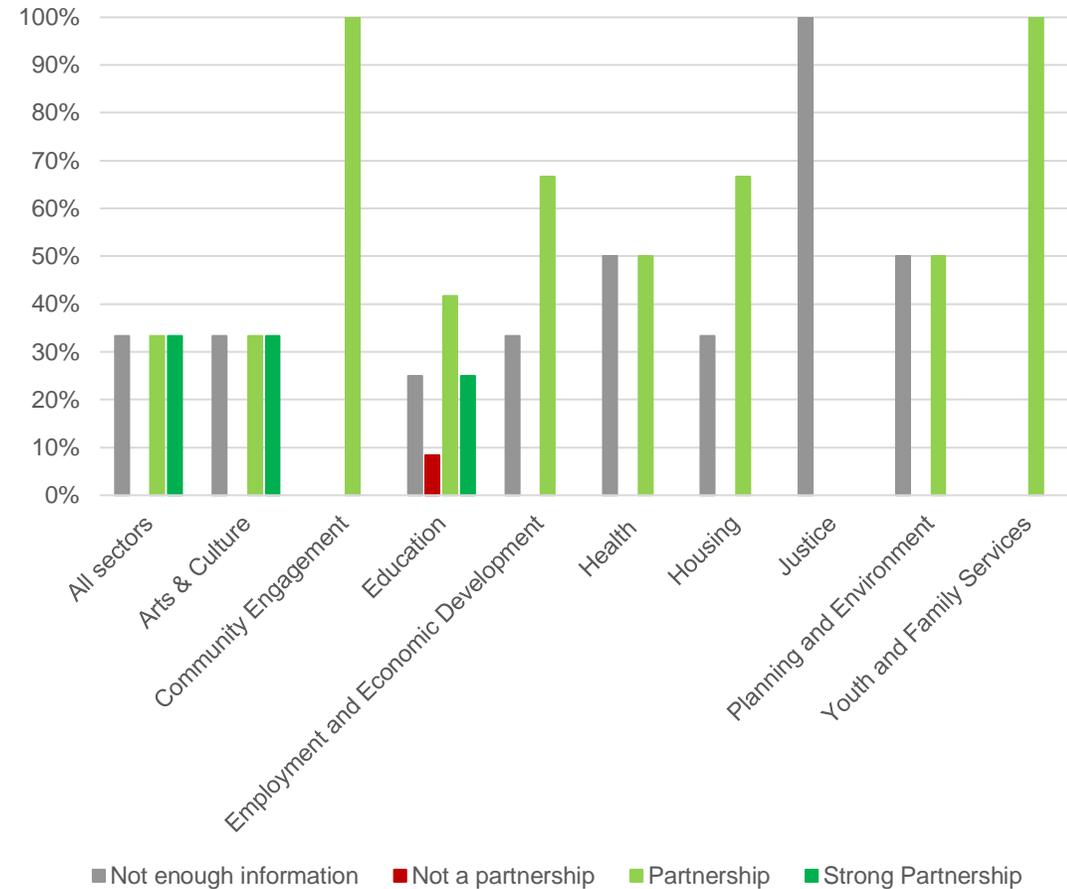


Most partnerships in major cities, as well as remote and very remote areas were assessed as meeting the “decision-making” element

Assessment of Decision-Making by Remoteness Area



Assessment of Decision-Making by Sector

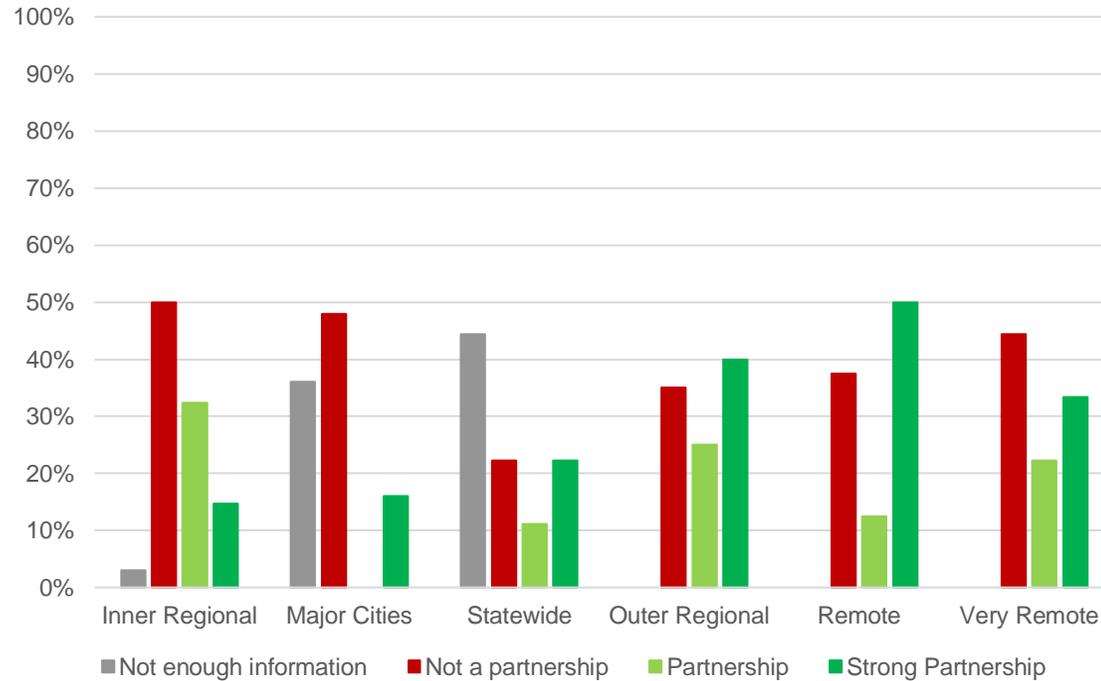


All self-reported partnerships in the Community Engagement and Youth and Family Services sectors met the “decision-making” element.

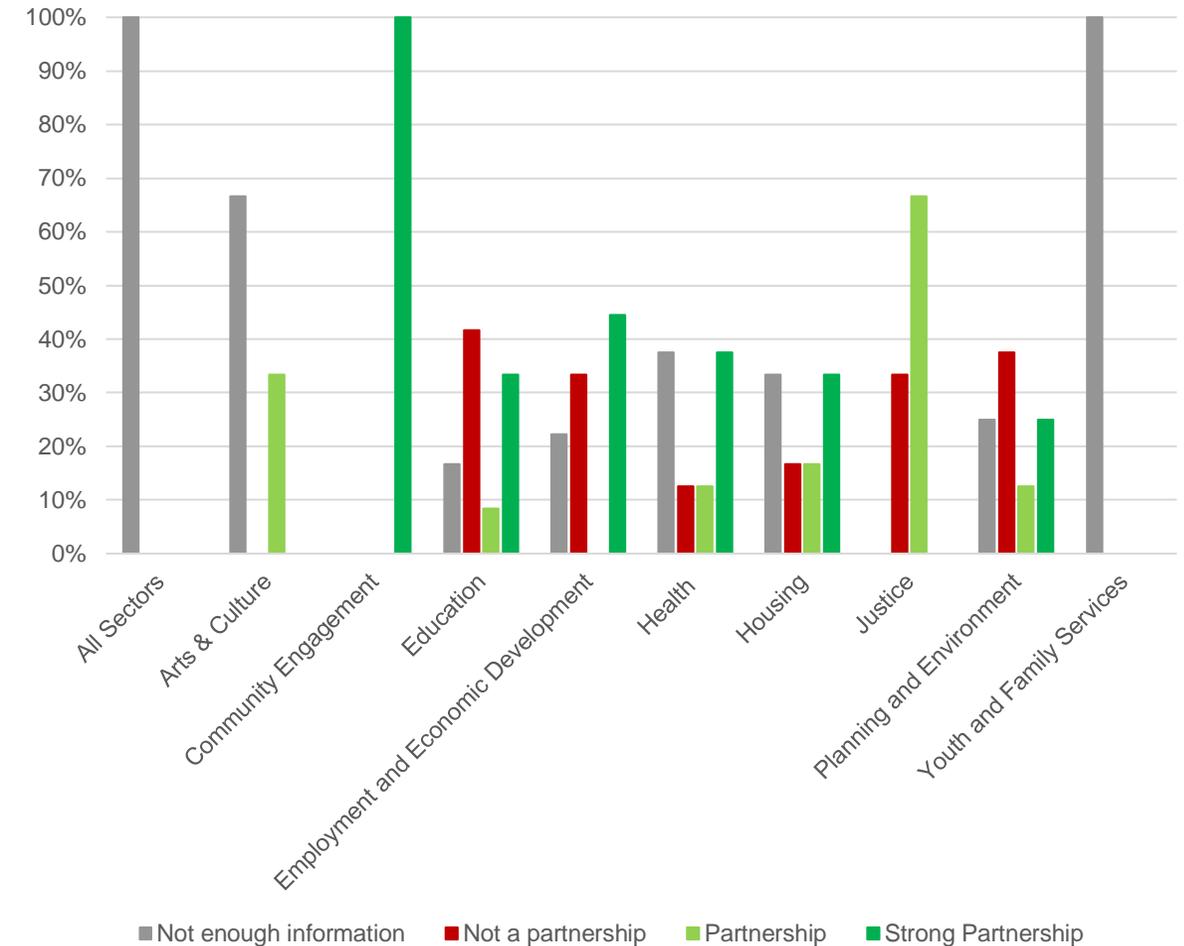


Major cities had a low proportion of partnerships that were assessed as meeting the “agreement” element

Assessment of Agreement by Remoteness Area



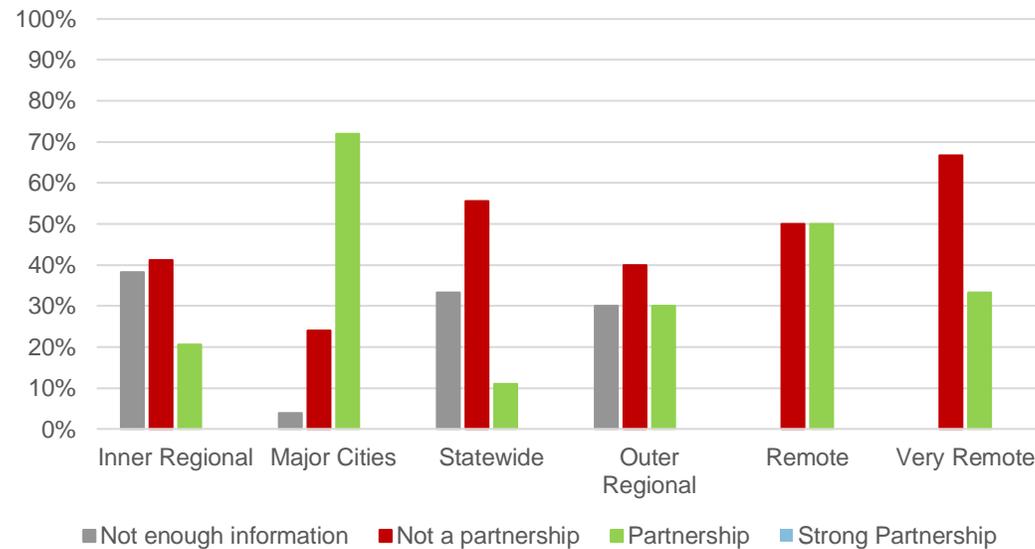
Assessment of Agreement by Sector



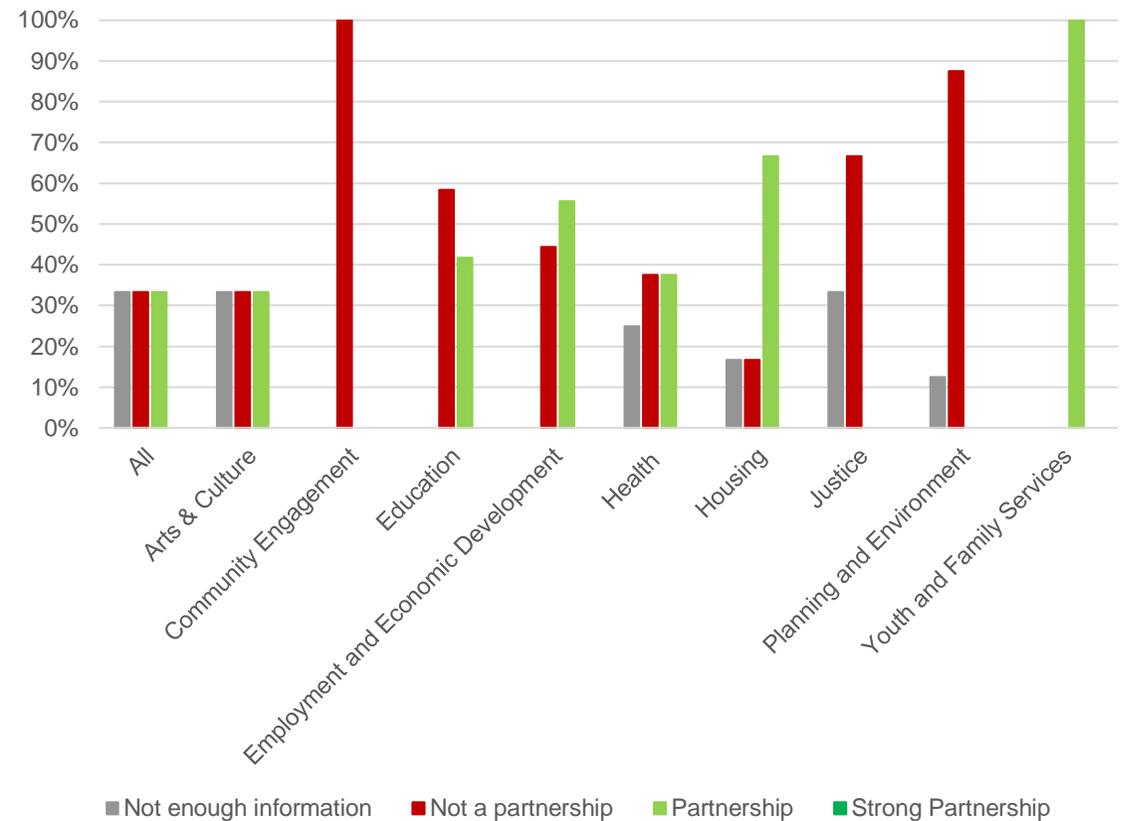
There were no partnerships assessed as strong in the “funding” element

Major cities and the Youth and Family Services Sector had the highest proportion of self-reported partnerships assessed as meeting the “Funding” element.

Assessment of Funding by Remoteness Area



Assessment of Funding by Sector



Accountability and Transparency Findings



Aboriginal
Affairs

Across questions related to Accountability and Transparency, the information provided was generally too limited to assess

However, some insights can be gathered from the responses

Progress Reporting

23% of partnerships are:



- publishing progress reports publicly
- making meeting minutes available to members or the public
- updating on progress at joint meetings
- planning to report progress under monitoring and evaluation frameworks

Agenda-setting

55% of partnerships are either:



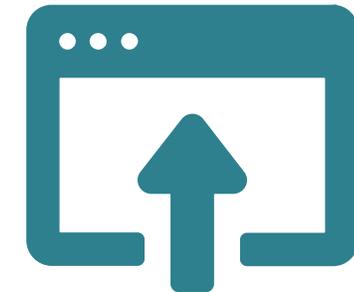
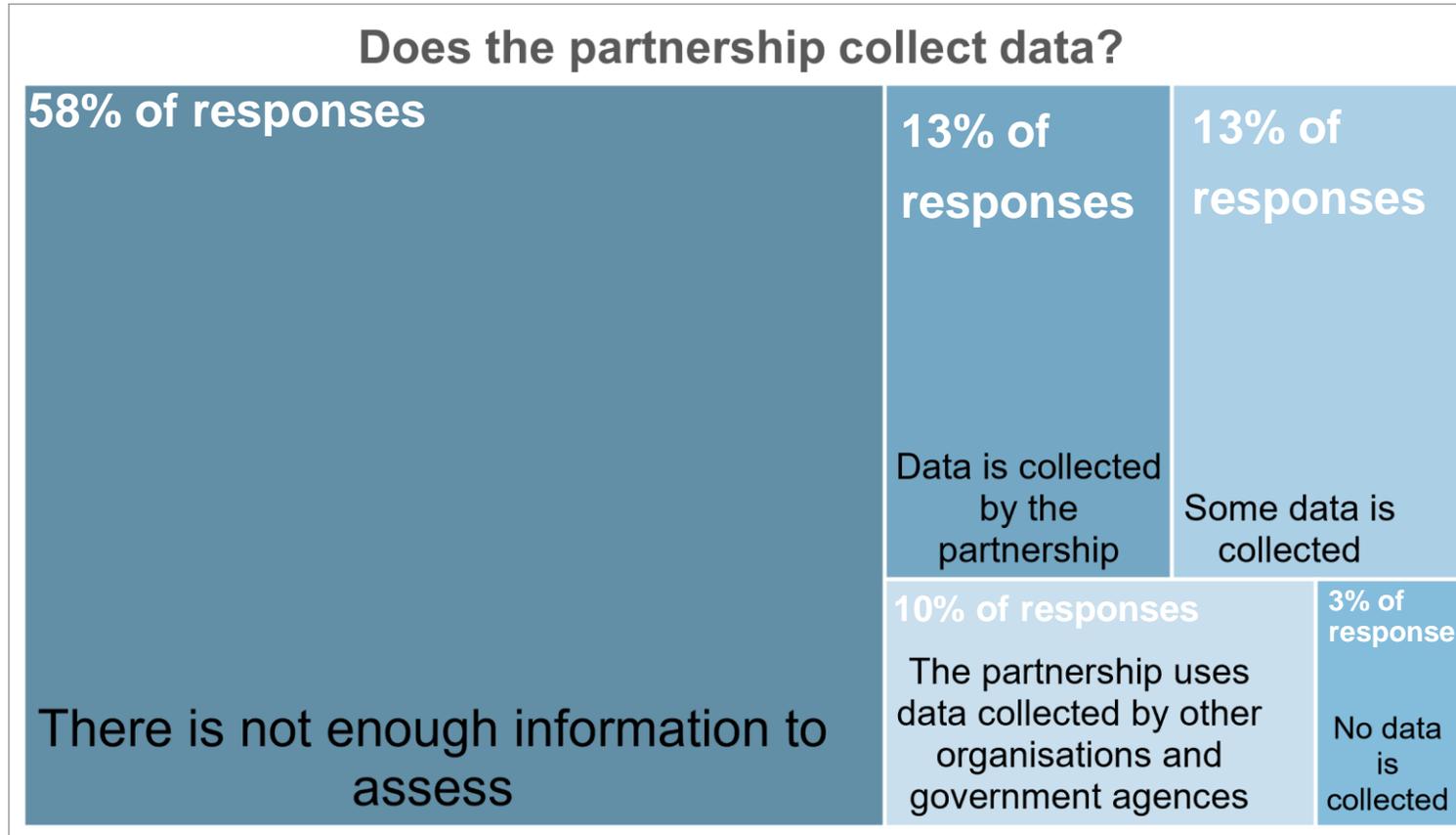
- involving local community members or organisations (such as Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Elders Groups) in the **governance** of partnerships.
- involving local community members or organisations in the **membership** of meetings and committees.



Note:



35% of partnerships are collecting data or using data supplied by other organisations



Only 10% of partnerships reported that they publish data publicly



Note: