



Don Harwin
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLOSING THE GAP CONSULTATIONS BEGIN IN NSW

Communities across NSW are invited to have their say on the development of a new National Agreement on Closing the Gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians.

Closing the Gap is the key national framework that brings together Governments, peak organisations and communities to drive policy outcomes that directly improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Don Harwin said 29 community consultations across NSW start today in Deniliquin seeking feedback from Aboriginal communities about the key targets and priorities for the Closing the Gap refresh.

“Listening to the community on important policy areas like health, education and justice is so important – I look forward to receiving direct feedback from Aboriginal communities so NSW is heard loud and clear at the national level,” said Mr Harwin.

“Face-to-face consultation is an opportunity for everyone to have their say. I encourage those who wish to be heard to not just attend, but participate and share their views on these important issues”.

The NSW Government has provided funding support to the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (CAPO) to conduct the consultations across NSW.

Co-Chair of NSW CAPO, Cindy Berwick said that everyone should provide feedback, even those who can't attend a consultation in person.

“We want to hear your ideas on what should be included in the new National Agreement. Face-to-face meetings are being held, as well as discussions on the phone and an online survey,” said Ms Berwick.

“Engagements are focussing on building understanding of Closing the Gap reform priorities, as well as talking through what is needed to make sure the reform priorities deliver real change to peoples' lives, taking into account differing local contexts”.

Closing the Gap community consultations will commence on Tuesday 15 October and run through to November 2019. For more information visit:

www.aecq.nsw.edu.au/close-the-gap/community-consultations/

MEDIA: Patrick Moore | Minister Harwin | 0419 736 374