

National Agreement on Closing the Gap

South Australia's Annual Report 2025-2026

Government of South Australia

SAACCON
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION NETWORK

CLOSING THE GAP

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal[1] people as the state's First Peoples that formed First Nations and recognise Aboriginal people as the Traditional Owners and occupants of lands and waters in South Australia.

We recognise:

- the spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices of Aboriginal people come from their connection to traditional lands and waters
- maintaining cultural heritage beliefs, languages and laws are of ongoing importance to Aboriginal people today
- Aboriginal people have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to South Australia.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people have endured past injustice and dispossession of their traditional lands and waters and the effects of such injustice and dispossession are still felt today.

[1] In South Australia, the term Aboriginal is adopted to refer to people who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

About South Australia's Closing the Gap artwork

The artwork in this report was created by Brooke Rigney-Lively, a proud Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna woman and mother, musician and artist. Brooke is passionate about working in and with community, and many of her works depict her personal journey, family and connection to Country and Waters.

Jointly commissioned by the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) and South Australia's Attorney-General's Department (AGD) Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation division, the artwork represents the partnership between SAACCON and the South Australian Government to Closing the Gap.

The artwork depicts 7 circles or meeting places representing outcome areas for Closing the Gap:

- education and employment
- health and wellbeing
- justice and safety
- housing
- land and waters
- languages
- child protection.

Crosshatching symbolises the importance of the relationship between SAACCON, the South Australian Government and community. Trees symbolise continual growth and the need to stay connected to community in pursuing better outcomes.

Seventeen kangaroo tracks symbolise the 17 socio-economic outcomes across 4 priority reforms (the hill / mountains). Footprints represent the commitment to walk together to achieve outcomes.

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Abbreviations: Partners, SA Government Departments and Authorities

AAR - Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
AAEC - Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee
AACC - Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre
ACCO - Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation
ACCHO - Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
AGD - Attorney-General's Department
AHCSA - Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
ALRM - Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
APY - Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
CTG - Closing the Gap
DCP - Department for Child Protection
DCS - Department for Correctional Services
DfE - Department for Education
DEM - Department for Energy and Mining
DEW - Department for Environment and Water
DHS - Department of Human Services
DHUD - Department for Housing and Urban Development
DIT - Department for Infrastructure and Transport
DPC - Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DSD - Department of State Development
DTF - Department of Treasury and Finance
LHN - Local Health Network
MoU - Memorandum of Understanding
OCPSE - Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment
ODA - Office for Data Analytics (DTF)
OECD - Office for Early Childhood Development
OFW - Office for Women (DHS)
PIRSA - Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA
PYEC - Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee
RAES - Remote Area Energy Supply
SA - South Australia
SA Health - **BHFLHN** - Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network
SA Health - **CALHN** - Central Adelaide Local Health Network
SA Health - **DHW** - Department for Health and Wellbeing
SA Health - **DHW-OCP** - Office of the Chief Psychiatrist
SA Health - **EFNLHN** - Eyre and Far North Local Health Network
SA Health - **FUNLHN** - Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network
SA Health - **NALHN** - Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
SA Health - **RMCLHN** - Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network
SA Health - **SALHN** - Southern Adelaide Local Health Network
SA Health - **WCHN** - Women's and Children's Health Network
SA Health - **YNLHN** - Yorke and Northern Local Health Network
SAACCON - South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network
SAAETCC - South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council
SAHMRI - South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
SAPOL - SA Police
Skills SA - Skills South Australia (DSD)
The Trust - South Australian Housing Trust

Minister’s foreword

On behalf of South Australia, I acknowledge and respect Aboriginal people as the state's first peoples and nations and recognise them as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia.

I’m pleased to present the Closing the Gap Annual Report for 2025-2026 which demonstrates strong progress against our commitments. Significantly, more than two-thirds of the 211 actions are either completed or on track for completion.

The ongoing partnership between the South Australian Government and SAACCON continues to yield tangible results that will make a real difference for Aboriginal people in South Australia, now and for future generations.

The outcomes displayed in this report reflect initiatives developed with Aboriginal communities, recognising the wisdom of lived experience of First Nations people accumulated over 60,000 years.

Our work continues to be underpinned by a strong partnership with SAACCON, whose leadership remains central to driving reform under the National Agreement.

Some of our recent achievements under the Implementation Plan (2024-2026) include:

- Establishing a dedicated committee to provide cultural oversight and guide South Australia's response to Aboriginal women and families experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence
- Strengthening support for Aboriginal people leaving prison, helping to reduce reoffending and improve pathways to successful reintegration into the community.
- Expanding the involvement of ACCOs in education and early childhood services to support Aboriginal children and young people to thrive.

Our progress is supported by the recent iteration of Productivity Commission data which has shown South Australia is improving across nine targets and static on one. However, we must also acknowledge that the Productivity Commission data shows outcomes are worsening in three key areas: youth engagement, adult incarceration and children in out of home care.

This regression is unacceptable. We must intensify our efforts in these critical areas and recognise the interconnected nature of socio-economic outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

Moving forward, we are working in partnership with SAACCON to prepare our next Closing the Gap Implementation Plan for 2027-2031.

The new Implementation Plan is informed by a Theory of Change, the findings of the Productivity Commission, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Review. It will focus our efforts and build on the significant progress already being made across government to Close the Gap in South Australia.

As always, I offer my deepest thanks to all those contributing to South Australia's progress on Closing the Gap. Together we can deliver the change needed to address this inequality and put South Australia on a better path.



Hon Kyam Maher MLC

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

SAACCON's foreword

As the peak body in South Australia representing the national Coalition of Peaks (CoP), and a network of more than 30 South Australian Aboriginal community-controlled member organisations, SAACCON continues to strengthen its voice and influence locally and nationally. Our appointment to the Deputy Lead Convenor position within the Coalition of Peaks reflects the growing contribution of South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to the national Closing the Gap agenda.

Our partnership with the South Australian Government has also continued to mature through the South Australian Partnership Committee (SAPC), the central governance mechanism for Closing the Gap in this State. Now in its fourth year, SAPC demonstrates what is possible when government and ACCOs work together through mutual respect, trust, shared decision-making and accountability. Genuine partnership creates the conditions for meaningful reform, but it must translate into changes Aboriginal people and communities can see and experience in their everyday lives.

Through SAPC and its partnership structures, government and ACCO representatives are working together to drive action, provide strategic advice and strengthen accountability across child protection, justice, women and family safety, education and early years, and health and wellbeing. Additional partnership groups are expected to be established in other agreed priority areas during 2026-27.

There have also been important achievements across other areas. Safe and secure housing remains fundamental to Aboriginal wellbeing, and the establishment of South Australia's new Aboriginal Housing Peak Body is an important step towards building a strong Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector delivering housing and housing support services.

Progress has also continued on the Place-Based Partnership in Adelaide's western suburbs, with SAACCON and local ACCOs working alongside local, state and Australian Government representatives towards a formal partnership agreement grounded in respectful engagement and co-design. Community engagement and co-design are also informing the partnership's operating model and priority work areas, ensuring that local Aboriginal voices and priorities remain central to its development.

In education, SAACCON successfully advocated for the Teachers Registration Board to establish a pathway recognising Aboriginal language educators who have not completed an initial teacher education qualification. The new Special Authority to Teach category for Aboriginal Languages and Cultures Teachers recognises the diverse pathways, knowledge and experience of Aboriginal language educators.

SAACCON has also partnered with the Department of Treasury and Finance to finalise the ACCO Transition Fund. The Fund will support ACCOs with the upfront investment required to prepare to deliver identified South Australian Government services, helping increase the proportion of services delivered through the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

These achievements demonstrate the value of partnership and the capacity of ACCOs to contribute to practical reform. However, South Australia's Annual Report on Closing the Gap 2025-26 also provides an opportunity to reflect honestly on our collective progress and whether government structures, systems, policies and practices are changing in the way envisaged by the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

SAACCON acknowledges the genuine commitment and significant work occurring across government, within ACCOs and through our partnership structures. At the same time, we must be clear: we are not yet seeing improvements at the scale or pace that Aboriginal people and communities deserve.

Halfway through implementation of the National Agreement, meaningful progress remains elusive across too many areas. Aboriginal people should not have to continue waiting for meaningful improvements in health, education, housing, justice, safety and economic opportunity. Closing the Gap requires more than new initiatives or additional programs. It requires governments to fundamentally change how decisions are made, how power is shared, how resources are allocated and how accountability to Aboriginal people is embedded in the way government operates.

This is the intent of Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations. The Productivity Commission's 2024 Review and the 2025 Independent Aboriginal-led Review both identified transformation of government organisations as requiring much greater attention. Lasting change requires government to embed accountability, cultural safety, shared decision-making and genuine partnership as everyday ways of working, not simply as commitments in strategies and plans.

The development of South Australia's next Closing the Gap Implementation Plan using a Theory of Change approach provides an important opportunity to sharpen our collective focus on outcomes, strengthen accountability and direct effort and resources towards the reforms that matter most to Aboriginal people and communities.

SAACCON acknowledges the ACCOs that continue to deliver exceptional services, strengthen communities and advocate tirelessly for Aboriginal people, often in challenging economic circumstances. We also acknowledge the South Australian Government's ongoing commitment to partnership and the many people across government working to achieve better outcomes.

Ultimately, success will not be measured by the number of committees established, strategies developed or partnership agreements signed. It will be measured by whether Aboriginal children, families and communities experience safer lives, better health, stronger educational outcomes, secure housing, greater economic opportunity and increased self-determination.

As Lead Convenor, I remain committed to ensuring SAACCON works constructively and confidently with government, while holding ourselves and each other to account. The promise of Closing the Gap is not simply a commitment on paper. It must become a lived reality for Aboriginal people and communities across South Australia.

That is the measure of genuine partnership. And that is the work ahead of us.



Scott Wilson

Lead Convenor, SA Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network

Executive summary

This annual report details South Australia's (SA's) progress against the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement), and SA's second Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2025-2026 (SA Implementation Plan).

Nationally, performance against the socio-economic outcomes has been mixed with only 1 target met and 3 of the remaining 18 targets on track. SA has made a positive contribution towards the national targets with 9 of the 13 targets assessed at the state level demonstrating improvement. However, 3 outcomes are worsening and there was no change against 1 outcome.

The actions SA is taking to meet our commitments in the National Agreement are set out in the second iteration of the SA Implementation Plan which was agreed in partnership with SAACCON and released in November 2024 to guide SA's action over 2024-2026.

The status of these actions is detailed in SA's Closing the Gap Implementation Status Update at Attachment A. In summary, of the 211 actions reported for the 2025-2026 reporting period (as of 30 June 2026):

- 58 were complete, of which 30 were newly completed in 2025-2026
- 99 were in progress – on track
- 35 were delayed
- 6 were no longer being progressed
- 13 are yet to commence

Introduction

This annual report details South Australia's progress on the National Agreement and SA's Implementation Plan 2024-2026.

Drawing on information from the Productivity Commission's most recent Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report (July 2026), it reports on SA's efforts in 2025-2026 across the 4 priority reform areas, 17 socio-economic outcomes and 19 related targets of the National Agreement.

This is the final year of SA's current Implementation Plan. Development of a new Implementation Plan commenced in 2026.

SA's Closing the Gap Implementation

SA's approach to implementing the National Agreement is based on the premise that supporting better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples requires a holistic approach, designed and delivered in partnership with Aboriginal communities.

Upon signing the National Agreement in 2020, SA's preliminary efforts focused on achieving genuine partnership and shared decision-making with Aboriginal South Australians through SAACCON, and integrated approaches by government agencies to deliver services in partnership with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

While this began building strong foundations for change, the Productivity Commission's *Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (2024)*[1] (Productivity Commission Review) and the Jumbunna Institute's *Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led Review (2025)*[2] (Aboriginal-led Review) made clear the need for all governments to consolidate and accelerate efforts, with a focus on the actions most likely to contribute to systemic change. In response, SA began to sharpen its efforts around strategic, whole-of-government priorities, aligned to Priority Reforms.

This report provides a snapshot of the work undertaken this year which reflects these priorities, while also highlighting the need to take a more strategic and more disciplined focus in the design and delivery of the next Implementation Plan.

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[1] Productivity Commission (2024). *Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, Study report, volume 1. Volume 1 - Study report - Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Accessed 6 July 2026

[2] Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research (2025). *Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led Review.* University of Technology Sydney. June 2025. Closing+The+Gap+Review.pdf. Accessed 6 July 2026.

SA Partnership Committee

The SA Partnership Committee (SAPC) remains the central governance mechanism for monitoring progress against our formal SA Partnership Agreement between the SA Government and SAACCON, and commitments under the National Agreement.

Co-chaired by the Attorney-General's Department Chief Executive and SAACCON's Lead Convenor, the SAPC brings together SAACCON and SA Government representatives as a shared decision-making body. Committee agendas and papers are developed collaboratively, supporting transparency, accountability and a balanced approach to strategic direction. Across 2025-2026, the partnership between SAACCON and SA Government has been strengthened, contributing to shared influence on key priorities.

SAACCON was represented by the following ACCO Network groups and organisations:

- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Incorporated
- South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council
- SAACCON
- First Nations Healing (formerly Nunga Mi:Minar Incorporated)
- First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation
- Kura Yerlo Incorporated
- South Australian Native Title Services.

Executive-level government membership representation comprised:

- Attorney-General's Department
- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Department for Education
- Department for Child Protection
- Department of Treasury and Finance
- Office for Early Childhood Development

In addition, representatives from the Federal Government's National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Local Government Association of South Australia are invited guests and encouraged to attend SAPC meetings.

Across the 2025-2026 reporting period, SAPC met 5 times, exceeding the requirement in the jointly developed Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR, available as a public document, provides guidance on working together and shared decision-making, including:

- collaborating and participating in shared decision-making as fully informed equal partners, acting in good faith
- making decisions by consensus, and where decision-making cannot be achieved, relying on the dispute resolution clauses in the Partnership Agreement
- openly sharing and respecting the position and rationale of each other.

Guided by, and demonstrating, the strong partnership elements in the National Agreement, in 2025-2026 the SAPC has worked together to:

- develop South Australia's contribution to the Aboriginal-Led Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- develop and agree SAPC priorities and 2026 Work Plan
- monitor progress of the Place-Based Partnership and Community Data Project
- identify and implement actions from the annual SAPC Self-Assessment against the strong partnership elements in the National Agreement
- conduct an annual Communications and Engagement Framework Review
- oversee the redesign of SA's Closing the Gap website, jointly developed by SAACCON and SA Government
- oversee the strengthening of the ACCO Sector Grant Fund.

These actions were agreed to in the shared work plan to monitor progress and establish key milestones.

Throughout 2025-2026, SAPC members provided strategic oversight of the development of South Australia's new Implementation Plan. This work has continued into 2026-2027, with SAPC maintaining oversight through to the publication of the new Plan. The SAPC has also strengthened shared decision-making across portfolios, through the establishment of subcommittees on key policy areas, as listed below. This is a key strategy to support partnership and shared decision-making across portfolios, with the remit of addressing matters related to policy, implementation and monitoring across socio-economic outcomes.

SA Closing the Gap Subcommittees

The SAPC is supported by a series of Partnership Committees, Subcommittees and associated Working Groups that provide strategic leadership and oversight to progress reforms and socio-economic outcomes under the South Australian Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap. The sub committees cover the following policy areas:

- Child protection
- Justice
- Women and families safety
- Education and early childhood
- Health and wellbeing

Additional subcommittees are being established for housing, Country and culture, disability and languages.

Together, these bodies embed shared decision-making between SAACCON and the South Australian Government by driving collaborative action, monitoring progress, providing strategic advice, and progressing priority actions across key reform areas. Collectively, they contribute to achieving the Closing the Gap targets through coordinated, Aboriginal-led approaches that improve outcomes for Aboriginal people, families and communities across South Australia.

Each group is co-chaired by a SAACCON Member and a representative from the South Australian Government agency with lead responsibility for the relevant Closing the Gap outcome. The co-secretariat function is shared between the SAACCON Secretariat and staff from the lead government agency, ensuring joint leadership and partnership in the planning, coordination and delivery of each group's work.

Child Protection Subcommittee

The Child Protection Subcommittee focuses on strengthening Aboriginal-led approaches to child protection, improving outcomes for Aboriginal children and families, and reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. This contributes to Closing the Gap Outcome 12 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system.

SAACCON and the Department for Child Protection co-chairs and co-secretariats the Child Protection Subcommittee and Working Group, which have met five and ten times respectively since their establishment. During the reporting period, the Subcommittee is progressing key priorities including the abolition of Structured Decision Making (SDM) tools and the co-design of a culturally safe alternative, implementation of the *Holding onto our Future* recommendations, planning for the development of a South Australian Jurisdictional Plan, and advocacy for legislative reform and program expansions.

South Australian Justice Partnership Committee

The South Australian Justice Partnership Committee (SAJPC) is focused on reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice system through the provision of strategic advice on matters related to improving outcomes for Aboriginal adults and young people. This contributes to Closing the Gap Outcomes 10 and 11 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

The SAJPC has met ten times since its establishment and is finalising a workplan which includes actions focused on combatting racism in the justice system, overseeing development and implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, advocating for therapeutic alternatives to custody, and providing advice on legislative reforms affecting Aboriginal people and communities.

The Committee also oversees the Youth Justice Working Group, which has its own workplan to guide priorities, including strengthening diversionary programs, improving throughcare for children and young people, and advocating for improved access to translators and communication partners within the justice system.

Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee

The South Australian Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee (the Committee) focuses on reducing the disproportionate rates at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children experience domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFSV). The Committee is a strategic advisory and collaborative body established to advance coordinated, culturally safe, and sustained action to contribute towards progress on Closing the Gap Outcome 13 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe.

The Committee was established in July 2025 and met 5 times during the 2025-26 reporting period. The Committee will oversee the development of a standalone Aboriginal DFSV strategy in response to recommendation 10 of the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence in South Australia.

Education and Early Childhood Subcommittee

The Education and Early Childhood Committee is in the early stages of establishment and will be focusing on improving education and early childhood outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people by strengthening partnerships, supporting culturally safe education and early childhood services, and promoting successful pathways into further education, training and employment. This contributes to Closing the Gap Outcomes 3 and 4 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education and thrive in their early years, and Outcome 5- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership Committee

The South Australian Health and Wellbeing Partnership Committee focuses on driving coordinated reform, strengthening the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector, and improving health and

wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities. This contributes to Closing the Gap Outcomes 1, 2, 4 and 14 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives, children are born healthy and strong and thrive in their early years, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

The Committee has held three official meetings since its establishment and has focused on developing a strategic workplan to guide its priorities and drive coordinated action across the health and wellbeing sector.

Next Steps

The Partnership Committee will continue to establish additional Partnership Committees, Subcommittees and Working Groups over the coming reporting period to support the implementation of the South Australian Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap. These governance arrangements will strengthen shared decision-making between SAACCON and the South Australian Government, ensuring strategic oversight is progressively expanded across additional Closing the Gap reform priorities and socio-economic outcomes.

Annual Reporting

This Annual Report is the fifth report published by the SA Government and SAACCON since the National Agreement commenced in 2020 and the publication of SA's first joint Closing the Gap Implementation Plan in 2021.

Annual reporting by jurisdiction, along with the Productivity Commission's *Closing the Gap Information Repository*[3] (the CTG Repository), are important accountability mechanisms required under the National Agreement.

The CTG Repository includes a Data Dashboard for monitoring progress against agreed target outcomes and supporting indicators while the Productivity Commission's Annual Data Compilation Report provides a point-in-time snapshot of the dashboard material.

The Data Overview section of this report incorporates performance reporting from the most recent Annual Data Compilation Report (July 2026)[4] and outlines existing data limitations.

The Implementation of the National Agreement section of the report then describes the actions taken, and progress made, against the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms and Outcomes in more detail. In this section, we also summarise the status of the Implementation Plan's agreed actions with a more detailed acquittal of each action item at Appendix A.

Concluding the report, we have provided a summary of communication actions delivered and an overview of our planned approach and next steps moving forward.

[3] Productivity Commission. *Closing the Gap Information Repository*. Canberra. https://pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data. Accessed 6 July 2026.

[4] Productivity Commission *Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report July 2026 - Closing the Gap* Canberra.

Data overview

The assessment of SA's progress against the Closing the Gap outcomes should be considered within the context of the data landscape, including data gaps, limitations, quality and the frequency of data releases.

While new data continues to be developed and added to the CTG Information Repository, there is not yet data to monitor progress against the 4 Priority Reforms or several of the socio-economic targets. As more data becomes available, a deeper understanding of the progress made under the National Agreement will emerge.

Specifically, the CTG Repository currently lacks suitable data for evaluating the 4 Priority Reforms and 4 of the socio-economic outcomes, as follows:

- There is no new data available since the baseline was established to report on the proportion of Aboriginal females and children who have experienced family violence (Target 13).
- The required data is not available to establish a baseline or assess progress on Aboriginal household access to essential services (Target 9B).
- No new data is available since the baseline was established to report on the progress towards increased access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making by Aboriginal people (Target 17).

Additionally, the following data items are not available at state and territory disaggregated levels:

- Life expectancy estimates are not produced for SA as Aboriginal identification is insufficient to support analysis (Target 1).
- Data for state and territory assessments of mortality due to suicide that is consistent with the target specifications is not available (Target 14).

Socio-economic outcomes

A summary of SA's progress towards the 19 socio-economic targets, and comparison to national progress, is below.

Due to the limitations already discussed, progress has been assessed against 13 of the 19 targets. Of these 13, progress against 9 targets is improving, progress against 3 targets is worsening and for the remaining target there was no change against the baseline.

These outcome measures are fundamental to understanding SA's progress against the National Agreement. For deeper insight into progress made to date, it is important to consider them in the context of the additional analysis provided in the next section.

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress
Target 1: Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	No assessment available	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 2: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improving	No change from the baseline
Target 3: By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full Time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improving	Target met
Target 4: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55%.	No change	Worsening
Target 5: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 6: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 7: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Worsening	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 8: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met
Target 9A: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 9B: By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households have access to essential services that meet or exceed jurisdictional standards.	No assessment	No assessment

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress
Target 10: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15%.	Worsening	Worsening
Target 11: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	No change from the baseline
Target 12: By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%.	Worsening	Worsening
Target 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	No assessment	No assessment
Target 14: Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.	No assessment	Worsening
Target 15a: By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met
Target 15b: By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met
Target 16: By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	No assessment	No assessment
Target 17: By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	No assessment	No assessment

SA's Closing the Gap Implementation Status

The status of actions included in the current Implementation Plan is provided at Appendix A.

In summary, of the 211 actions reported for the 2025-2026 reporting period (as of 30 June 2026):

- 58 were complete (28%), of which 30 (14%) were newly completed in 2025-2026
- 99 were in progress – on track (47%)
- 35 were delayed (16%)
- 6 were no longer being progressed (3%)
- 13 are yet to commence (6%)

This demonstrates overall progress against the 2024-2025 financial year on actions committed to against the SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026:

2024-2025	2025-2026	Progress
28 complete	58 complete	30 newly completed
126 in progress – on track	99 in progress – on track	Reduction in on-track actions as activities progress toward completion and face new delays
29 in progress – delayed	35 in progress – delayed	6 additional actions facing delays overall*
27 not yet due to commence	13 not yet due to commence	14 actions have recently commenced
1 no longer being progressed	6 no longer being progressed	Increase of 5 actions no longer being progressed

*While 17 actions were reported to have faced new delays, 9 actions have been marked as no longer delayed.

SA's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap

Priority Reforms

The Priority Reforms respond to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal people and were overwhelmingly supported during the nation-wide engagement with Aboriginal communities undertaken to inform the National Agreement. The Priority Reforms seek to fundamentally transform the relationship between governments and Aboriginal people, shifting from governments designing and delivering solutions for communities to working in genuine partnership, sharing power and supporting Aboriginal leadership and self-determination. The Priority Reforms are:

> **Priority Reform One – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making:** with governments, to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.
>
> **Priority Reform Two – Building the community-controlled sector:** to be strong and sustainable, delivering high-quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people across Australia.
>
> **Priority Reform Three – Transforming government organisations:** Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people, including through the services they fund.
>
> **Priority Reform Four – Shared access to data and information at a regional level:** Aboriginal people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

This Annual Report provides an opportunity for partners to reflect on the successes and challenges to date and to consider the targeted action needed across the Priority Reforms, to meaningfully deliver on the commitments we have made to Closing the Gap.

The Priority Reforms protect and strengthen Aboriginal culture by:

- Ensuring Aboriginal governance and decision-making structures are supported.
- Recognising ACCOs are an act of self-determination where Aboriginal people deliver services to their communities based on their needs, cultures and relationship to Country.
- Confronting institutionalised racism in government mainstream institutions and agencies to ensure Aboriginal people can access the services they need in a culturally safe way.
- Sharing data and information with Aboriginal people to ensure Aboriginal people have more power to determine their own development.

Progress against the Priority Reforms for 2025-2026 is reported on the following pages. The reporting demonstrates the impact of the Priority Reforms to date and the importance of maintaining a strong focus on implementation in the next Implementation Plan.

Priority Reform One: Formal partnerships and decision-making

Leading agency: Attorney-General's Department

Outcome	People are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.
Target	There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities, and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives.

The SA Government and SAACCON have committed to working together, strengthening partnerships and structures that enable Aboriginal people to share decision-making authority with governments to expedite policy and place-based progress across the National Agreement.

Priority Reform One is progressed via partnerships that are embedded across the National Agreement. These include national policy partnerships, localised 'place-based partnerships', as well as state-based partnership groups, or specific partnership approaches to deliver initiatives between government agencies and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

There is currently no data collected that measures improvement against this Priority Reform. Work to identify appropriate measures of progress against Priority Reform One is underway.

Policy partnerships are shared decision-making arrangements created for the purpose of working on discrete policy areas.

There are currently 6 national policy partnerships and 1 additional partnership in development designed to drive Priority Reform One. These formal, joined-up partnerships between the SA Government and SAACCON along with the Australian and other state and territory governments focus on specific priority areas. These are:

- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Justice
- Housing
- Aboriginal Languages

Additionally, an Economic Partnership Agreement was signed in 2025-2026. The Joint Council on Closing the Gap (Joint Council) has also agreed to the development of a Data Policy Partnership.

Place-based partnerships are collaborations between governments and Aboriginal community representatives, with other parties as agreed, in a given region and are designed to respond to local priorities.

There are 5 place-based partnerships established nationally, 1 of which is in the western suburbs of Adelaide, SA.

Previous reporting noted that, in April 2025, the South Australian Government realigned ACCO Growth grant funding ($1.3 million) to progress the development of South Australian place-based partnerships. This funding supported the ongoing development of the partnership and provided an opportunity to explore and test innovative approaches.

Western suburbs Place Based Partnership

SAACCON

The Place Based Partnership (PBP) is expected to deliver positive, long-term impacts by strengthening Aboriginal community leadership, improving the cultural responsiveness and accountability of mainstream services, and supporting more coordinated responses to community priorities.

Through genuine co-design and shared decision-making, the PBP will help create more effective, locally informed approaches to improving outcomes for Aboriginal children, families and communities in Adelaide's western suburbs.

SAACCON has continued extensive engagement with Aboriginal community members, Elders, ACCOs and government partners in 2025-2026 to co-design an operating model grounded in local aspirations, strengths and lived experiences. This engagement identified the PBP's initial priority areas of Child Protection, Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Youth, Housing and Justice, with the flexibility to consider further priorities as community needs emerge.

A key feature of the SA approach is the coordination of the PBP and SA's Community Data Project. This helps ensure the two initiatives operate as complementary efforts, with community priorities identified through the PBP informing the data requirements of the data project. The Office for Data Analytics has supported this work through regular project meetings with SAACCON and the development of a multi-agency data sharing agreement on SAACCON's behalf.

Progress and achievements

During 2025–2026, the PBP Steering Committee, represented by key partners, made progress in establishing the governance, relationships and accountability mechanisms

needed to support long-term community-led change, with development of the PBP Agreement progressing significantly over this period.

The PBP Agreement provides a shared framework for decision-making, accountability, implementation planning, monitoring and evaluation and will support transition from the establishment to implementation phase of the project.

What has worked
Early and sustained investment in relationship-building has been critical to develop trust, shared ownership and constructive negotiations between Aboriginal organisations, community members and government partners. Strong Aboriginal-led governance, a co-chairing model involving SAACCON and government leadership, consistent partner participation, and a focus on long-term community development have all contributed to progress.

Lessons learned
The work required to build and maintain trusted relationships is not always visible in traditional reporting but is essential to meaningful shared decision-making. Community engagement has reinforced the importance of ensuring local priorities drive the work of the PBP and that governance arrangements, roles and responsibilities are clear from the outset. It has also shown the need to design participation models that recognise and value the time and contribution of Aboriginal community members.

Next steps
SAACCON will continue working with partners for formal endorsement of the Partnership Agreement and develop implementation workplans and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Ongoing community consultation and co-design will inform priority actions across Child Protection, Social and Emotional Wellbeing, Youth, Housing and Justice.

SAACCON will also continue community-led work to strengthen the identity and operating model of the PBP. This includes reviewing and refining working group structures to maximise community participation, developing a more meaningful and culturally relevant name, and supporting community-designed artwork and branding that reflects the culture, strengths, stories and aspirations of Aboriginal communities in Adelaide's western suburbs.

SA Progress Overview

Implementation of Priority Reform One is progressing steadily overall, with most actions either completed or on track, however challenges remain with actions facing delays.

Of the 62 actions against Priority Reform One, 53 (84%) are either complete or progressing as planned, including 11 completed actions. During 2025-2026, 5 additional actions were completed and 2 delayed actions returned to being on track. Despite these gains, 6 actions experienced new delays. This suggests that overall progress towards formal partnerships and shared decision-making is continuing, however some areas continue to face delays to implementation.

Key SA actions

SA Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap

The formal Partnership Agreement between SA Government and SAACCON was signed in November 2022. In April 2025, the Agreement was extended to December 2029 to align with the term of the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.

In 2023, as part of the previous Partnership Stocktake, a 19-question survey was developed to assess the SA Partnership Agreement in alignment with the strong partnership elements under Clause 32 of the National Agreement.

The SA Partnership Agreement was self-assessed by SA Partnership Committee members in 2026 using a similar survey. A summary of survey findings and strengthening actions will be published on the AGD's website in 2026.

Valuing the partnership

In 2025-2026, at both an agency and whole of government level, the SA Government supported SAACCON with grants, funding and in-kind support – including, for example, through secondments and the provision of technical expertise.

The SA Government acknowledges that appropriately resourcing Aboriginal partners in the National Agreement is more than a mechanism for removing barriers to participation or building organisational capacity. It reflects the deeper recognition that Aboriginal knowledge, leadership and self-determined solutions are essential to achieving better outcomes, and that this expertise is a valuable contribution which should be funded accordingly.

Partnering with SAACCON

SAACCON continues to expand its work with government agencies to develop and deliver a range of strategies, policies and programs. In 2025-2026 these included:

- **Key partners working together:** AGD proudly supports regular and structured officer-level engagement between AAR and SAACCON. Fortnightly meetings have enabled continuous dialogue, coordinated action and shared decision-making around key priorities, as well as a strong relationship.

- **Planning together:** SA will receive $50 million from the Housing Australia Future Fund's acute housing measure over 5-years. The SA Housing Trust and SAACCON have developed an implementation plan, in partnership, to deliver sustainability and liveability improvements in remote Aboriginal communities.

  Improving VET outcomes: Skills SA (DSD) has committed to the establishment of a partnership mechanism to support delivery of vocational education and training (VET) outcomes for Aboriginal people under the National Skills Agreement (NSA) Closing the Gap Bilateral Implementation Plan.

- **Partnering for access and inclusion:** DHS's new State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029 was released in August 2025 and acknowledges Aboriginal peoples with disability as a priority group, in line with the *Disability Inclusion Act 2018* (SA). SAACCON was closely consulted in the development of the new Plan and has been engaged through the development of the DHS Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

Guiding early childhood reform through partnership

Office of Early Childhood Development and SAACCON

In 2025–2026, the OECD and SAACCON continued to strengthen their formal partnership through the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group (ACGG), embedding shared decision-making at the centre of early childhood reform implementation. Co-chaired by SAACCON and OECD, the ACGG provides Aboriginal governance and oversight of the co-design of initiatives to ensure Aboriginal children retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool.

Membership includes Community, Elders, ACCOs, Aboriginal peak bodies and State Government representatives, supporting governance arrangements that reflect cultural authority, relevant policy expertise, and broad representation of metropolitan, rural and remote community perspectives. The governance model was established in line with the SA Public Sector's definition, principles and conditions for authentic engagement outlined in the Co-design with *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* guideline.

Progress

During 2025–2026, the ACCG supported the co-design of key early childhood reform initiatives, including new investment in Aboriginal early years initiatives, an Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy, and work supporting ACCO sector strengthening and integrated service delivery. The co-design and approval by ACGG of South Australia's first dedicated Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy (launched publicly in July 2026) is a significant milestone in the state's early childhood reforms.

The ACGG remains a central mechanism for transformation, enabling Aboriginal representatives from across South Australia to participate in decisions about policy design, implementation sequencing and investment decisions. This governance model ensures accountability to Community and shifts decision-making authority toward Aboriginal partners.

A culturally responsive co-design approach has been effective in developing initiatives grounded in Community priorities. ACGG governance has supported shared decision-making, cultural authority and accountability. This included the co-development of a prioritisation logic that supported investment recommendations to government.

Lessons Learned

The co-design of South Australia's first Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy reinforced the

importance of investing time upfront to build shared understanding, strong relationships and agreement on priorities. Meaningful shared decision-making requires sufficient time for Community, ACCOs, Aboriginal peak bodies and government partners to contribute expertise and shape outcomes.

The process highlighted the challenge of balancing government decision-making and approval processes with the time needed to support genuine partnership. At times, internal development and approval timeframes reduced opportunities for partners to engage with proposals before decisions were required. This reinforced the importance of involving partners early and allowing adequate time for consideration and feedback.

Learnings also included the importance of sequencing reform by establishing clear governance arrangements, shared ways of working and a strong evidence base. Ongoing engagement, transparent communication and regular feedback loops helped navigate competing priorities while maintaining Aboriginal voices at the centre of decision-making.

These learnings will continue to inform implementation of the Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy and future early childhood reform.

Integrating partnership across policy, practice and projects

- **Aboriginal voice in housing:** In April 2026, the Trust established a Partnership Body made up of South Australian Voice to Parliament nominated community members representing remote and non-remote regions in SA, the new SA Aboriginal Housing Peak Body, and SAACCON and DHS Government representatives to implement the commitments under the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness. The Partnership Body aims to address the disproportionate housing inequality and operates in genuine partnership on funding decisions related to the Agreement. The Partnership Body will inform policy, budget and commissioning proposals, and provide advice and recommendations to inform government decisions relating to the prioritisation, design and delivery of programs, funding allocations and commissioning approaches. Nationally, housing partnerships have been relatively underrepresented, making this collaboration particularly valuable.

- **Partnership in project delivery:** The DIT Aboriginal Engagement Team supported culturally respectful engagement for the new Adelaide Aquatic Centre through a collaborative process with Kaurna people, the Aboriginal Design Contractor and Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation. Key outcomes included dual naming in Kaurna language, Kauwingka “Place of Water,” and culturally significant artworks reflecting Kaurna connection to Country, waterways and cultural narratives

- **Partnering with peaks:** The DHW Aboriginal Health Branch has co-designed an interim Partnership Agreement with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA), the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) in SA. It outlines agreed ways of working, with the aim that these principles extend over time to all contractual arrangements and other relationships between SA Health and AHCSA. An ongoing

Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference is being developed. The shared vision is '*for Aboriginal people to have improved health outcomes and experiences in all parts of the health system that are holistic, accessible, free of racism and culturally safe, across both the Aboriginal community-controlled health and SA public health system'.*

- **Integrating partnership in place:** Local Health Networks across SA are embedding and enlivening their commitment to Priority Reform One, through a place-based approach to formal partnership and agreement-making with Aboriginal communities and organisations. Across the regions, LHNs are demonstrating good practice including:
    - The Eyre and Far North Local Health Network has co-designed partnership agreements with all five ACCHOs within the LHN boundaries.
    - The Riverland Mallee and Coorong Local Health Network has developed Partnership Agreements with two organisations, Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority.
    - Yorke and Northern Local Health Network and Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation work together through the Narungga Health Assembly - a formal place-based partnership which enables shared decision-making on regional health priorities and service delivery. The Assembly provides a structured governance forum that brings together community leadership, service providers and government partners to set priorities, guide planning, and oversee implementation of the Narungga Nation Health Priorities Plan.

Strengthening partnerships in land management

Department for Environment and Water

DEW continues to strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and communities across the Riverland, Mid-Murray, Lower Murray, Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth, and Southeast regions. These partnerships support shared decision-making, Aboriginal leadership, and the integration of cultural knowledge into the planning, delivery and management of water, environmental and cultural heritage programs. This helps contribute to improved outcomes for Country and communities.

Progress

DEW currently has 20 formal partnerships with Aboriginal organisations, and Traditional Owners including 15 co-management agreements, nine of which establish boards with equal decision-making authority, and six established advisory/liaison committees. Five of the 20 partnerships are delivered through water infrastructure programs. In addition, two new co-management agreements are under negotiation. DEW also has Memorandum of Understanding and work experience agreements with Indigenous Ranger Programs under development. In addition, DEW has created and maintained its Aboriginal Ministerial Advisory Group, composed of co-management board and advisory committee members, which provides high-level advice to the Minister on park-related matters.

Partnerships are supported through funded positions and agreements that enable Aboriginal organisations to actively participate in environmental and cultural heritage management activities. These include ranger programs, cultural heritage management roles, ecological monitoring activities, Aboriginal Waterway Assessments, Walking the Seasons activities, as well as on-Country engagement opportunities connected to the Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin Program, Sustaining Riverland Environments Project, Shorebird and Wetland Habitat Project, The Living Murray Program, Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area Levee Recovery Program, SA Constraints Measure, and Riverland floodplain projects.

Lessons learned

These partnerships support shared decision-making by embedding Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives into project planning, delivery and environmental management activities. Community-led engagement approaches have strengthened trust, improved cultural outcomes and ongoing access to Country.

DEW recognises the importance of adequately resourcing Aboriginal partners through funding arrangements that support participation, employment, cultural heritage advice, monitoring activities and community-led engagement processes. These approaches have contributed to stronger partnerships, increased cultural capability and improved long-term environmental and cultural outcomes across the regions.

Priority Reform Two: Building the community-controlled sector

Leading agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

Outcome	There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high-quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.
Target	Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

The SA Government and SAACCON remain committed to building a strong and sustainable ACCO sector to deliver more effective, holistic and culturally safe services for Aboriginal people and support Closing the Gap.

Aboriginal community-controlled services lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal people, employ more Aboriginal people, and are often preferred over mainstream services. A strong and sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled sector provides a diverse range of services and programs that contribute to outcomes across the National Agreement.

Clause 45 of the National Agreement outlines the elements of a strong sector. These can be summarised as:

- There is sustained capacity building and investment in ACCOs
- There is a dedicated and identified Aboriginal workforce (and wage parity)
- ACCOs which deliver common services are supported by a Peak body, governed by a majority Aboriginal Board
- ACCOs which deliver common services have a dedicated, reliable and consistent funding model (developed in consultation with the relevant Peak body)

The SA Government recognises that Aboriginal community-control is an act of self-determination and a fundamental enabler of Closing the Gap. To drive a coordinated approach to progressing Priority Reform Two across government, DTF coordinates the Priority Reform Two Working Group. The group is made up of members from SA Government and the ACCO sector. DTF co-chairs the group with the lead convenor of SAACCON.

The SA Government is planning to undertake a 2025-2026 Aboriginal Expenditure Review, including reporting on the proportion of Aboriginal services delivered by ACCOs.

National Sector Strengthening Plans

There are 5 National Sector Strengthening Plans in operation and 2 under development. These provide a national joined-up approach to building strong community-controlled sectors in line with the agreed strong community-controlled elements. These are:

- Disability
- Housing
- Aboriginal Languages
- Health
- Early Childhood Care and Development

The Justice Sector Strengthening Plan is currently under development by the Justice Policy Partnership in partnership with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. The Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Sector Strengthening Plan is also under development.

SA Progress Overview

Progress against Priority Reform Two is continuing, with most actions either completed or progressing as planned, although the number of delayed actions has increased during 2025-2026. Of the 33 actions in the SA Implementation Plan, 25 (76%) are either complete or on track. During 2025-2026, 2 additional actions were completed. 5 actions experienced new delays and 1 delayed action returned to being on track. While building the community-controlled sector sees steady progress, some areas continue to face delays to implementation.

Key SA actions

Partnership approach

The SA Government continues to work in partnership with SAACCON to develop a whole-of-government approach to the delivery of Priority Reform Two:

- The OECD Sector Strengthening Grants to ACCO early childhood education and care services to build workforce capability and organisational capacity to consider early childhood reform opportunities, including the roll out of universal 3-year-old preschool.
- Establishing a SA Aboriginal Housing Peak Body and Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector.
- Transition planning by DCP and DHS, in preparation for the co-creation of an ACCO Investment and Procurement Strategy, to be jointly led by relevant SA government agencies, SAACCON and the peak body for Aboriginal children and families in SA, Wakwakurna Kanyini.

SA ACCO Grant Fund

The SA Government has committed $3.3 million to the National Virtual Funding pool (2021–2024) to strengthen the ACCO sector via the ACCO Growth Fund. In April 2025, the Round 3 ACCO

Growth Fund ($1.3 million) was realigned to support the ongoing development of the PBP and is providing an opportunity to explore and test innovative approaches in the PBP region with the ACCO sector.

Indigenous Expenditure Review

DTF is undertaking its second review of Indigenous Expenditure in partnership with SAACCON. Identifying this expenditure aims to support reprioritisation of funding opportunities to Aboriginal organisations, particularly to ACCOs. Initial project planning with SAACCON has commenced. The second review will build on the key learnings from the first review by working closely with SAACCON throughout the review period and proactively engaging with agencies to enhance understanding of the review and its requirements, thereby strengthening data quality.

ACCO Service Transition Fund

Department of Treasury and Finance

As part of the 2025-2026 Budget, the SA government announced the establishment of the ACCO Service Transition Fund (the Fund). The Fund will provide $5 million to increase the proportion of Aboriginal services delivered by ACCOs – by providing grants to SA ACCOs that have, in partnership with government agencies, identified government service delivery opportunities, but require initial, upfront investment before being ready to deliver the service. The Fund is now open and will be available until 30 June 2028 or until it is exhausted, whichever occurs sooner.

Progress and key learnings

DTF worked in close partnership with SAACCON, engaged with members from across the ACCO sector, and engaged with stakeholders from across government agencies, to develop the Fund's guidelines and processes.

Grants from the ACCO Service Transition Fund will help ACCOs to fund activities required for the delivery of government services contracts such as accreditation and training, fit-outs, and/or the implementation of IT systems. Over the past 12-months, a key success has been the development of the Fund in partnership between DTF and SAACCON, and with input from the ACCO sector via two workshops. Partnering with SAACCON and incorporating input from ACCOs has also helped ensure the Fund is designed in a way that minimises barriers to ACCO procurement and is culturally informed. As the Fund represents a new approach to grant funding, there is flexibility to adjust the Fund's guidelines and/or processes based on lessons learned.

Growing the Aboriginal Workforce

DSD is working to develop a statewide Aboriginal Workforce Development Plan. A key success in the design process to date has been the broad engagement approach.

To ensure the Plan represented the diverse perspectives, opportunities, challenges and experiences across the SA Aboriginal workforce, DSD worked to ensure that engagement encompassed metropolitan and regional representation, as well as across government, industry and ACCOs, and using different engagement methods to increase options for participation.

Over 60 representatives from state and federal government agencies, higher education providers, ACCOs, and industry (including Aboriginal-owned businesses) were engaged via meetings, workshops and a survey to ensure insights are incorporated in the final Aboriginal Workforce Development Plan. Stakeholders provided their lived experience on issues such as cultural safety, attraction and retention, career development, and leadership and accountability.

To inform the approach taken in the Plan, an understanding of best practice approaches for workforce development plans and initiatives has been further developed through reflection on historical and current SA initiatives, activity in other jurisdictions, and through analysis of data trends. The development process has benefited from strong governance and support, with regular engagement and insights from SAACCON, OCPSE and DSD.

This engagement process has resulted in a comprehensive What We Heard report which will be ratified and further discussed at forums hosted by the OCPSE Community of Practice and SAACCON General Meeting.

Growing capability in Aboriginal organisations and the public sector

OCPSE has partnered with MTL Consulting to deliver the Ulare Secondment Program. The program creates reciprocal partnerships between the SA public sector and ACCOs through practical, project-based secondments. The program supports reciprocal learning, stronger cross-sector relationships and practical outcomes aligned to Closing the Gap priorities. The program officially launched in Reconciliation Week, on 28 May 2026, and will be available until 31 December 2027.

Delivering the new SA Aboriginal Housing Peak Body

In line with the commitment of the *South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031*, Housing Sector Reform: Putting Aboriginal Voices at the centre, the Trust has committed to providing $2.5 million over 5-years to support the establishment of an SA Aboriginal Housing Peak Body (the Peak Body). The Peak Body will support the development of the SA Aboriginal housing sector, advocate for improved housing outcomes, and help progress SA's Closing the Gap Outcome 9.

Strengthening early support and prevention through the Child and Family Sector Investment Strategy

The National Strategy being led through DCP and DHS provides a roadmap for governments to transform child and family services by growing early supports and shifting delivery of child and family services to ACCOs. It sets out national principles and system elements to realign and drive funding priorities within the child and family service system for all children. It does this by shifting investment to prevention and early supports and driving a shift in proportionate investment towards the ACCO sector for child and family services delivered to Aboriginal people.

The Minister for Child Protection endorsed the National Strategy on behalf of SA in October 2025. As part of this endorsement, SA has agreed to develop its plan towards an Implementation Plan for the National Strategy at a state level within 12-months of the commitment.

The South Australian Jurisdictional Plan being developed by the Child Protection Sub-committee includes the state plan for implementing the National Strategy.

Increasing participation in government procurement

Procurement SA

In 2025-2026 Procurement SA partnered with SAACCON to develop a draft Aboriginal Enterprise Procurement Strategy to increase Aboriginal participation in government procurement.

Consultation was undertaken with public authorities and ACCOs to ensure the strategy is practical, inclusive, and aligned with Closing the Gap priorities. The Strategy is currently under consideration for final broader community consultation prior to publication.

Procurement SA is also reviewing its centralised procurement and contracting reporting system as well as creating a new supplier hub to better capture procurement, contracting and supplier information.

- Better data will enable more accurate tracking of progress and support evidence-based reporting on outcomes.
- Better supplier information will help ACCOs to identify and plan for opportunities to supply to government including registering their interest in upcoming tenders, increasing visibility for future consortia partnerships.

Progress and key learnings

Procurement SA has worked closely with SAACCON to ensure the strategy's language is culturally safe, strengths based and fit for purpose. This has required deliberately moving away from deficit framing and testing the language to ensure it reflects Aboriginal perspectives, supports self-determination, and is both meaningful and achievable in practice.

The shared intent has been to develop a strategy that has the potential to drive real change, rather than one that is principles based without delivering tangible impact. The project has been supported to deliver on this objective and the design of the strategy through regular communication between Procurement SA and SAACCON. The co-design approach, particularly the collaboration with SAACCON and public authorities has played an important role in shaping a strategy that is both practical and culturally informed.

The updated Procurement Activity and Reporting System and the Supplier Hub will go live in the second half of 2026.

Investing in Aboriginal services in the SA child and family support system

DHS, through its Child and Family Support Division, continues to strengthen the ACCO sector with a focus on enhancing sustainability and reducing barriers that have historically limited growth. This includes commitment across the Child and Family Support System to maintain proportional investment of commissioned funding directed to ACCOs. Currently this sits at 30% of all funded service contracts are with ACCOs and will increase to 34% in July 2026.

In addition, DHS will also be introducing new 5-year contracts for Intensive Family Support services from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2031. This shift directly responds to known challenges with short funding cycles by giving organisations greater certainty to plan, invest in their workforce, and build stronger, more trusted relationships with communities over time.

There has also been a deliberate effort to reduce the administrative burden associated with contracting and reporting by simplifying these processes and supporting the independence of not-for-profits, including ACCOs.

Supporting individuals and families experiencing homelessness

DHS commissions the Specialist Homelessness Sector to support individuals and families who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness across SA. Four of the five Homelessness Alliances have an ACCO or ACCHO partner, noting each alliance manages that relationship differently. ACCOs and ACCHOs sit on Alliance governance groups (Alliance Leadership Team and Alliance Management Team) and share decision making in accordance with agreed Alliance behaviours. NPY Women's Council also received DHS funding through a Direct Contract Service model to provide Domestic and Family Violence services.

An independent Homelessness System Review (the Review) was undertaken in 2025-2026 by Jindawayni Consulting (Aboriginal consultant) and BetterStart (Adelaide University), examining the Alliances model, directly contracted services and statewide functions, with a focus on agile, outcomes-focused and culturally informed future commissioning. The Review prioritises consideration for cohorts including young people, Aboriginal communities, people sleeping rough, and women and children impacted by domestic and family violence. It also aims to strengthen Aboriginal voices, lived experiences, and cultural and clinical governance in the Specialist Homelessness Sector.

The independent Homelessness System Review was completed in June 2026 and is under consideration by Government. Any government-endorsed response will inform the staged design and implementation of future homelessness system and commissioning reforms, including opportunities to strengthen Aboriginal cultural governance and the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

A 'cooperative dialogue approach'

Department of Human Services

The Young Aboriginal Families in the North (YAFIN) Program is a new DHS Child and Family Support System service developed through a collaborative commissioning and procurement approach, which works to strengthen the role and voice of ACCOs and ACCHOs in the commissioning and contracting process.

Through this approach, ACCOs and ACCHOs were included in a joint decision-making process with DHS to identify community needs and priorities, develop a high-quality, holistic and culturally safe service model and determine how the ACCOs and ACCHOs might work with each other to deliver the service, while also ensuring alignment with relevant procurement frameworks.

Following a process of collaborative service design, KWY Aboriginal Corporation (KWY) was identified as the preferred provider. KWY will receive funding to deliver Intensive Family Services to at-risk, first-time parents of Aboriginal children in Northern Adelaide from pregnancy to the child's second birthday, with the current contract in place until 31 December 2028. A key component of the program's governance is the establishment of a Formal Partnership Agreement between DHS and KWY.

Feedback and learnings from this process will help inform how to strengthen partnership approaches and use co-design methods to future approaches to the commissioning of services.

Supporting Aboriginal-Led Participation in DIT Projects

Between 1 June 2025 and 1 June 2026, DIT provided funding or in-kind support to over 28 ACCOs, 22 of which were Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), to assist in the delivery of DIT projects across SA. These funds were for a range of services including:

- Advice to the Department on infrastructure projects and programs.
- To codesign, inform, and implement programs for Aboriginal community members.
- Undertake consultation on behalf of the Department regarding infrastructure projects and programs.
- To advise, inform, develop, and deliver culturally appropriate community-informed urban designs, art, wording, naming, recognition, wayfinding trails, and signage in language on

projects.

- High-level advice to the Department regarding the management of heritage and cultural values on Country.
- On the ground heritage survey and monitoring services to assist the Department to meet its legislative obligations.

Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform Two

Increased funding and flexibility to ACCOs in the justice sector

The $3.9 billion National Access to Justice Partnership 2025–30 (NAJP) officially commenced on 1 July 2025.

A core principle of this 5-year national agreement between the Australian Government and all states and territories is supporting progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and driving the Priority Reforms, including through the delivery of a Closing the Gap Schedule (the Schedule) to the NAJP. Work has commenced on development of the Schedule, with expected completion to occur by mid-2027. The NAJP includes several funding and reform streams, including those designed to:

- Provide culturally safe legal and frontline support services.
- Reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal peoples in incarceration and youth detention.
- Decrease rates of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children.
- Reduce the number of Aboriginal children entering out-of-home care
- Provide better funding certainty.

Under the NAJP, AGD administers funding to several legal assistance providers in SA, including ALRM and Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC). The NAJP commits ongoing and increased funding, gives providers better flexibility to use funding in ways that meets community needs, streamlines reporting and commits to a series of long-term reforms to increase sector capability. Significant milestones achieved under this expanded funding to date include:

- The expansion of FVLSAC services to metropolitan Adelaide, including through the establishment of a permanent office in the CBD.
- ALRM's appointment of a full time senior civil and family practice solicitor in Port Augusta, allowing for the maintenance of a consistent face-to-face service in this area.
- The reinstatement of ALRM's duty solicitor service in the Adelaide Youth Court for care and protection matters.

Register of ACCO accommodation needs

Recognising the critical role of appropriate infrastructure for ACCOs to deliver culturally responsive services, DIT worked with SAACCON to develop a prototype SA Government Register of Accommodation Needs (the Register). The Register is intended to identify the accommodation needs of ACCOs – to enable an assessment of SA Government holdings. Where available, DIT match available surplus SA Government accommodation to support ACCOs.

This register is currently being populated by:

- Information provided by SAACCON representing member interests.
- Referrals by SAACCON when an ACCO has identified an accommodation need.
- Departmental staff following consultation with Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) and ACCOs.
- Direct requests to DIT for assistance.

Discussions with PBCs and ACCOs continued throughout 2025 and 2026 to understand the accommodation needs of the sector.

Investing in the Capability of Traditional Owner Organisations

In 2025, DIT worked directly with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) after KYAC sought assistance to set up a cultural heritage service, establish an office and employ executive and operational staff. A pilot program which included a “Package of Assistance” was developed to build the skills and capability of KYAC. The package included provision of office accommodation in Adelaide’s CBD for 3-years, IT equipment, funding for two heritage coordinators and an SA Government secondee to support the organisation’s development.

In May 2026, the newly appointed and fully funded KYAC Cultural Heritage Coordinator advised that the organisation now employs over 44 Kaurna Community Members to provide heritage risk management services on Country. The CBD office space is currently used as the base from which the heritage operations are coordinated and the KYAC Board hold meetings at this facility.

Embedding Priority Reform Two in SA Health

During 2025–2026, DHW provided funding to AHCSA to support capacity building across SA’s Aboriginal community-controlled health sector. This included dedicated support for AHCSA to strengthen sector engagement, coordination and advice, and to develop and deliver an ongoing Partnership Agreement with SA Health to guide shared priorities, governance and collaborative reform activity.

The Aboriginal Health Branch of DHW continues to progress key priority areas funded through the SA Health Investment in Aboriginal Health (SAHIAH), with a strong focus on system reform and improving health outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.

Aboriginal Health has maintained active engagement with the ACCHO and ACCO sectors to identify and progress strategic investment opportunities and strengthen partnerships.

Aboriginal Health has developed a multi-year investment planning approach to provide funding certainty and enable sustainable partnerships. Investment priorities have been aligned with the Health Sector Strengthening Plan and the Implementation Plan, with an increasing emphasis on system transformation rather than discrete project delivery.

These efforts are complemented by strong commitments across the LHNs, including for example:

- The Barossa Hills Fleurieu LHN has continued to strengthen relationships with Moorundi ACCHO. With work continuing on the development of the MOU, the current partnership has supported practical workforce and service delivery initiatives, including Aboriginal Health Practitioner trainee placements, collaborative social programs with aged care teams, referral pathways and shared yarning circles.

- The Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN is partnering with River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation to support community-led cultural training and knowledge sharing, ensuring regional staff develop a deeper understanding of local Aboriginal culture, history, and health perspectives.

- The Yorke and Northern LHN are supporting efforts towards the establishment of an ACCHO in partnership with Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation, in collaboration with DHW, through the Narungga Health Assembly. This represents a structured transition of service responsibility and resources to an Aboriginal organisation. Funding has been prioritised to support partnership, governance, and sector development activities based on community-identified priorities through the Narungga Health Assembly.

Building Capacity in the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Arts Sector

CreateSA has supported actions to strengthen the Aboriginal community-controlled sector through targeted investment, partnerships, and capability development. This includes ongoing support to Aboriginal-led organisations; support for Aboriginal art centres including Iwiri Arts; working with Ananguku Arts (Ku Arts) and supporting artists in regional and remote communities and strengthening grassroots, community-driven arts activity; embedding Aboriginal voices; and supporting capacity building and governance. CreateSA's approach prioritises self-determination, long-term sustainability, and strengthening the capacity of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to lead and deliver cultural outcomes. This work is also supporting Outcome 8.

Building the Community-Controlled Sector

The Trust, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Department for Environment and Water, Department for Housing and Urban Development, Preventative Health SA

- The Trust is exploring opportunities with the Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation (PPAC) to improve property maintenance arrangements, develop clearer working arrangements, and consider the potential role of PPAC's Community Maintenance Team in supporting routine or locally based works and future planning for the community and surrounding regional area. The Trust has also engaged ACCOs to discuss the potential to establish service agreements focusing on building capability to provide Aboriginal housing services

- A collaboration opportunity is being explored by DIT in partnership with DEW to determine whether it is possible for both agencies to assist ACCOs in becoming SA Native Vegetation Council (NVC) accredited third-party offset providers. Offsets require developers or landholders who clear native vegetation to achieve a net environmental gain elsewhere to help prevent biodiversity decline. A native vegetation offset is a conservation action that compensates for approved native vegetation clearance by planting native vegetation in approved alternative locations.

- The Municipal Services (MUNS) Program in DHUD has recently funded an Aboriginal company, KSJ Consulting and the Nipapanha community to deliver a pilot Administrative Training Program for administration officers from a number of Aboriginal communities across SA, to be delivered in August 2026.

- In June 2025, Preventive Health SA funded the Empowering Futures: Health and Wellbeing for Ngarrindjeri project, delivered by Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities (NREC) in partnership with Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. This initiative supports culturally appropriate, strengths-based and place-based approaches to preventing alcohol and other drug-related harms for Ngarrindjeri people.

- Funding provided through DEW's water programs supported Aboriginal organisations to participate in environmental management, cultural heritage protection, ecological monitoring and community-engagement activities. A proportion of funding supported Aboriginal-led employment opportunities and community-participation activities connected to Caring for Country outcomes.

Investing in Aboriginal-led service delivery in DCS

DCS has committed to strengthening partnerships, investing in community-based rehabilitation and reintegration services for Aboriginal people leaving prison, and procuring new services from Aboriginal-controlled services and enterprises including:

Ku Arts: *Keeping Culture Strong*: DCS has engaged Ku Arts to deliver Keeping Culture Strong, a series of Aboriginal cultural art workshops facilitated by Aboriginal artists for Aboriginal men and women under DCS supervision. The program supports participants to strengthen their connection to culture and identity, build creative confidence, and promote healing through artistic expression. As of 30 June 2026, 59 Aboriginal Men had participated in the program at Yatala Labour Prison and Cadell Training Centre. Future deliveries are scheduled at Adelaide Women's Prison, Mobilong Prison, Port Augusta Prison and Mount Gambier Prison. Ku Arts are currently delivering in the AMP where it has been very successful with a huge uptake by Aboriginal women.

Blak Country: *Solid Sisters:* DCS partnered with Blak Country to deliver Solid Sisters, an Aboriginal-led songwriting, ukulele and choral program for Aboriginal women at Adelaide Women's Prison. The program provides structured, culturally grounded creative engagement that supports confidence, emotional wellbeing, self-compassion, cultural identity, positive communication and constructive participation. Seventeen Aboriginal women participated in and successfully completed the program, culminating in a performance showcase alongside Nancy Bates, Felicity Freeman and members of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra String Quartet. DCS is currently negotiating opportunities to continue to expand delivery of the program, recognising its positive contribution to cultural connection, wellbeing, self-expression and rehabilitation outcomes for Aboriginal women in custody.

Tauondi Aboriginal College – Living Skills and Pathways: Tauondi Aboriginal College (TAC) has been engaged to deliver the Living Skills and Pathways program for Aboriginal men and women under DCS supervision. Co-designed by DCS and TAC, the program has been tailored to meet the specific needs of Aboriginal participants and support successful rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes. As of 30 June 2026, 48 Aboriginal men had participated in the program at Yatala Labour Prison. Delivery will continue at Yatala Labour Prison and is scheduled to commence at Adelaide Women's Prison.

Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation – *Ngangkari Healing*: DCS has engaged Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (ANTAC) to provide Ngangkari healing clinics across SA's prison system. Ngangkari healing is a longstanding traditional cultural practice delivered by recognised traditional healers and supports the social, emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal men and women. As of 30 June 2026, 30 Aboriginal men and women had accessed Ngangkari healing services through this partnership.

Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc. – Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Services: DCS continues to partner with the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (SA) Inc. (ADAC) to deliver culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal men and women in custody. ADAC provides culturally safe assessment, counselling, case management, group programs, and pre-release support designed to strengthen wellbeing, reduce substance-related harm, and support successful rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes. Following the positive outcomes achieved through the partnership, DCS has extended ADAC's service agreement to ensure the continued delivery of Aboriginal-led alcohol and other drug services across South Australia's prison system. The extension supports ongoing access to culturally responsive care and reinforces DCS's commitment to investing in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people in contact with the justice system.

These initiatives reflect DCS's commitment to Aboriginal-led service delivery and a holistic approach to rehabilitation and reintegration. By strengthening cultural identity, social and emotional wellbeing and community connection, these programs support positive outcomes for Aboriginal people in custody, and under community based supervision, while contributing to efforts to reduce reoffending and improve long-term reintegration outcomes.

Building collaborative Alcohol and Other Drug care pathways

There has been strong interest from ACCOs and ACCHOs in collaborative Alcohol and Other Drug care pathways that are culturally grounded and responsive to local community needs. Early positive engagement with organisations such as Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, ALRM and National Indigenous Network Initiative has identified shared priorities around client support, continuity of care and culturally informed service models. SA Health's Drug and Alcohol Services SA are currently working with the Office of the Chief Aboriginal Health Officer (DHW) to engage an Aboriginal business to complete an evaluation of regional Sobering Up Units and Mobile Assistance Patrols with the intent to deliver these services in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, communities and people.

Priority Reform Three: Transforming government organisations

Leading agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Outcome	Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.
Target	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.

The SA Government is committed to transformation and a sustained effort to elevate accountability, reduce racism and provide culturally safe, responsive services. Through the National Agreement, governments are required to implement the following transformation elements:

- Identify and eliminate racism through identifying and calling out institutional racism, discrimination, and unconscious bias, and address disproportionate outcomes and over-representation of Aboriginal people by addressing features of systems that cultivate institutionalised racism.
- Embed and practice meaningful cultural safety by embedding high-quality, meaningful approaches to promoting cultural safety, recognising Aboriginal people's strength in their identity as a critical protective factor. This applies to all levels of staff within government organisations.
- Deliver services in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, communities, and people through developing genuine relationships between government organisations and Aboriginal people, organisations and / or businesses to enhance the quality and cultural safety of mainstream service delivery.
- Increase accountability through transparent funding allocations to improve transparency for funding allocation to, and distribution by, mainstream institutions in relation to dedicated Aboriginal-led service delivery.
- Support Aboriginal cultures through ensuring government organisations identify their history with Aboriginal people and facilitate truth-telling to enable reconciliation and ongoing healing.
- Improve engagement with Aboriginal people by ensuring that when governments are undertaking significant changes to policy and programs that primarily impact on Aboriginal people, they engage fully and transparently, and that Aboriginal people:

- have a leadership role in the design and conduct of engagements
- know the purpose and fully understand what is being proposed
- know what feedback is provided and how it is being taken into account by government
- are able to assess whether the engagements have been fair, transparent, and open.

SA progress overview

Of the 33 actions in the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 to drive Priority Reform Three, 17 (52%) are either complete or progressing on track, including 7 completed actions, while a further 5 actions are not yet due to commence. During 2025-2026, 2 actions overcame previous delays and 4 new actions were completed, however 3 actions are no longer being progressed.

Key SA actions

Commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart through the Aboriginal Voice to Parliament

DPC has continued to progress implementation of Priority Reform Three through coordination of formal engagement mechanisms between SA Government and the State Voice under Part 5 of the *First Nations Voice to Parliament Act 2023* (SA).

During 2025, DPC supported 2 Strategic Cabinet meetings, 2 Chief Executive Briefings and the first Annual Engagement Hearing, delivered across three sittings. These engagements provided structured opportunities for Aboriginal perspectives, priorities and community concerns to directly inform government decision-making, reform discussions and agency accountability processes.

The 2026 Chief Executive Briefing with the newly elected State Voice focused on relationship-building, established shared priorities, and identified opportunities for ongoing collaboration between government agencies and the State Voice.

DPC also coordinated the annual review and update of the Memorandum of Administrative Agreement (MoAA) between SA Government and the State Voice. The updated MoAA reinforces mutual commitments to cultural safety, respectful engagement, transparency, self-determination and ensuring Aboriginal voices are heard and given weight in government decision-making processes.

To support practical whole-of-government reform, DPC coordinated agency briefing processes requiring agencies to identify key reforms, engagement activity, emerging issues and opportunities for collaboration with Aboriginal communities ahead of formal engagements. This process strengthened accountability and embedded consideration of Aboriginal engagement responsibilities across mainstream government agencies.

Developing an independent mechanism to support transformation

Through the National Agreement, the SA Government has agreed to develop or strengthen an independent mechanism, or mechanisms, that will support, monitor, and report on the transformation of mainstream agencies and institutions. The mechanism will:

- support mainstream agencies and institutions to embed the transformation elements detailed above and monitor their progress
- be recognisable to Aboriginal people and be culturally safe
- engage with Aboriginal people to listen and to respond to concerns about mainstream agencies and institutions
- report publicly on the transformation of mainstream agencies and institutions, including progress, barriers and solutions.

The SA Government remains committed to exploring the essential features of, and suitable models for, the independent mechanism.

Embedding Aboriginal Voice in education

The DfE Aboriginal Voice Framework embeds Aboriginal knowledge, expertise and experience across all corporate departmental policy making by connecting policy and project owners with Aboriginal staff enrolled on the Aboriginal Voice Register from the earliest stages in policy and project development. The register is open to all Aboriginal corporate and site-based staff across the entire public education system in South Australia.

The Framework has been mandated across all corporate divisions of the department since January 2023. Before any policy is approved by the Department it must be accompanied by an endorsed Aboriginal Impact Statement indicating that Aboriginal Voice was engaged and that potential impacts of the policy on Aboriginal learners, staff, families and communities have been considered and addressed.

Embedding Aboriginal Voice in government evaluation

DPC are progressing development of the Aboriginal Evaluation Framework (the Framework) in partnership with the State First Nations Voice to Parliament (State Voice), agencies and Aboriginal representatives.

The Framework arises from a formal recommendation the inaugural State Voice made to the SA Government following the 2025 Annual Engagement Hearing. The Framework will provide an opportunity for the State Voice to examine government priorities, expenditure and service delivery impacting Aboriginal peoples and identify opportunities to strengthen accountability and responsiveness across government.

DPC will continue working collaboratively with the State Voice, Aboriginal representatives and communities, SAACCON and ACCO partners, agencies and broader stakeholders to inform the next phase of design and development of the Framework.

The Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement Project - Establishing foundations for co-design

The Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement (CTGPIS) aimed to provide support to assess the impacts of policies on Aboriginal people through clear criteria, best-practice guidance and impact assessment tools aligned to Closing the Gap targets for identifying and remedying disproportionate impacts. To date, the CTGPIS project has focused on establishing the foundational conditions required for meaningful co-design and system alignment. Initial workshops were conducted where SAACCON provided early guidance on the purpose, expectations and cultural considerations that should underpin the CTGPIS and its supporting tools.

Developing Cultural Competency through the Knowing Community initiative

Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT)

The Knowing Community Project is a unique, core component of DIT's Graduate Program where graduates work on a real-world project to develop practical skills that will serve them for the rest of their careers. These projects are designed to strengthen the understanding of the different ways in which DIT connects with and serves the community.

2025-2026 graduates were divided into 4 project teams and worked with a defined region of SA to develop a culturally appropriate, tailored, effective and efficient strategy to engage with ACCOs, Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs), and communities across SA. The outcome of which will enable DIT to source key information and identify opportunities for SA Government to assist ACCOs and PBCs in both practical and meaningful ways.

The strategy included creation of a plan for sourcing the relevant information regarding training, skills and property needs of each ACCO in a culturally appropriate way. The teams needed to consider how to appropriately and sensitively communicate the enquiry, how to capture and sensitively manage the data, and consider any resourcing requirements for ongoing maintenance of the proposed activity.

The graduate teams presented their proposed approaches to a panel comprised of SA Government Senior Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Executives, and external Aboriginal leaders. The best proposals developed will be given further consideration for implementation in future, where practicable.

This project offered an incredible learning and cultural competency opportunity for 36 graduates embarking on their careers in the Public Service. This cohort met with several different ACCOs and Aboriginal leaders, gained firsthand knowledge and visibility of the challenges communities experience. This project provided a unique educational experience, which was viewed as critical to changing the way government relates with Aboriginal communities by building awareness and educating our next generation of leaders.

Eliminating racism and creating safer workplaces

The SA Anti-Racism Strategy and Action Plan are overseen by a governance group including chief executives from SA Government agencies and the Chief Executive Officer of SAACCON. Building on the implementation and evaluation of an anti-racism training pilot, racial literacy and anti-racism leadership training will be delivered to a diverse cross-section of participants across the SA public sector. OCPSE continues to provide advice to agencies on implementing the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Framework for Cultural Safety and plans to review this framework in partnership with SAACCON.

Recognising the cultural load for Aboriginal public sector employees

The South Australian Public Sector Enterprise Agreement: Salaried 2026 requires OCPSE to develop eligibility criteria for the payment of an allowance to Aboriginal employees who are often requested by their agencies to provide cultural advice, guidance and lead work relating to Aboriginal affairs beyond their role description.

This also links to an action allocated to the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment under the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, “to develop a framework for identifying, understanding and managing colonial and cultural load across the SA public sector, aligned to the approach taken in other jurisdictions”.

This work will require consultation with the SA Public Sector Aboriginal workforce. OCPSE will progress the development of eligibility criteria for payment of an allowance to Aboriginal employees who advise on cultural matters within 12-months of the approved enterprise agreement.

Strengthening decision-making through Aboriginal impact assessment

The Trust’s Aboriginal Impact Statement (formerly the Aboriginal Interest Statement) has been developed in partnership with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the South Australian Housing Trust Board and is in the early stages of implementation. It ensures Aboriginal perspectives, priorities and outcomes are consistently considered in decision-making, particularly in the development of policies, programs and initiatives that may impact Aboriginal people and communities.

To support this, the Trust is developing an Aboriginal Impact Assessment Tool. It guides consideration, early in project planning stages, of who is affected, the nature of impacts, opportunities to maximise positive outcomes, and the need for meaningful engagement with Aboriginal people. Together, the Statement and Tool will embed more consistent, transparent and culturally informed decision-making.

Embedding Voice in preventive health legislation

Preventive Health

The *Preventive Health SA Act 2024* embeds Aboriginal perspectives within the governance of SA's preventive health system through both the objects of the Act and the statutory composition of the Preventive Health SA Council (the Council). The Act includes an explicit commitment to improving health equity, healing and wellbeing for Aboriginal peoples, and requires the Chief Executive to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities and their representative organisations when making decisions that affect Aboriginal people.

The Act also mandates at least 2 Aboriginal representatives on the Council. In implementation, this requirement was exceeded, with 3 Aboriginal members appointed, bringing significant expertise and leadership to preventive health governance.

This approach demonstrates how legislative reform can move beyond consultation to embed Aboriginal representation, expertise and influence in system-level decision-making. Through formalised roles within governance structures, Aboriginal voices are positioned to inform strategic direction, policy development and implementation oversight.

The Council operates as a statutory advisory body and provides a strong example of the role of legislation in strengthening shared decision-making and embedding Aboriginal leadership across the health system.

Investing in the Aboriginal workforce to transform systems

A number of SA Government agencies have developed and are implementing dedicated Aboriginal workforce plans and strategies, which include initiatives supporting recruitment, retention, mobility and promotion across the public sector and relevant service systems. This acknowledges the need for targeted and deliberate strategies alongside central policies to provide the broader authorising environment and the whole of government strategic framework.

Building cultural awareness and competency across agencies

Most SA Government agencies reported they are delivering initiatives to identify and eliminate racism, be accountable for culturally safe workplaces and support non-Aboriginal public sector employees to understand the lived experiences of Aboriginal peoples, to value that experience and expertise and their own responsibility to ensure safety in the workplace.

A Blueprint for transformation in public education

Department for Education

A collective approach for creating strong system foundations was developed by DfE in partnership with Aboriginal people and released in May 2026.

The Blueprint for Aboriginal outcomes in public education establishes the foundations for a significant system-wide shift in how the department supports improved outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people in line with Priority Reform Three. The Blueprint is based on the idea that better learning outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people come from how the system works, not just what is done within it.

Developed through an innovative shared decision-making partnership involving Aboriginal staff, senior leaders and the South Australian Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council (SAAETCC), the process to develop the Blueprint embedded Aboriginal voices in every aspect of its design and delivery.

In setting expectations and providing guidance on how staff and systems must work in education to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal learners by focussing on key Ways of Working, the Blueprint works in cohesion with other policy instruments to support progress against the transformation elements in Priority Reform Three:

- Identifying and eliminating racism
- Embedding and practicing meaningful cultural safety
- Delivering services in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and people
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and
- Improving engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform Three: transforming services

Supporting Access to Legal Identity Documentation

Births, Deaths and Marriages at Consumer and Business Services (CBS) supports the work of non-government organisation Pathfinders in undertaking the National Aboriginal Birth Certificate Program. In 2026, CBS staff have accompanied the Pathfinders team on 4 trips, to Port Augusta, Whyalla, Ceduna and Port Lincoln. Staff provided birth registration advice to assist Aboriginal people to register previously unregistered births and provided them with free birth certificates.

Enabling Culturally Safe Service Delivery

Yorke and Northern (LHN) is transforming services by embedding culturally safe Aboriginal-led approaches. Key initiatives include redesigning the Port Pirie Emergency Department with Nukunu Wapma Thura Aboriginal Corporation to create culturally welcoming spaces, integrating Ngangkari (Traditional Healer) services alongside clinical care, and strengthening Aboriginal workforce leadership. Community-connected models of care at Point Pearce have also improved engagement and re-engagement with health services.

Priority Reform Four: Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Leading agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

Outcome	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts in Closing the Gap, their priorities and drive their own development.
Target	Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

Implementation of Priority Reform Four is critical for Aboriginal people to be fully informed and be equal participants in shared decision-making. It is also necessary for the implementation of the remaining 3 Priority Reforms and regional data is needed to support Aboriginal communities participate in place-based partnerships.

The SA Government has committed to:

- share available, disaggregated regional data and information with Aboriginal organisations and communities on Closing the Gap (subject to privacy requirements)
- establish partnerships between Aboriginal people and government agencies to improve collection, access, management and use of data, including identifying improvements to existing data collection and management
- make data more transparent by telling Aboriginal people what data government has and how it can be accessed
- build the capacity of Aboriginal organisations and communities to collect and use data.

Through the National Agreement, Community Data Projects are being established in up to 6 locations across Australia. These projects are being designed to enable Aboriginal communities and organisations to access and use location-specific data on Closing the Gap outcome areas. The SA location is the western suburbs of Adelaide.

SA Progress Overview

Actions committed to against the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 shows that progress against Priority Reform Four is gradual. Of the 15 actions in the SA Implementation Plan, 2 are complete and 3 are progressing on track (33%), while 5 actions are not yet scheduled to commence. One action is no longer being progressed. During 2025-2026, one action experienced a new delay. While delivery activity is underway to improve shared access to data and information, the limited

number of completed and active actions suggests that continued focus is needed to progress outcomes under Priority Reform Four.

Key SA actions

Enabling access to publicly available data

The SA Government has committed to support ACCOs to build capability to identify, access and use publicly available datasets. Working closely with SAACCON has helped identify the kinds of data and subsequent support needed so that available data can be used for community-driven planning and accountability.

While work has progressed, a significant barrier is that publicly available data can still be difficult to interpret or apply in a local context, particularly without dedicated time and support or when data has not been appropriately disaggregated or provided at relevant time intervals (e.g. annual data is needed not just census data), making it challenging to effectively identify, access and use available datasets.

South Australia's open data website is being reviewed alongside exploring other approaches to support ACCOs to build capability in identifying, accessing and using publicly available datasets.

Western Suburbs Community Data Project

SAACCON

The Western Suburbs Community Data Project is progressing Priority Reform Four in alignment with the Place Based Partnership (PBP), ensuring community-identified priorities shape data access, sharing and use. SAACCON member organisations in the western suburbs have continued to shape the project and develop a shared commitment to strengthening how data is collected and used locally, so it reflects the voices, needs and priorities of individuals and community groups.

Progress and achievements

Through community consultation, a series of "Wishlist" indicators were transcribed and collated into an index that describes the information community wants to receive from government agencies and data custodians. The Office for Data Analytics (ODA) and SAACCON are translating these indicators and matching them with tangible data points held by agencies.

The ODA and SAACCON have held preliminary discussions with SA Government agencies to support future provision of data. This work is supporting an Aboriginal community-defined data agenda.

Governance and data sharing
Effective multi-agency data sharing requires both strong governance and clear community-defined priorities.

A statewide multi-agency Data Sharing Agreement is being developed with ODA and is critical to the success of the Community Data Project, as it will enable regularly reported data from government agencies to be shared with community and support data-informed decision-making about the local population in the western suburbs. The agreement is intended to support greater transparency and accountability across government agencies and strengthen mechanisms for Aboriginal communities to access, interpret and apply data in line with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.

Building capability and alignment
In March 2026, SAACCON recruited a full-time Community Data Lead to drive the project. SAACCON also engaged Aboriginal organisation Kowa to deliver introductory support on Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance to members, building shared understanding across the network while recognising that organisations are at different stages of data readiness and may require tailored solutions. Alignment between the Community Data Project and the PBP has been strengthened through sustained collaboration and a clear line of sight between the leadership structures of both initiatives.

Challenges and learnings
While SAACCON and government partners continue to collaborate, there has been some disappointment about the type and level of data that can be shared to date. Delays in progressing the Data Sharing Agreement have been partly driven by uncertainty about indicators and measures, the data currently collected and available for sharing, and related misunderstandings. This has meant that some available data is not yet fit for purpose due to the exclusion of critical data points, highlighting the importance of early engagement, transparency and collaboration to identify solutions and mitigate issues.

Next steps
The partnership is working to build a shared understanding of data access and its importance for the success of the Community Data Project and implementation of Priority Reform Four.

Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform Four:

Data sharing underpinning justice reinvestment

Throughout 2025-2026, AGD has continued its support of SA's justice reinvestment sites, including those funded through the National Justice Reinvestment Program, by coordinating data sharing, and progressing data sharing agreements on behalf of the SA Government. Broadly, justice reinvestment is a community-led approach to addressing the drivers of crime as a means of

reducing incarceration. Data is critical to inform program design, so that communities understand where need lies, and can target their initiatives effectively.

AGD has consistently been guided by the views of justice reinvestment communities to facilitate the sharing of data that is of most value to them. AGD has led work in collaboration with other government agencies to frame the available and relevant data and share it with justice reinvestment communities. Ahead of formal data sharing agreements being finalised, and while justice reinvestment sites progress through establishment and planning phases, AGD will continue to facilitate the provision of data on an ad hoc basis.

Improving Aboriginal Housing Data for Better Decision-Making

The Aboriginal Housing Data project is currently in progress and will strengthen the quality, accessibility and use of data relating to Aboriginal housing outcomes across the Trust. The project focuses on improving data governance, consistency and reporting to support evidence-based decision making and is supported by the establishment of an Aboriginal Data and Reporting Working Group.

The project will enhance transparency, accountability and data sharing with Aboriginal peoples, communities and organisations. It aims to ensure decisions are guided by best available data and better reflect the needs and priorities of Aboriginal people and communities.

Whole of Country mapping for infrastructure and transport

DIT consultation conducted with Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) throughout 2024 and 2025 indicated that “Whole of Country” consultation is preferable to “project by project” consultation. To facilitate this, the department built a geospatial data capture system for all infrastructure, building, and transport projects found within the department’s centralised Portfolio Management System.

The data and maps provide a clear picture, overlaid over Country, of which projects are proposed or underway in each area. It also enables DIT to map and track funded and unfunded projects across the State. The system can be adapted to depict various geographical areas, including Native Title areas and other boundaries related to Aboriginal Communities.

The map provides for greater transparency in discussions with PBCs, ACCOs and Aboriginal businesses, enabling them to determine how and if they wish to engage with the projects. This can inform discussions around the relevant skills and training that can be useful for employment, and lead to partnerships between Aboriginal-owned businesses, training organisations, and tier 1 and 2 providers.

A new Homelessness Outcomes Framework

Launched in July 2025, the Homelessness Outcomes Framework (HOF) sets out a shared, system-wide model for all SA Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS). It clearly defines outcomes that service providers are collectively working towards for people at risk of, or currently

experiencing, homelessness. The HOF also identifies foundational elements such as collaboration, capability, and coordination that support the delivery of these outcomes across the system.

The HOF establishes shared outcomes for Specialist Homelessness Services, including equitable outcomes for Aboriginal people, families and communities. Its ongoing implementation, and any further development of Aboriginal outcome measures, data governance and reporting, will be co-designed with Aboriginal partners and aligned with the Government's response to the Homelessness System Review.

The HOF's implementation is ongoing and, aligned with the outcomes of the Homelessness System Review, provides the foundations for identifying future opportunities to establish partnerships between Aboriginal people (including funded ACCOs and ACCHOs) and government agencies to improve Indigenous Data Sovereignty and meaningfully improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

Data driving better health outcomes

DHW and LHNs are driving Priority Reform Four through a range of initiatives delivered both centrally and regionally. By way of example:

- The DHW Aboriginal Health Branch developed a prototype digital platform to present de-identified Aboriginal health-related data by LHN and geographic area. The Branch continued to convene the Aboriginal Data Sovereignty and Governance Community of Practice.

- Barossa Hills Fleurieu LHN has strengthened the use and sharing of Aboriginal health and workforce data through Directorate reporting to the Aboriginal Health Committee. Directorates are required to report against measures including Aboriginal workforce representation, cultural learning completion, Closing the Gap actions, anti-racism initiatives and culturally safe workplace activities.

- The Central Adelaide LHN is committed to extending the reach and availability of Aboriginal health data dashboards within programs and services to strengthen its ability to understand, monitor and improve care for Aboriginal peoples. The dashboards enhance visibility of service utilisation and consumer experience, supporting transparency and informed decision-making across the organisation.

- The Yorke and Northern LHN are improving shared access to regional data through the Narungga Health Assembly by presenting detailed population health and service utilisation data to community representatives and partners to support joint interpretation and decision-making.

- Through the statewide Aboriginal-led expert Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Advisory Committee, a formal data and monitoring framework has been established, and work has been undertaken to strengthen data sharing arrangements within this group, to support collaborative and informed decision making on strategy for the statewide public health response to HIV, viral hepatitis and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs). Further strengthening of data sharing arrangements between SA Health and AHCSA are also being explored, to support statewide and regional strategy and service planning.

Supporting a new early childhood development system

The OECD is committed to developing a new early childhood development system that will support all children from birth to 5 years using the best available data insights and local knowledge, in consultation with providers and researchers. Indigenous Data Sovereignty will be considered in the collection and use of data and evidence to uphold and drive quality and continuous improvement.

A Data Governance Council was instituted in 2025-2026 to oversee the development of standards and procedures for the collection, sharing and use of data across the OECD. Comprising Aboriginal representation, this group is responsible for applying consistent, effective and compliant data management policies to support decision-making related to the early childhood reform. Importantly, this group will oversee the implementation of Aboriginal Data Sovereignty principles within the data policies developed for the OECD, in consultation with related initiatives across government.

Updating the minimum data set for child health and development checks

The OECD has engaged Nunkuwarrin Yunti and KWY Aboriginal Corporation to address family concerns about consent and data collection to support culturally safe child health and development checks, with the introduction of identifiable data and updated minimum data sets. Clear resources have been jointly developed that explain how information was captured for the checks, maintaining Aboriginal data sovereignty and the use of aggregated data for program improvement.

Data sharing in child protection and family support

DHS is continuing to enhance access to data and information through several established systems, including the ACCO approved Far West Coast Partnership Data Sharing Agreement (a multi-agency initiative enabling data sharing between government agencies and the Far West Coast Partnership, a Ceduna-based backbone organisation coordinating community action in the region) and the Ceduna Data Sharing Agreement. DHS also actively shares data with ACCOs through mechanisms such as Communities of Practice forums and is working with DCP and SAACCON to support the development of South Australia's Data Sovereignty project.

Improving access to environmental and cultural information

DEW continued to support improved access to environmental and cultural information through collaborative monitoring, on-Country engagement activities and shared learning approaches with Aboriginal organisations and communities.

Through programs delivered within the Water and River Murray Division, Aboriginal representatives participated in ecological monitoring, Aboriginal Waterway Assessments, Walking the Seasons activities and cultural heritage surveys. These activities supported the sharing of environmental information and created opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to contribute cultural knowledge and observations relating to land and water management.

DEW also continues to support collaborative approaches to the collection, sharing and use of environmental information to ensure Aboriginal perspectives and cultural knowledge remain embedded within future land and water management activities.

Socio-Economic Outcomes

Nineteen targets have been agreed to measure how we are tracking against the socio-economic outcomes of the National Agreement and focus on measuring the outcomes experienced by Aboriginal people.

This section of this Annual Report provides SA's updates on actions and progress towards each outcome in 2025-2026. Where data has been made available on the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap Information Repository Dashboard an overview of progress and trends has been included.

Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

Leading agency: Department for Health and Wellbeing

Target data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	No assessment	Improving but not on track to be met

Nationally:

- Aboriginal males born in 2020–2022 are expected to live to 71.9 years and non Aboriginal males have a life expectancy of 80.6 years (an 8.8 year gap)
- Aboriginal females born in 2020–2022 are expected to live to 75.6 years, and non Aboriginal females have a life expectancy of 83.8 years (an 8.1 year gap)
- the life expectancy gap is assessed as improving, however the target of achieving a zero life expectancy gap by 2031 is not on track to be met.

There is no assessment of progress available for SA.

SA progress overview

The actions committed to under the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 are progressing strongly, with all actions either completed or progressing as planned. Of the 9 actions supporting Aboriginal people to enjoy long and healthy lives, 5 are complete and 4 are on track, with no actions currently facing delays. During 2025-2026, 4 additional actions were completed, and 1 action overcame previous delays, demonstrating substantial advancement in implementation.

SA Health's strategic approach to improving Aboriginal health has been developed in partnership with key Aboriginal stakeholders over time, including AHCSA, ACCHOs, community groups, other health sector providers, and Aboriginal South Australians.

This strategic approach is set out in key policy frameworks: SA Health Aboriginal Health Care Framework 2023 – 2031 and South Australian Aboriginal Health Promotion Strategy 2022 – 2030.

The second SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 provided an opportunity to further focus efforts with prevention identified as a central driver of sustainable change in health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Key SA actions

Supporting smoking cessation and vaping prevention

During 2025–2026, Preventive Health SA continued to deliver targeted smoking cessation and vaping prevention campaigns aimed at supporting improved health outcomes for Aboriginal South Australians. A key success was the continued implementation and promotion of culturally relevant campaign messaging through a broad range of media channels, including NITV, AFL Indigenous Round advertising, Aboriginal and mainstream radio, social media, website advertising and placements within Aboriginal health services.

The refresh of the Moments campaign was a significant achievement during the reporting period. Developed in partnership with Aboriginal stakeholders and informed by community insights, the campaign uses strengths-based messaging to encourage people to choose more meaningful moments with family, culture and community instead of smoking. Preventive Health SA has also supported Aboriginal-led health promotion through grant funding and partnership approaches that enable communities to deliver locally relevant initiatives.

Strengthening Our Culture Community Grants Program

The Strengthening Our Culture Community Grants Program (SOCCGP) was developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and Aboriginal communities across SA, with ongoing feedback continuing to shape the program.

In 2025–2026, twelve grants were awarded to ACCOs. A key success has been the program's flexible, community-led approach grounded in the cultural determinants of health. The non-prescriptive funding model enabled ACCOs to design and deliver locally relevant initiatives, including on Country camps, language and storytelling activities, cultural programs, and women's and youth initiatives. The Community of Practice model has also been effective, providing a forum for collaboration, shared learning, and ongoing feedback, strengthening peer support and self-determination.

To support continuous improvement, Preventive Health SA held statewide consultations between October 2025 and April 2026 to redesign the SOCCGP in partnership with ACCOs. As a result, the Strengthening Our Culture Funding Pool has been launched.

Aboriginal Child and Adolescent Social and Emotional Wellbeing project

Preventative Health SA

In 2025–2026, the Aboriginal Child and Adolescent Social and Emotional Wellbeing (ACASEWB) project transitioned from an evidence development phase into an implementation-focused program. This shift has strengthened the project's sustainability, accountability and capacity to deliver culturally grounded social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) initiatives for Aboriginal children, young people and families.

Progress and achievements

Reactivation of the ACASEWB Governance Group strengthened Aboriginal leadership, cultural governance and shared decision-making, providing a culturally safe forum for cross-sector collaboration. Formal governance and reporting processes under the 36-month Memorandum of Administrative Agreement (MOAA) with DHW have clarified roles, strengthened accountability and supported more structured oversight, while Preventive Health SA has refined project documentation, established regular reporting and finalised recruitment of an Aboriginal SEWB Principal Project Officer.

Lessons learned

Implementation progressed within limited workforce capacity and a complex SEWB policy environment, with coordination and reporting occurring before recruitment of the dedicated project officer. In response, Preventive Health SA prioritised foundational governance, updated the Terms of Reference, refined project documentation, built cross-sector relationships and avoided rushed implementation that could compromise cultural governance or meaningful engagement.

What worked

Aboriginal-led governance, strong partnerships and culturally responsive planning have built trust, enabled shared ownership and positioned the project for sustainable implementation and longer-term systems reform. Cross-portfolio collaboration within Preventive Health SA has also strengthened connections across prevention, mental wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, tobacco and vaping, and broader Aboriginal health initiatives.

Next steps

Priorities include progressing implementation under the MoAA, endorsing updated governance documents, onboarding the Aboriginal SEWB Principal Project Officer and strengthening partnerships across government, non-government and Aboriginal community-controlled sectors. Longer-term work will focus on culturally grounded SEWB promotion, education and systems change informed by Aboriginal community perspectives, youth voice and cultural governance.

Aboriginal workforce expansion, clinical integration, and data building

A key achievement in 2025–2026 was development of the refreshed SA Health Aboriginal Workforce Framework reporting tool, which addresses a critical data gap by providing real-time visibility of Aboriginal recruitment, retention and professional development across the department.

Simultaneously, targeted strategies to strengthen the Aboriginal Health Practitioner cohort have also improved cultural safety, care continuity and patient engagement by embedding Aboriginal Health Practitioners in multidisciplinary teams. By recognising Aboriginal Health Practitioners as a distinct, specialised clinical workforce, the agency has elevated both care delivery and the professional standing of Aboriginal staff within mainstream acute care facilities.

Improving understandings of racism in sport

Racism is recognised as a key determinant of health and a driver of inequity for Aboriginal people. SAHMRI Wardliparingga and Preventive Health SA had partnered to undertake research to better understand the prevalence and experiences of racism in sport in SA. Through an extensive review of existing policies, both locally and internationally, the research team developed a clearer understanding of the current landscape and identified opportunities for intervention, improvement and evaluation.

This project delivered foundational research and has established a strong evidence base to inform future action. The findings highlighted significant gaps in anti-racism policy, including limited theoretical grounding, unclear definitions of racism, and weak accountability mechanisms. Importantly, the research also reinforced the value and effectiveness of community-led approaches, demonstrating that initiatives grounded in Aboriginal leadership and lived experience are essential to driving meaningful and sustained change.

The next phase will focus on developing and implementing strategies in SA to address racism in sport and support improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Expanding cancer screening services

In 2025–2026, Preventive Health SA continued to strengthen the One Stop Screening Shop (OSSS) program as a culturally safe, prevention-focused initiative supporting Aboriginal women to access breast, bowel and cervical cancer screening pathways. The program demonstrated the value of delivering integrated screening opportunities within trusted community settings through partnership-driven and culturally responsive approaches.

A key success during the reporting period was the delivery of a Metro OSSS event at Watto Purrunna Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service in October 2025. The event supported up to 25 Aboriginal women to complete the bowel, cervical and breast screenings.

The OSSS also provide culturally safe health education, engagement and follow-up support on the day. This further strengthened partnerships between Preventive Health SA, screening providers and Local Health Network (LHN) Aboriginal Health teams to improve access and continuity of care. Preventive Health SA also delivered outreach well women's screening and targeted health education sessions across regional, rural and remote South Australia.

Preventive Health SA will continue to strengthen and expand the OSSS model through partnership-based, culturally safe, and prevention-focused approaches to cancer screening for Aboriginal communities. Key next steps include delivery of 3 additional metropolitan OSSS events in 2026, alongside community yarning circles and engagement activities to support co-design, continuous improvement, and community-informed delivery.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Men's Bowel Screening Grants Program also funded 5 community-led projects to increase participation in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program among Aboriginal men aged 45–74. The program supports culturally appropriate education and engagement delivered by organisations with strong community connections, helping to reduce barriers and improve access.

Partnering with SAACCON to improve Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing using a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach

The Aboriginal Health team provides grant funding to SAACCON to strengthen its capacity in its role as a key partner with the South Australian Government in implementing the National Agreement. A key achievement this year was the successful development of a two-year strategic partnership for the 2025-2027 financial years, which will support activities that will benefit Aboriginal communities, the ACCO sector, and the South Australian Government's efforts to close the gap.

The partnership continues to perform collaboratively, with SAACCON providing ongoing feedback and guidance on milestone activities and initiative beyond the scope of the work plan, such as the development of a Cultural Governance Framework and Aboriginal Engagement Guideline. This work has strengthened the partnership activities and will support greater transparency, collaboration, and Aboriginal leadership in reviewing Preventive Health SA policies and practices. The workplan also prioritises initiatives that strengthen culture and wellbeing through targeted investment and evidence-building.

Preventive Health SA and SAACCON continue to work respectfully through feedback. While finalisation of the workplan has taken longer than originally anticipated, discussions remain constructive and focused on ensuring the workplan reflects shared priorities, demonstrates meaningful alignment with Closing the Gap and delivers value through the Strategic Partnership.

The partnership experienced initial challenges caused by unclear expectations and roles, which both parties acknowledge limited early progress. There was, at times, a lack of shared understanding regarding the intended purpose, scope of work, and desired outcomes of the agreement. These matters were addressed through the implementation of a structured approach to communication. This included the development of a Strategic Partnership Governance Structure, the allocation of dedicated staff to support the partnership, and strengthened regular engagement between both parties.

Together, these measures supported the progressive alignment of expectations and improved clarity around roles, responsibilities, and priorities. This collaborative approach has strengthened mutual understanding of the partnership's intent and improved clarity around the role and function of the Senior Advisor. As a result, both parties consider the partnership to now be better positioned to deliver coordinated, tangible outcomes moving forward.

The partnership work plan prioritises initiatives that strengthen culture and wellbeing through targeted investment and evidence building. A key focus in the coming year will be the rollout of the Strengthening Our Culture Funding Pool, which SAACCON will continue to play an important role on Indigenous Data Sovereignty and support engagement with its members on the roll out of the funding pool. This shared work will strengthen the partnership and the work between Preventive Health SA and the ACCO sector, supporting a streamlined community-led investment approach in the delivery of outcomes aligned with Closing the Gap priorities.

Alcohol and Other Drugs prevention and support across government

Preventive Health SA progressed Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) prevention and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) initiatives in 2025-2026 through culturally informed engagement, data analysis, and community-led consultation.

Yarning Circles were facilitated with Aboriginal women of childbearing age in metropolitan Adelaide, including sessions led through the Stronger Mimini's initiative, to explore perceptions of alcohol education campaigns and assess the relevance of existing approaches such as the Strong Born campaign. The yarning approach was strongly valued by participants and identified as an effective, culturally safe method for engagement and communication, reinforcing its use within healthcare settings and health promotion activities.

Preventive Health SA also analysed LGA data on alcohol consumption to identify priority areas with higher prevalence of risky drinking. This supported more targeted, place-based prevention planning and reinforced the importance of combining data insights with community perspectives to ensure initiatives are locally relevant.

Insights from Yarning Circles, the data and previous campaign learnings have informed the development of future FASD and AOD prevention initiatives. These will be progressed in partnership with the Women's and Children's Health Network and ACCHOs, supporting culturally grounded, community-informed approaches to prevention.

SA Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030

The SA Alcohol and Other Drug Strategy 2025-2030 commits the SA Government to partnering with the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector on a range of actions to reduce the prevalence and harm of AOD use in Aboriginal communities.

Under the Strategy 2025-2030 Preventive Health SA has:

- Agreed to support Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities' (NREC) evaluation of the 'Empowering Futures – Health and Wellbeing for Ngarrindjeri' project, which aims to strengthen community-based initiatives to increase awareness of the harms associated with AOD use in Murray Bridge and the Mid-Murray region. Evaluation of the pilot will be critical to measure success and to consider future expansion of the initiative.

- Collated LGA data on alcohol consumption and Aboriginal populations in SA to inform targeted new prevention initiatives under the Strategy. This, alongside learnings from the 'Strong Born' Yarning Circles and Every Moment Matters campaign will inform an upcoming internal workshop to consider new FASD initiative/s in SA. The focus will be on high-risk Local Government Areas, alongside areas of high Aboriginal populations, particularly in rural/remote areas.

Preventive Health SA has established the SA Alcohol and Other Drugs Steering Committee to monitor cross-agency progress and collaborate effectively on implementation. This is co-chaired by Preventive Health SA and SAPOL.

SAPOL will continue to provide strong governance and monitoring through existing structures, while further strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal organisations. Efforts will focus on expanding prevention and harm reduction initiatives, alongside ongoing enforcement activities, disruption of drug supply, and support for diversion pathways to improve community safety and reduce harm.

A mid-term review of the Strategy is scheduled for 2027, which will provide an opportunity to assess progress, refine priorities, and ensure the strategy remains responsive to emerging challenges.

Outcome 2: Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong

Leading agency: Department for Health and Wellbeing

Target data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcomes	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improving	No change from the baseline

Nationally:

- in 2023, 88.9% of Aboriginal babies born were of a healthy birthweight. This is similar to 88.8% in 2017 (the baseline year).
- the trend for the target shows no change from the baseline. In SA,
- in 2023, 90.2% of Aboriginal babies born were of a healthy birthweight. This is an increase from 88.4% in 2017 (the baseline year) and has been assessed as improving.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 1 action to support Aboriginal children to be born healthy and strong, and this action is currently progressing on track. Across government, there are multiple activities occurring not formally committed to through the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 that are working to support Aboriginal children to be born healthy and strong.

Key SA actions

Continuous, coordinated and culturally safe care for Aboriginal babies and mothers

The Aboriginal Child and Maternal Health Continuity of Care Protocols (CCP) Program strengthens SA's health system to ensure Aboriginal children aged 0–4 years and mothers of Aboriginal babies receive continuous, coordinated and culturally safe care. Continuity of care is a critical determinant of health outcomes.

The CCP Program improves coordination and follow-up across services to ensure health care is not only available but accessible, regardless of barriers driven by social determinants. It strengthens system accountability and prioritises culturally safe, racism-free care, enabling Aboriginal families to access services when, where and how they choose. The CCP Program directly supports all four Closing the Gap Priority Reforms.

The Program applied a co-design approach to collaboratively develop the CMH CCP Program Strategy and Implementation Plan alongside cultural and clinical experts and diverse stakeholders

from across the health system. From July 2025, the CMH CCP Program transitioned into Phase 3: Implementation and Evaluation.

Delivering culturally safe care initiatives through the Ngangkita Ngartu program

Through the Ngangkita Ngartu program, the Women's and Children's Health Network continues to strengthen culturally safe and targeted care for Aboriginal women, babies and families. Key initiatives include supplements supply, targeted education for Gestational Diabetes, and complex care huddles supporting early intervention for families with multiple health and social needs. Cultural care plans are embedded to ensure care is responsive to cultural and social wellbeing needs.

All Ngangkita Ngartu staff have completed the 'Baby Coming, You Ready' education program to strengthen culturally safe maternity care. Women at risk of low birth weight are referred to iCARE research initiatives for additional support. To improve SEWB referrals are made to a Narrative Therapist and emergency relief supports through Nunkuwarrin Yunti, Adelaide, with a formal partnership currently being established.

Aboriginal Birthing Programs across the regions – NALHN in focus

The number of Aboriginal births at NALHN continues to grow. The Northern Aboriginal Birthing Program (NABP) has strengthened collaboration with the CCP to support families and enhance outcomes, contributing to increased use of safety planning and kinship care where appropriate. The program provides care across a wide range of settings, including antenatal clinics, specialist services, inpatient wards, and outreach to women from regional, remote, and custodial settings. This broad scope enables responsive, culturally appropriate care for women with complex needs, supported by strong multidisciplinary partnerships.

NALHN continues to support women with complex clinical and psychosocial needs. Key challenges include late presentation to antenatal care, often beyond the first trimester, limiting timely screening and early engagement. Many women experience intersecting social factors that increase care complexity. There has also been an increase in demand for care related to substance use. In response, the service continues to engage women in supportive pathways, including access to detox services and ongoing care coordination.

From March 2025 to March 2026, Aboriginal Health Practitioners have undertaken Aboriginal Maternal Infant Care (AMIC) training, positioning the service to further enhance culturally safe, holistic care delivery.

The NABP model of care continues to evolve and is under review, with a focus on strengthening continuity through the planned inclusion of postnatal care. This review includes proposals to expand the workforce, including additional Aboriginal Health Practitioners, midwives, and dedicated social work support to enhance multidisciplinary care coordination. In alignment with the SA Perinatal Practice Guidelines, the service has reintroduced first antenatal appointments within the first trimester from May 2026. This initiative aims to promote earlier engagement, improve access to screening, and support timely, culturally appropriate care. Completion of the Model of

Care review will support the inclusion of both antenatal and postnatal services delivered across home, community, and hospital settings, strengthening continuity and accessibility of care for Aboriginal women and families.

The strong collaboration between the NABP and the Continuity of Care Program, including the senior social work role, has significantly enhanced care delivery for Aboriginal women and their babies.

Aboriginal Birthing Programs across the regions – YNLHN in focus

YNLHN maternal and infant health data shows strong clinical outcomes, with healthy birthweight rates generally ranging from 95% to 100% between 2021–22 and 2023–24, decreasing to 89.3% in 2024–25 year-to-date data, and term birth rates remaining strong at 92.9–100%. However, engagement with antenatal care has declined, with early antenatal attendance at or before 12 weeks falling from around 50–55% in previous years to 25.0%, while late presentations after 20 weeks have increased to 14.3%. These trends indicate that while outcomes are strong for women who are engaged in care, earlier and more consistent antenatal access remains a key area for improvement.

The primary challenge is how antenatal care pathways are structured and accessed. Antenatal care is often implicitly linked to birthing location, despite many women receiving care locally but needing to birth in tertiary settings due to clinical complexity, including diabetes among women aged 25–45 years. This separation can reduce visibility of local access pathways and contribute to inconsistent attendance, ongoing risk factors such as smoking during pregnancy at 25.0%, and some women seeking care outside the local network to access more culturally appropriate or relationship-based services.

In response, the Aboriginal Family Birthing Program (AFBP) has been developed as a culturally informed, community-designed and implementation-ready model. The model incorporates an Aboriginal Maternal Infant Care workforce, culturally appropriate and relationship-based care, and integration of clinical care with social and emotional wellbeing. It provides a structured approach to improving early engagement, strengthening continuity of care and increasing access to culturally safe antenatal services.

Next steps are focused on moving from model development to implementation, including progressing the AFBP, establishing and expanding the AMIC workforce, increasing first trimester attendance from 25.0%, reducing late antenatal presentations, strengthening community-based antenatal care independent of birthing location, addressing maternal risk factors including smoking and diabetes, improving integration across community, primary care and maternity services, and implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms aligned to Outcome 2 and the Aboriginal Health Performance Framework.

Outcome 3: Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

Leading Agency: Department for Education

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full-time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improving	Target met

Nationally:

- in 2025, 101.7%[5] of Aboriginal children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 61.3% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- the target is recorded as met.

In SA:

- in 2025, 112.5% of Aboriginal children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 83.4% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement.

Target 3 is the first target to expire under the National Agreement. Work is in progress to establish a new, refreshed target around early childhood education.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 1 action to support Aboriginal children to be engaged in high-quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education, and this action has been marked as complete during 2025-2026.

[5] Enrolment rates exceed 100% for the national figure and for South Australia because the numerator and denominator come from different data sources and are based on different assumptions. The numerator is administrative data for preschool enrolment reported annually. The denominator, the potential population of children aged in the state-specific YBFS cohort, is based on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population projections. These projections are the best available data, however they underestimate the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the years after the 2021 Census. Over time, identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been increasing, and this is not accounted for in current population projections.

In developing the current SA Implementation Plan, it was agreed that engagement in education and training is intertwined with many social and economic factors that support young people to thrive. While reported separately, the following socio-economic outcomes are agreed as all contributing to better education outcomes and associated actions should be designed and delivered in an aligned manner:

- Outcome 3 - Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years
- Outcome 5 - Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential
- Outcome 6 - Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways
- Outcome 7 - Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education

Across each outcome, it is recognised that the key to success is ensuring education and training approaches are culturally appropriate and responsive. Socio-economic outcome 3 recognises the strengths of promoting Aboriginal connection to family, culture and identity in early childhood education.

Following the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, a new Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) was established. The OECD is responsible to deliver on the Royal Commission's recommendations which included a strong focus on providing greater supports for Aboriginal children. SA's approach to socio-economic outcome 3 is being integrated into this whole-of-system reform.

Key SA actions

Ensuring Aboriginal children retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool

OECD's work to ensure Aboriginal children retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool is underpinned by shared decision making and co-design through the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group, as referenced in the 'Guiding early childhood reform through partnership' case study. This work supports efforts by the Department for Education to improve the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full-time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95% by 2025.

The co-designed Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy, to be launched in July 2026, will further support achievement of this outcome.

Design of the new Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy

Office for Early Childhood Development

The Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy was developed in 2025 and focuses on building a strong, visible, connected and culturally safe Aboriginal workforce across the early childhood sector.

The Strategy was developed in partnership with Aboriginal leaders, Community representatives, and sector stakeholders and has dedicated funding to grow and support culturally safe and accessible pathways into early childhood careers that recognise, develop and retain Aboriginal people long-term.

Progress and achievements

Stakeholders consistently identified the need for culturally safe services, practical career progression pathways and holistic support for Aboriginal staff. In response, Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training was established through Aboriginal Business Suppliers and ACCOs and training at the foundational 'Knowing' level is mandated for all OECD partnered services while engaging in deeper learning and the 'Being' and 'Doing' levels is also encouraged.

The Strategy also established Aboriginal-specific, introductory courses through Tauondi Aboriginal College, supported by Aboriginal-specific scholarships to assist Aboriginal people to begin careers in early childhood education.

The OECD strengthened collaboration with ACCOs, community representatives, Aboriginal-owned businesses, training providers, partnered services and sector representatives which supported strong engagement with initiatives including:

- workforce grants
- recruitment resources
- career development pathway materials
- Aboriginal cultural safety measures.

These partnership-based approaches improved coordination, reduced duplication and created stronger alignment between workforce initiatives, training pathways and sector priorities.

Lessons learned

During implementation of the Strategy, OECD identified several challenges, including a limited Aboriginal workforce pipeline, particularly in regional and remote areas, varying levels of cultural responsiveness across the sector, and resourcing and workforce capacity constraints.

In response, the Strategy prioritised scalable initiatives, phased implementation, and delivery through partnerships with ACCOs and Aboriginal-owned businesses to build and support the Aboriginal workforce.

What worked

Aboriginal-led co-design and engagement strengthened trust, improved participation and supported initiatives to be culturally informed and responsive to community needs. Ongoing relationship-building with Aboriginal stakeholders, ACCOs, Aboriginal-owned businesses, training providers and community representatives has been critical to maintaining momentum, strengthening stakeholder buy-in and informing practical workforce solutions.

Next steps

The foundations established over the past year position the Strategy to move from planning and design into broader implementation. Future efforts will focus on scaling Aboriginal cultural safety training, strengthening career pathways, supporting employers to implement culturally responsive practices, and measuring progress against workforce growth and retention outcomes.

Outcome 4: Aboriginal children thrive in their early years

Leading Agency: Office for Early Childhood Development

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%.	No change	Worsening

Nationally:

- in 2024, 33.9% of Aboriginal children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 Aboriginal Early Development Census (AEDC) domains. This is a decrease from 35.2% in 2018 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening. However, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

In SA:

- in 2024, 28.7% of Aboriginal children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 AEDC domains compared to 29.0% in 2018 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, there has been no change in the target.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 1 action against this socio-economic outcome to support Aboriginal children to thrive in their early ears. This action is reported as being complete, with progression towards completion achieved over 2025-2026. Progress to support Aboriginal children to thrive continues across government, with multiple initiatives occurring that are not formally committed to under the Implementation Plan 2024-2026.

Key SA actions

Ensuring Aboriginal children retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool

In 2025-2026, the OECD continued to partner with SAACCON through the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group to co-design programs and initiatives to ensure Aboriginal children retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool, as the current targeted program transitions to a universal program. This is consistent with the recommendations from the SA Royal Commission

into Early Childhood Education and Care relating to the role of ACCOs in delivering early childhood reforms.

The Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group embeds shared decision-making in early childhood reform and provides Aboriginal-led governance and oversight of initiatives. Following a co-design process with Aboriginal communities during 2025 which was led by an Aboriginal consultant (on both preschool and workforce) findings on barriers and opportunities were delivered to SAACCON and the OECD for analysis and consideration by the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group.

This co-design has resulted in the state's first dedicated Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy, launched in July 2026. The Strategy includes a number of new programs and initiatives to further support Aboriginal children to thrive and implementation is underway.

A tailored approach to commissioning ACCO hubs is also underway, in line with ACCO sector strengthening commitments, focusing on services already delivering early childhood education and care services. Integrated hubs bring preschool together with other health, wellbeing and education offerings so families and children can be supported to access the services they need in one place. Hubs deliver Preschool Plus, a preschool program of up to 30 hours per week for 3 and 4-year-olds to improve their learning and development outcomes.

The OECD is continuing to work with ACCHOs and ACCOs to prioritise self-determination for Aboriginal families and ensure the availability of culturally safe child health development screening. Pilots have tested an Aboriginal Child and Family Linker model with a focus on connecting families to additional services, enhancing continuity of care and reducing barriers to access. The Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia is leading further co-design with the findings from these pilots on a sustainable future ACCHO model that supports connections across the early childhood ecosystem.

Growing the early childhood sector

In 2025–2026, the OECD worked with ACCOs and sector stakeholders to better understand current service provision and the capacity of ACCOs to establish or expand their role in early childhood services. This included interest in establishing an ACCO integrated hub and/or partnering with the OECD to deliver 3-year-old preschool. In parallel, the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group has considered data on preschool enrolment by region (including Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas classification and 0-5 population and preschool enrolments mapped to the SA Voice to Parliament regions) and service type, combined with the priorities expressed by the community to determine the modelling of initiatives and how they can intersect with and complement the sector strengthening grant outcomes.

Sector strengthening grants have supported targeted services to build workforce capability and strengthen governance, while broader engagement has improved the OECD's understanding of how funding, workforce and infrastructure affect ACCO participation. The OECD has also progressed work to align infrastructure and funding mechanisms with Sector Strengthening Plan commitments, including refinement of Flying Start Infrastructure Grants to better support ACCO participation and planning for future infrastructure investment.

The OECD found that working directly with SAACCON and ACCOs to understand community and ACCO needs has been effective in building a clearer picture of sector capacity. Providing targeted funding alongside engagement has also helped services begin preparing for future opportunities, including partnering with the OECD to deliver preschool. Grant funding for SAACCON to support their capacity to engage in early years reform has been a key enabler for shared decision-making and strengthening relationships with other ACCO peaks and organisations. Strong governance, as exemplified by the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group, remains a key driver of positive outcomes.

In 2025-2026, the recommendations of the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) and Deloitte Access Economics *Funding Model Options for ACCO Integrated Early Years Services Final Report* were considered against SA's Flying Start funding model to consider alignment opportunities. As a result, 2 initiatives to support ACCO infrastructure have been identified for commencement from 2026-2027 under the Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy:

- In 2025-2026, a variation to the existing Flying Start Infrastructure Grants was approved to better suit ACCO applications for expanded preschool capacity from the next round of applications.
- A further infrastructure grant funding opportunity for non-preschool capacity works is currently being considered.

Broader next steps include building on this work to identify where ACCOs can play a greater role in early childhood service delivery, including through integrated hubs. The OECD will also continue to align funding and initiative planning to support ACCO participation and address identified gaps in workforce and infrastructure. To support this, the establishment of an Early Years Support Service and Advocacy in SA in partnership with SNAICC and local SA ACCO peaks commenced during the reporting period.

Supporting culturally responsive recruitment and retention in early childhood education

Complementing the national work, the OECD is committed to strengthening the ACCO early childhood sector in SA through supporting services to partner with OECD to deliver preschool and integrated hubs.

The OECD, in partnership with KSJ Consulting Service has produced a Practice Guide on Aboriginal Culturally Responsive Recruitment in Early Education for early childhood services to build a workplace where Aboriginal employees feel safe, respected and supported from the moment they consider applying for a role, through to building a long and meaningful career. The Practice Guide has been created to support and guide early childhood services as they recruit, retain, and support Aboriginal staff.

Through the Aboriginal Workforce Strategy, the OECD offers Aboriginal Workforce Grants to help early childhood services enhance their cultural knowledge, embed Aboriginal cultural safety within their service and assist Aboriginal staff in their professional development. This includes building Aboriginal Community connections, engaging local Aboriginal Community-led groups, engaging

Aboriginal organisations and funding professional development for Aboriginal staff. In 2025-2026, 8 grants were awarded with a total value of $160,000.

Supporting cultural safety in early childhood education

The OECD Aboriginal Workforce Strategy includes grants for embedding Aboriginal cultural safety and growing services' cultural knowledge. Engaging with the OECD's Aboriginal Leadership Committee and the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group has been crucial to co-design initiatives which include:

- The Preschool Boost program is funding sector-wide training in Aboriginal cultural safety and trauma-informed practice, to embed predictable and safe environments that support all children and families to thrive. This is fully funded mandatory foundational training that includes backfill contributions for key staff to undertake the training within the first year of partnering with OECD.

- The Flying Start Aboriginal Workforce Grants program supports services to apply what they currently know about their local Aboriginal community, embed Aboriginal cultural safety within their service, and assist their Aboriginal staff in their professional development.

The OECD provided capacity building grants to Aboriginal Suppliers to build their capacity to deliver Aboriginal cultural safety training to early childhood services aligned to the framework co-developed with the Aboriginal Co-design Governance Group.

Other related work undertaken in SA

Improving access to early childhood development services in Regional SA

The Aboriginal Child Health and Development Practitioner model has strengthened access, engagement and continuity of care for Aboriginal children and families across the Yorke and Northern LHN. By embedding an Aboriginal practitioner within Child Health and Development services, the model has improved cultural safety, reduced non-attendance and supported families through service navigation, advocacy, outreach, multidisciplinary participation and follow-up. It has also strengthened developmental assessment and care planning by bringing cultural knowledge and family context into clinical discussions.

Service activity has increased since implementation, including expansion across Port Pirie and limited outreach to Yorke Peninsula, with growing demand reflected in increasing numbers of children engaged and emerging waitlists. This reflects broader population need, with children requiring further developmental assessment increasing from 24.3% in 2018 to 28.5% in 2021, and diagnosed special needs increasing from 6.4% to 8.5% over the same period.

Next steps are to embed the Aboriginal Child Health and Development model as a standard part of early childhood services, increase workforce capacity, finalise the scope of practice, strengthen governance and supervision, establish clear workflows, expand Aboriginal workforce pathways and secure sustainable funding. Monitoring and evaluation will be aligned to the Australian Early Development Census and Closing the Gap Outcome 4.

Outcome 5: Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential

Leading Agency: Department for Education

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met

Nationally:

- in 2021, 68.1% of Aboriginal people aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. This is an increase from 63.2% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA:

- in 2021, 64.6% of Aboriginal people aged 20–24 years had attained Year 12 or an equivalent qualification. This is an increase from 61.4% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 2 actions to support Aboriginal students to achieve their full learning potential. Both actions continue to progress on track.

Key SA actions

Tailored supports for emerging Aboriginal educators

TAFE SA's Early Childhood Education and Care Centre of Excellence is translating early childhood education concepts into Pitjantjatjara for delivery across the APY Lands. The initial focus is on 3 course units from the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. The APY Lands Methodology and Translation initiative is one of the Centre's most involved and innovative pieces of work, demonstrating the power of culturally grounded learning for educators, children and communities.

Aboriginal Education Strategy: Supporting proud & confident learners

Department for Education

During 2025–2026, the Aboriginal Education Strategy continued to strengthen Aboriginal language learning, student pathways, workforce capability and culturally responsive teaching across SA schools. Key initiatives were delivered through partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and communities, supporting stronger alignment between education reform, Aboriginal voice and long-term outcomes for Aboriginal learners.

Progress and achievements

Many initiatives have moved beyond implementation towards a refinement or embedding stage, with some working on strengthening activities and a greater focus on identifying long-term impacts and sustainability.

Notable achievements include:

- Findings in a 2025 evaluation of the English as an Additional Language or Dialect Hub initiative which show sustained growth in educator capability aligned with Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership standards, alongside growth in Aboriginal EALD learners' Standard Australian English proficiency.
- The launch of the Kaurna language scope and sequence, the first of its kind in Australia, developed with Kaurna Warra Karrpanthi.
- Significant growth in students learning an Aboriginal language at school from 7,000 in 2024 to more than 10,000 in 2025.
- Improved phonics achievement for Anangu learners taught WARU by Anangu educators, as measured through the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Phonics Assessment.
- Joint adoption by the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Education Committee and DfE of the Anangu Bilingual Education Policy (see below snapshot).
- Emerging evidence from the Aboriginal Funding Model interim evaluation of improved flexibility and predictability for schools.
- More pathways for Aboriginal students to achieve their SACE.

Next steps

Work is continuing to develop organisational capacity and work with community to identify and address implementation risks and focus initiatives to better support long-term impact.

Embedding Aboriginal Ways of Learning

A Cultural Audit was conducted across multiple TAFE SA Childcare Centres as part of the continued commitment to fostering culturally safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environments for Aboriginal children, families, and communities. This audit supported each site to build on existing knowledge and practices, strengthening their capacity to meet this core principle.

The Childcare Centre network is increasing skills and training in the “8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning” pedagogy. This approach aligns with Aboriginal learning strategies and educational practices, emphasising teaching through Aboriginal processes and protocols not just content. Teaching through these approaches validates Aboriginal culture and enhances learning outcomes for all children.

Expanding Success and Wellbeing Services for Learners

Success and Wellbeing Services (SWS) (formerly Learner Support Services) assist students facing complex barriers to successfully complete their training and transition post school to further study or employment. SWS embeds structured mentoring and cultural diversity awareness training in funded activities. In 2025-2026 Skills SA and Tauondi further integrated the delivery and reporting on SWS supports, and literacy and numeracy supports.

In 2025-2026, Tauondi engaged with a number of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) through the Diversity Consultancy pilot. Through this pilot, Tauondi assisted RTOs to increase their ability to offer culturally safe learning environments for Aboriginal students and increased awareness of Tauondi as an SWS provider. As of 1 June 2026 Tauondi had SWS Partnership Agreements with 14 RTOs (representing 8 % of all RTOs delivering subsidised VET in SA).

The Diversity Consultancy pilot will be evaluated over July-August 2026 with a view to embedding an offering through Skills SA, with an ongoing partnership with Tauondi. An evaluation of SWS is planned for 2026-2027 and will consider specific questions about barriers and opportunities to further the reach and impact of SWS for Aboriginal students. The evaluation will also consider questions about the effectiveness of the promotional campaign and opportunities for further enhancements.

Other related work undertaken in SA

Changing the way we support Aboriginal families

In 2025–2026, the YERTA program delivered by KWY Aboriginal Corporation supported Aboriginal families through the delivery of a community-led, culturally safe Intensive Family Service that centres cultural identity, connection and community strengths. The program, which has a focus on improving school attendance and engagement, has strengthened culturally responsive engagement with families, reinforcing the importance of connection to Country, culture and kinship in supporting student attendance and wellbeing. By embedding culture as a foundation for service delivery, YERTA has contributed to improved educational engagement while supporting the preservation, respect and ongoing practice of Aboriginal cultures.

Supporting Aboriginal Secondary Students to Succeed

DIT deliver the Walpaara Anpa Program annually, providing 15 vouchers to eligible applicants for laptops to complete their secondary school journey successfully. The provision of financial and technical support to improve educational access and engagement is improving learning opportunities and employment outcomes for young Aboriginal people.

Other initiatives across education

The DfE runs a range of programs that increase its ability to support proud and confident Aboriginal learners. These include:

- The SA Aboriginal Contexts in the Curriculum initiative continues to grow the confidence of educators in selecting culturally appropriate texts across the curriculum. Aboriginal learners are increasingly able to see themselves, their identities and cultures reflected in their learning.
- Alongside this work, the *Supporting Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Southern Pitjantjatjara Language and Culture* in Anangu Schools initiative continues to grow the capability of Anangu educators to co-design learning resources and develop learning experiences on Country.
- A new delivery model for Tailored Learning in the Anangu Lands, the *Nyuntumpa Nganampa Learning Program*, has been introduced for 2026. Funding processes are now coordinated by the Nyuntumpa Nganampa Steering Committee, chaired by the Education Director, to ensure equitable and culturally responsive support across sites.
- Working in partnership with Indulkana and other APY Lands schools to explore the co-design of a culturally responsive student wellbeing survey. This work seeks to ensure approaches to measuring wellbeing reflect local contexts, priorities and understandings of wellbeing, while strengthening meaningful student voice and supporting access to wellbeing data that can be used by schools, communities and Aboriginal partners to inform local decision-making and action.
- Leading the development of an alternative wellbeing measurement approach for Aboriginal students who do not currently participate in the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection. This work seeks to address an important evidence gap through culturally responsive approaches to measuring wellbeing, while strengthening opportunities for Aboriginal stakeholders to access and use wellbeing data.

Outcome 6: Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways

Leading Agency: Department of State Development - Skills SA

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met

Nationally:

- in 2021, 47.0% of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications of Certificate III or above, an increase from 42.3% in 2016, the baseline year
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA:

- in 2021, 42.2% of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years had completed non-school qualifications of Certificate III or above, an increase from 39.8% in 2016, the baseline year
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving.

SA progress overview

Progress towards actions committed to in the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 has been varied. The Plan contains 4 actions to support Aboriginal students to reach their full potential through further education pathways. One action was completed during 2025-26, while the remaining three actions are currently delayed.

Key SA actions

South Australian Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy

The National Skills Agreement (NSA) includes Closing the Gap as a key policy initiative and sets out the objective to ensure that the design and delivery of VET to Aboriginal South Australians is in full and genuine partnership.

In support of its obligations under the NSA, Skills SA continues to work in collaboration with SAACCON to co-design the SA Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy.

Alongside this, Skills SA continues to subsidise training places, along with funding other skills initiatives including adult community education, to deliver pathways to support Aboriginal people access skills and training linked to government priority areas. Skills SA also prioritises supports for Aboriginal apprentices and trainees through its Group Training Organisation incentives.

A newly established Aboriginal Economic Participation Committee within the SA CTG architecture will be engaged to provide clear governance and shared authorising environment for the Strategy and importantly to develop supporting action plans. This is expected to be formally endorsed by the SA Partnership Committee in 2026.

Towards a broader Economic Participation Strategy

The SA Government is committed to develop a plan for preparing a broader Economic Participation Strategy for Aboriginal people and businesses to bring together work being undertaken across agencies and be a central repository of links to different services offered.

Over the past 12 months DTF has prioritised initiatives to strengthen Aboriginal organisations and increase their participation in government contracting. This has included the work under Priority Reform Two to establish the ACCO Service Transition Fund alongside the Aboriginal Procurement Strategy and broader reform efforts.

Following the implementation of these initiatives, DTF will consider broader economic participation and more integrated approaches to progressing this work, including through DSD's Closing the Gap Economic Participation Subcommittee.

Outcome 7: Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education

Leading Agency: Department of State Development – Skills SA

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Worsening	Improving but not on track to be met

Nationally:

- in 2021, 58.0% of Aboriginal people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training. This is an increase from 57.2% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA:

- in 2021, 55.5% of Aboriginal people aged 15–24 years were fully engaged in employment, education or training. This is a decrease from 57.6% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening. After several years of improvement, South Australia saw a slight decline in youth engagement between 2016 and 2021 where progress reduced by 2.1%.

SA progress overview

The Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 2 actions against this socio-economic outcome to support Aboriginal youth to be engaged in employment or education. Both items are reported as progressing on track.

Key SA actions

Growing access and engagement in education and training

TAFE SA currently delivers education and training to 2,418 Aboriginal students across the state, including 500 Aboriginal students accessing education and training via TAFE SA's Aboriginal Access Centre.

TAFE SA is working to ensure its training environments celebrate Aboriginal culture and are reflective of the communities they serve. TAFE SA has installed place-based Aboriginal artwork across the campus network.

TAFE SA delivers training across the APY Lands, guided by the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) to support Anangu develop practical skills in sectors such as health and construction which are used to benefit the community. This training can include short courses, skill sets and qualifications, which are delivered at TAFE SA learning centres at Amata, Pukatja (Ernabella), Fregon, Iwantja (Indulkana), Kalka, Pipalyatjara and Mimili by local lecturers.

Works Program and the First Nations Southern Civil Construction Program

The Renewal SA Works Program drives economic outcomes through employment, work experience and immersion opportunities embedded into the agency's contracts and partnerships. In early 2026 the First Nations Southern Civil Construction Program provided accredited and non-accredited training as well as exposure to the development and construction sectors. These initiatives are designed to help participants remain engaged in school, build confidence and career awareness, and strengthen pathways into further education and employment.

Delivered in partnership with TAFE SA, DfE and the Construction Industry Training Board, the Civil Construction Program enabled students to complete units which will be counted towards further tertiary civil construction qualifications. Fourteen students completed the program in April 2026, with six progressing to further work placements and three securing employment offers.

Renewal SA is also supporting the Paitya Program, an introduction to civil construction, delivered in partnership with Kaurna Plains School and DfE throughout August 2026. The program provides First Nations students with hands-on exposure to the civil construction industry, vocational learning, work experience and clear pathways into apprenticeships, further training and long-term employment.

Fee Free TAFE for Aboriginal learners

Fee-Free VET courses for First Nations people (FFFN) supports 500 Aboriginal students in each calendar year (2025-2027) to access fee free training places in skill shortage areas with non-government registered training providers. $4.8 million (SA and Australian Government funding) is supporting coverage of student course fees and additional student supports.

As of July 2026 on overall performance (reporting period 2024, 2025 and to date 2026) there have been 897 training accounts established supporting Aboriginal students (59.8% of South Australia's total FFFN allocation) in 52 courses offered across 20 training organisations, including South Australia's three community controlled training providers. Based on current levels of activity, Skills SA expects achievement of around 1,000 enrolments in total.

Supporting Aboriginal apprentices and trainees

Nationally, Aboriginal young people aged 15 to 24 are the age group with the lowest direct employment rate. Through the National Skills Agreement, Skills SA provides support for Aboriginal young people to commence and complete apprenticeships and traineeships. Skills Initiatives are designed to increase the retention of students in VET through dedicated success and wellbeing services that support a student's learning journey.

The latest available National Centre for Vocational Education Research Apprentice and Trainee Collection data as at 31 December 2025 indicates that there were 870 Aboriginal apprentices and trainees in-training, a 6.7% increase, compared to the same time a year earlier, with 65 in-training with a Group Training Organisation (GTO).

Other related work undertaken in SA

Dismantling barriers through driver's licence initiatives

Lacking a driver's licence is recognised as a significant barrier for many Aboriginal community members looking to secure employment. DIT has partnered with Tauondi Aboriginal College to develop and deliver the "Driving with Tauondi" Learner Driver Program for the next 3 years. Tauondi is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) based in Port Adelaide.

The program delivers a learner driver program to young Aboriginal people, delivered by Aboriginal staff in a way that is tailored to Aboriginal ways of learning and is culturally safe. In addition to increasing employment opportunities, this initiative addresses improvements in road safety measures and license retention.

A more flexible approach to screening processes

Over 2025-2026, the DHS Screening Unit has taken action to make the screening processes clearer, fairer, and more culturally responsive. Engagement with ACCOs, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Aboriginal Partnerships and the Legal Services Commission has been key to progressing actions.

The Unit has made strong progress in improving accessibility. This includes developing a policy statement that commits it to being respectful, flexible, and inclusive. It has also introduced tailored information to help people better understand Working with Children Checks, their rights, and what to expect. Alongside this, the Unit has strengthened support for applicants by enabling the use of support persons and promoting access to free legal advice, ensuring people don't have to navigate the system alone.

Processes are now more flexible and culturally appropriate. For example, applicants can now provide verbal submissions, supporting them to share their story in a way that works best for them. Early results show this leads to better engagement and outcomes.

Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

Leading Agency: Department of State Development - Skills SA

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62 per cent.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met

Nationally:

- in 2021, 55.7% of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 years were employed. This is an increase from 51.0% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target shows good improvement and is on track to be met.

In SA:

- in 2021, 50.1% of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 years were employed. This is an increase from 46.4% in 2016 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving.

SA progress overview

Progress towards actions that support economic participation and development is positive, with most actions either complete or on track. Of the 11 actions in the Implementation Plan 2024-2026, 3 are complete and 5 are progressing as planned (73%). During 2025-2026, 2 actions were newly completed and 1 action overcame delays. However, 2 actions remain delayed and 1 is no longer being progressed.

Key SA actions

Supporting the public sector to be an employer of choice

Aboriginal employees represented 2.25% of the SA public sector workforce as at June 2025 with headcount increasing from 2,584 to 2,756 over the previous year.

OCPSE leads and contributes to a range of whole-of-government initiatives to strengthen Aboriginal workforce outcomes, leadership development, cultural safety, cultural learning and anti-racism across the SA public sector. Key initiatives include:

- Aboriginal Leadership Program: OCPSE, through the South Australian Leadership Academy manages the 3-month Aboriginal Leadership Program for Aboriginal public sector employees. The program is undergoing a strategic review to deliver a refreshed, co-designed offering in late 2026.

- Cultural safety: OCPSE is undertaking a desktop review of the WHS Cultural Safety Procedure and agency-specific cultural safety procedures.

- Aboriginal Workforce Community of Practice: OCPSE continues to lead the bi-monthly Community of Practice, providing advice, support and information sharing for Aboriginal workforce leads across the sector, including on inclusive recruitment statements, cultural learning programs and cultural safety policies.

- Whole-of-government cultural learning: OCPSE is progressing a cultural learning framework to be developed and delivered in partnership with SAACCON.

- Anti-Racism Strategy: OCPSE is overseeing implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy through the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee chaired by the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, including evaluation of the Anti-Racism Training Pilot and pre-design of the Race Equity Appraisal Tool. OCPSE also delivered the 2025 Aboriginal Staff Forum.

Supporting opportunities in the Arts

On 31 March 2025, the Premier and Minister for the Arts launched the new 10-year state cultural policy, A Place to Create - a whole-of-government framework encompassing commitments from multiple agencies. The policy directs over $2.3 million specifically towards Aboriginal arts and culture in SA.

CreateSA also support the following initiatives to grow opportunities for Aboriginal artists and creative professionals:

- Tandanya – National Aboriginal Cultural Institute: Continued organisational and program funding supports Australia's oldest Aboriginal community-controlled arts organisation, operating for over 30 years.

- Aboriginal Theatre Fellowship (Brink Theatre): A tailored fellowship program (currently in progress) for 2 emerging Aboriginal creatives, creating alternative pathways to develop careers in theatre.

- Aboriginal Dance Program (The Mill): Establishment of an Aboriginal-led initiative providing accessible and sustainable development pathways for dancers.

- Aboriginal Critical Writing Mentoring Program (InReview): Supports and grows the pool of Aboriginal arts critics, ensuring Aboriginal perspectives are represented in public arts discourse.

- Carclew Aboriginal Emerging Creatives Program: Partnership between CreateSA, Creative Australia and Carclew providing mentorship for 5 emerging creatives, including an on-Country residency component.

- Iwiri Arts – Anangu Art Studio: Targeted support for multidisciplinary programs that create opportunities for Anangu artists to exhibit work, collaborate, and further develop their artistic practice.

- Ananguku Arts (Ku Arts) – SICAD Program: Organisational funding and the delivery of SICAD (Statewide Indigenous Community Art Development), a long-running arts, health and wellbeing initiative established in 2005, supporting Aboriginal artists in regional and remote SA, particularly outside the APY Lands.

Other related work undertaken in SA

Economic participation in energy and mining

South Australia's energy and mining sectors are experiencing transformational growth. This growth represents a generational opportunity for First Nations peoples for long-term wealth generation through equity and ownership. These opportunities are both economic and cultural: a chance to strengthen community capability, build prosperity grounded in Country, and support intergenerational wellbeing.

DEM is developing a two-part First Nations Economic Participation Strategy to provide real opportunities for First Nations peoples, businesses, and communities, in employment, professional development, procurement, and other areas of economic participation in the South Australian energy and mining sectors. Part one of the Strategy, focuses on internal procurement, while part two focuses on how DEM can help influence First Nations economic participation within the energy and mining industries. Employment through major civil construction projects

DIT uses government building and civil construction projects as opportunities to promote Aboriginal employment, training and procurement outcomes. This is supported through Aboriginal workforce and supply chain targets, improved reporting to the Office of the Industry Advocate, engagement with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, and a focus on embedding cultural expression in project design and delivery.

This approach is integrated across a range of projects. For example, on the River Torrens to Darlington Project, KYAC is engaged through urban design and pipeline meetings to identify project, training and procurement opportunities. The Adelaide Aquatic Centre and Mount Barker Hospital projects exceeded Aboriginal supply chain commitments, with Mount Barker also incorporating cultural advice and Aboriginal artwork. At Warriappendi Secondary School, student engagement in project delivery has supported work experience and potential apprenticeship pathways for young people.

Improving recruitment practice at SAPOL

Through a range of initiatives, Aboriginal applicants for police and police auxiliary roles increased to 99 for FY26 (as at 30 June 2026) compared to 64 in FY24, and 63 in FY25. This represents a 57% year-on-year increase from FY25 to FY26. Historically, Aboriginal applicants comprise approximately 2% of the total police and auxiliary police applicant pool on a monthly average. Towards the end of 2025-2026, this proportion increased, with 4% recorded in June 2026.

Actions that have driven improvements include the development of targeted recruitment materials, a dedicated recruitment webpage, targeted career expos and information sessions, new diversity statements and recruitment entry pathways, APY/Yalata Police Liaison Officer and Community Constable training frameworks, a culturally designed Community Constable Development Program, and a new Community Police Progression Framework to support capability, recognition and retention.

Other agency-level approaches to increasing employment pathways

As the Aboriginal Enterprise Procurement Strategy progresses, most SA Government agencies are working to ensure a deliberate and targeted focus on building Aboriginal business economic participation through direct procurement. Below is a snapshot of newly reported activities in 2025-2026:

- Renewal SA is progressing the development of a First Nations Procurement Strategy ensuring improved procurement processes and increased engagement with Aboriginal businesses, alongside staff education to strengthen First Nations supplier participation
- SAPOL is targeting action to increase procurement opportunities and strengthen engagement. Alongside mandatory training, system improvements, including updates to the Acquisition Plan template are ensuring Aboriginal suppliers are consistently identified. SAPOL is also progressing an Aboriginal procurement strategy and updates to General Orders to strengthen consistency in practice.
- The SA Housing Trust's Board has launched a new Aboriginal Procurement Policy. This marks an important step in expanding economic opportunities for Aboriginal-owned businesses. The policy sets a target for at least 2.5% of annual procurement spend to be directed to SA Aboriginal-owned businesses.
- The EPA's procurement strategy includes targeted practices designed to remove barriers and increase opportunities for Aboriginal-owned businesses.
- PIRSA established an Aboriginal Unit in 2025, engaging a General Manager and Aboriginal Engagement Officer. This recruitment has supported the commencement of two new projects - an Aboriginal Business Strategy being designed with SAACCON and an Aboriginal Procurement Strategy.
- DIT Procurement Policy 'DP161' requires staff to consider how they can embed "Outcomes for Aboriginal People" in all procurements valued above $1.5 million (GST inclusive). The Policy encourages staff to take a broad approach to how the procurement could "deliver positive, inclusive outcomes for Aboriginal people."

Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need

Leading Agency Target 9A and Target 9B: SA Housing Trust

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target 9A: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improving	Improving but not on track to be met
Target 9B: By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households: I. within discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard II. in or near to a town receive essential services that meet or exceed the same standard as applies generally within the town (including if the household might be classified for other purposes as a part of a discrete settlement such as a 'town camp' or 'town based reserve'.	No assessment	No assessment

Nationally:

- in 2021, 81.4% of Aboriginal people were living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. This is an increase from 78.9% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, target 9A shows improvement but is not on track to be met.

In SA:

- in 2021, 82.8% of Aboriginal people were living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing. This is an increase from 82.5% in 2016 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, target 9A is improving.

Target 9B is not able to be reported against as there is no data source currently available which includes all required data elements.

SA progress overview

Progress towards target 9A is positive, with most actions either complete or progressing on track. Of the 9 actions in the SA Implementation Plan 2025-2026 to support Aboriginal people to secure appropriate, affordable housing, 3 are complete and 5 are progressing on track (89%). During 2025-2026, 2 additional actions were completed, demonstrating continued progress. One action is currently delayed.

Key SA actions

Improving energy efficiency for homes in the APY Lands

To address the impact of extreme temperatures and associated severe thermal stresses, the APY Lands Energy Efficiency Retrofit Pilot was developed to investigate and provide solutions to challenges for energy performance and thermal comfort faced by Anangu people living in remote housing.

As part of the Reliable, Affordable Clean Energy for 2030 (RACE for 2030) Cooperative Research Centre, a small group of homes in the APY Lands took part in the pilot to trial different solutions to improve building performance, household health and comfort and reduce electricity demand, thereby reducing cost to households and government as well as reducing carbon emissions.

The pilot is working to provide a model for energy efficiency upgrades in remote housing that can be replicated across the remaining APY Lands housing stock, as well as all dry arid regions across Australia. Modelling predicts that households receiving even the lowest level of retrofit can save approximately $400 per year in electricity costs, with cost for government to supply electricity to households reduced by at least $2600 per household per year. A reduction of 10 tonnes of C02 per household per year is also predicted. Positive feedback has been received from the households, stating their homes warm up/cool down more quickly and stay warmer/cooler for longer.

The pilot was a collaboration between DEM and the SA Housing Trust, with UniSA (now Adelaide University) as the lead researcher, as well as industry and community partners involved in the design and delivery of the retrofit solutions. As a result of this research, the SA Housing Trust is in the process of rolling out the retrofits on the remaining APY Lands community homes, as well as Aboriginal housing managed by the Trust throughout South Australia, funded by the Housing Australia Future Fund.

Improving water infrastructure across communities

In partnership with the National Water Grid Fund, the SA Government is improving water security and infrastructure for Aboriginal and remote communities through a range of targeted projects. DEW is progressing water supply upgrades for the self-supplied remote communities of Iga Warta, Leigh Creek Station, Kakalpurannha and Yappala, informed by the *Stocktake and Water Security Assessment for Self-Supplied Remote Communities*.

SA Water has completed the Gerard Water Security Project, re-establishing and upgrading a water treatment plant for approximately 45 Aboriginal residents and ending the need for water carting. Construction is also well advanced on the Indulkana (Iwantja) Water Security Project, which is upgrading water supply for around 280 people in response to housing growth and pressure on the existing bore field, while planning has commenced for the APY Lands water supply revitalisation project to improve water security across eight Anangu communities.

Alongside infrastructure delivery, DEW is supporting advocacy for Aboriginal communities on water affordability through the Consumer Advocacy and Research Fund under the *Water Industry Act 2012*.

In 2025–2026, funding supported the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) to advocate on water affordability and inequities affecting some communities. Collaborative work with communities and local service providers has been effective in identifying practical issues, shaping community-driven water security recommendations and ensuring the right people are engaged.

Next steps include finalising current projects, progressing amendments to the *Water Industry Act 2012* to exempt eligible small water retailers from requiring an Essential Services Commission of South Australia retail licence, and publishing final reports and resources so future advocacy and projects can build on this work.

Subsidising electricity in Remote areas

About 3,400 customers across 13 remote townships and 15 remote Aboriginal Communities and homelands are provided government-subsidised electricity through the Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) scheme. Funding is also provided through the scheme to various ACCOs to provide services that assist with the carrying out of the program functions. This includes the requirement for the RAES major service contract holder (Cowell Electric Supply) to sub-contract Power Station Operator services from Oak Valley (Maralinga) Aboriginal Corporation and Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation within their respective Communities.

Supporting return to Country

DHS coordinates a Return to Country program throughout SA that enables Aboriginal people whose primary place of residence is a remote or regional community, to return home if they choose to do so. It helps address immediate safety and wellbeing needs by supporting people to leave situations of vulnerability, rough sleeping or overcrowding and return to family, community and cultural supports.

DHS works with SAPOL, DfE, the Trust, DCP, and service providers to ensure Return to Country is part of a coordinated and joined-up service approach – this can help agencies manage issues such as tenancy overcrowding, school enrolment and bail conditions.

Between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, the Return to Country program supported 1,309 journeys across SA, including 395 minors, to enable Aboriginal people to return to their home communities.

This included:

- 762 journeys (including 259 minors) from Adelaide
- 100 journeys (including 8 minors) from Coober Pedy
- 387 journeys (including 99 minors) from Port Augusta
- 40 journeys (including 22 minors) from Whyalla

Other related work undertaken in SA

Safer spaces for rough sleepers

The SA Government Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce established a temporary site at Edwards Park called a ‘Safer Place to Gather’ where remote visitors who are rough sleeping and often impacted by alcohol misuse and chronic health conditions can seek shelter and access support services in a safe setting.

The temporary Safer Place to Gather at Edwards Park ran until the end of June 2026, however DHS and partner agencies will continue to provide coordinated, culturally appropriate assistance to remote Aboriginal visitors through an enhanced outreach and service model, including the Remote Visitor Outreach Team, Return to Country program, and after-hours Remote Visitor Night Patrol services.

The enhanced model will deliver more consistent, wrap-around support through improved coordination between DHS, and partner agencies, enabling earlier intervention and more sustained pathways into supports including the Return to Country service. Increased service presence across the full week will support continuity of care and provide more flexible, mobile support tailored to the needs and movement patterns of highly vulnerable remote Aboriginal visitors.

Purrkanaitya Aboriginal Elders Village

Construction continues at the Purrkanaitya Aboriginal Elders Village in Adelaide’s southern suburbs and is on track for completion later this year. The development will deliver 40 single-bedroom units designed to bring Elders together, supporting community connection and cultural continuity. Partners across the project include Aboriginal Community Housing Limited, Housing Australia, the SA Housing Trust, the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation, and the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation.

The Aboriginal Community Housing Limited were funded by DHS to lead the 'I am well (marni ai) at the Elders Village (Purrkanaitya)' project. The project aims to measure the wellbeing of Aboriginal tenants before they transition into a purpose-built elder’s village at Warriparinga (Bedford Park). The initiative is designed to highlight the critical role of wellbeing assessments in closing the gap between Aboriginal people and the broader Australian population. By integrating Aboriginal perspectives into the design and implementation of service-based activities, this project aims to

foster better health and wellbeing outcomes and demonstrate value for money in community development efforts.

Supporting Communities

The DHUD Municipal Services (MUNS) Program partnered with the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) in 2025 to clean up hard waste in the Nipapanha and Davenport communities and for Aboriginal people living in Copley, as part of a trachoma reduction strategy implemented with a working group involving community residents.

New housing for Aboriginal tenants

In the year 2025-2026, the Trust have built ten new housing outcomes for Aboriginal tenants. Seven of these are in the Adelaide Metropolitan area and 3 are in the APY Lands community of Pukatja (Ernabella).

The 3 new houses in the APY Lands all have 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms and are replacing 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom dwellings, to ensure that houses respond to community need.

Outcome 10: Aboriginal adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

Leading Agency: Department for Correctional Services

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15%.	Worsening	Worsening

Nationally:

- at 30 June 2025, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal prisoners was 2,500.2 per 100,000 adult population.
- the 2025 rate is an increase from the previous year (2,318.4 per 100,000 adult population in 2024) and an increase from 1,925.4 per 100,000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

In SA:

- at 30 June 2025, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal prisoners was 2,526.1 per 100,000 adult population.
- the 2025 rate is an increase from the previous year (2,462.9 per 100,000 adult population in 2024) and an increase from 2,123.0 per 100,000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year).
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

SA progress overview

All of committed actions that seek to address adult incarceration are now complete, signalling a need for a renewed focus to address the worsening target. All 4 completed actions were finalised during 2025-2026.

The South Australian Justice Partnership Committee was established to support work to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the justice system. The Committee's workplan, which is in the process of being finalised, includes actions focused on combatting racism in the justice system, overseeing development and implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, advocating for therapeutic alternatives to custody, and providing advice on legislative reforms affecting Aboriginal people and communities.

The drivers of crime and incarceration are complex, and working towards Target 10 requires a cross-portfolio focus.

Key SA actions

Development of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement

AGD is leading the development of SA's first Aboriginal Justice Agreement in partnership with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations. Building on more than 40 sessions held throughout 2025 and early 2026, AGD is finalising engagements across metropolitan and regional SA as drafting progresses. An extended timeframe has been adopted to ensure the development process is responsive to partner advice and supports genuine and meaningful engagement.

Justice Reinvestment in Port Adelaide

DHS has funded the Australian Red Cross since 2018 to provide backbone support to Port Adelaide Aboriginal Leadership Group - Tiraapendi Wodli, for the coordination and implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Port Adelaide Initiative.

During the first two quarters of 2025-2026, the Tiraapendi Wodli Hub worked with approximately 190 individuals per month. Around 45 of these individuals receive more comprehensive and coordinated support for complex needs. In addition, many receive financial support services to reduce financial instability and stress.

Tiraapendi Wodli published its inaugural study as part of a broader series (or monograph) in July 2025, which highlights the continued need for prevention-focused, culturally safe alternatives to the justice system. The Paul Ramsey foundation is undertaking a 3-year evaluation of the justice reinvestment initiative, which is due to be completed in 2026.

Supports for offenders to reduce recidivism

Department for Correctional Services

The SA Government is committed to reducing the proportion of Aboriginal adults in custody by at least 15 per cent by 2031. At the commencement of the target, Aboriginal adults represented 24.1 per cent of the South Australian adult prison population. Achieving the target would reduce this proportion to 20.5 per cent by 2031.

DCS has experienced significant growth in overall prison numbers over the past 12 months, with further growth projected. Achieving Target 10 will therefore require sustained efforts to both reduce Aboriginal incarceration and counter broader growth in custodial populations.

To support this outcome, DCS delivers a range of culturally responsive programs and initiatives designed to address factors contributing to incarceration, strengthen cultural

connection and wellbeing, and support rehabilitation and successful reintegration. These include:

- The Aboriginal Cultural Unit, located within Mirnu at Yatala Labour Prison, continues to address the over-representation of Aboriginal men on remand through culturally responsive interventions that support rehabilitation and reduce offending. Delivered in a culturally safe environment, programs within Mirnu assist Aboriginal men strengthen their understanding of cultural values, identity and community connections, supporting successful reintegration and positive outcomes.

- To address the over-representation of Aboriginal people on remand, DCS has also developed Yalakiana Tapa, a suite of three culturally responsive, community-based programs delivered by Aboriginal organisations:

    1) Marni Tapa is delivered by, and was co-designed with, InComPro Aboriginal Corporation to support Aboriginal men and women to understand and comply with their bail conditions, identify and address their support and rehabilitation needs, and reconnect with family, community and culture. Since its launch in November 2023, the program has seen over 1,268 referrals as at 30 April 2026. Of these, 922 Aboriginal men and women were assessed as eligible to participate in the program.

    2) Wardli-ana Tapa (road to home) is an Aboriginal Cultural Healing Program that includes supported accommodation and assists Aboriginal men and women to understand and comply with their bail conditions , engage in cultural activities that support rehabilitation, reconnect with family and community, and transition to longer-term housing. The program was launched in January 2025 and is delivered in partnership with InComPro Aboriginal Corporation. As at 30 April 2026, 91 participants had successfully transitioned through Wardli-ana Tapa. Participant data for both the Marni Tapa and Wardli-ana Tapa programs is shared between DCS and InComPro.

    3) Program 3 is currently being developed and will establish a Regional Bail Support Program in northern SA. The program will provide culturally responsive, wrap-around support to Aboriginal people on bail, helping participants to understand and meet their bail requirements while remaining connected to Country, kin and community. Through a strengths-based approach, the program will support participants to address underlying needs, engage with local services, and reduce barriers to successful community-based outcomes.

- DCS supports the ongoing delivery of Lemongrass Place by the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council (ADAC). This program supports Aboriginal men from remote communities to develop the skills, stability and capacity required to successfully reintegrate into community following their release from custody. Lemongrass Place also encourages participants to engage in education, training and employment opportunities to support long-term reintegration and wellbeing. ADAC has been contracted to continue delivering the program for a further three years. Over the 12 months to 30 April 2026, 32 Aboriginal men successfully completed the program and returned to their communities.

- DCS continues to deliver the Road to Redemption program in partnership with Workskil Australia and Carey Training. The program provides ongoing support to Aboriginal men and women transitioning from custody, assisting participants to develop the skills and capabilities required to secure sustainable employment in the construction and civil construction industries. The program currently engages 22 employers and has achieved strong outcomes, with 98 participants graduating since its commencement, including 18 graduates in the 12 months to 30 April 2026.

- DCS has strengthened cultural capability across its workforce through the establishment of the Aboriginal Cadetship Program. The initiative has successfully attracted six Aboriginal cadets undertaking tertiary studies in human services-related disciplines, including psychology, criminology and social work, with several cadets completing double degrees. The cadetships provide opportunities for Aboriginal students to gain practical experience within Community Correctional Services while creating employment and career pathways within the department. The program also supports DCS to enhance its understanding of the cultural needs, experiences and strengths of Aboriginal people in contact with the justice system, contributing to more culturally responsive service delivery.

- DCS employ an Aboriginal Justice Liaison Officer (AJLO) in addition to the two Justice Liaison Officers. The AJLO plays a critical role in identifying Aboriginal people in custody or on remand who may be eligible for alternatives to custody and facilitating referrals to appropriate support programs. This includes referral pathways to culturally responsive initiative such as Marni Tapa and Wardli-ana Tapa, which support participants to meet bail requirements, address underlying support needs, and remain connected to family, community and culture. Through early identification and engagement, the AJLO contributes to improving access to community-based supports and reducing reliance on custody for eligible Aboriginal people.

- DCS is currently developing the Ngura Monitoring Pilot Program, which will enable the use of electronic monitoring in communities across the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands from mid to late 2026. The pilot will support Aboriginal men and women released on home detention conditions to return to and remain in their communities while complying with their court-ordered requirements. DCS is undertaking ongoing consultation and engagement with SAPOL, APY Lands community representatives and other key stakeholders to support the effective implementation of the program. The pilot is intended to increase access to community-based alternatives to custody, strengthen connections to Country, family and culture, and support positive rehabilitation outcomes.

Addressing systemic barriers through Spinifex Court

The Spinifex Court in Port Augusta recommenced in early 2026 and provides Aboriginal men in custody at Port Augusta Prison with the opportunity to attend court in person alongside their legal representatives and support persons. The court operates fortnightly and aims to improve access to justice through a more culturally responsive and coordinated approach.

Prisoners released through Spinifex Court are supported by key services, including the Australian Red Cross and Centrelink, with transport assistance arranged for individuals returning to their communities and Country. Future expansion of the initiative will include Aboriginal women from Port Augusta Prison.

SAPOL's Prosecution Services Branch participates in the Spinifex Working Group and Spinifex Court initiative, working collaboratively with DCS, custodial services, legal representatives and other key stakeholders. This partnership supports improved coordination, information sharing and integrated case management for Aboriginal defendants.

The initiative seeks to address systemic barriers that can contribute to unnecessarily prolonged periods in custody, including limited access to interpreters, legal services and other support mechanisms. It also facilitates timely engagement with culturally appropriate services and strengthens pathways to community-based supports on release, including assistance to return to family, community and Country. Through this approach, Spinifex Court supports improved access to justice and more equitable outcomes for Aboriginal people in contact with the justice system.

Other related work undertaken in SA

A more accessible fine enforcement response

The Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit (FERU) is undertaking targeted work to improve how fine and debt management services respond to the needs of Aboriginal people. Engagement with the State Voice members and the Secretariat team has strengthened understanding of the impacts of fines and licence suspensions on employment, mobility and access to services in regional and remote areas, informing a stronger focus on cultural safety, access and system accountability.

Work is underway across government to improve coordination, simplify pathways and strengthen connections between existing programs, with an emphasis on trusted access points and community-informed communication. A key focus is leveraging established delivery platforms, including DIT's 'On the Right Track' program, while strengthening early intervention by improving links between court processes, regional services and available supports. Planning is underway to pilot place-based engagement in Ceduna.

Advice and advocacy to support interactions with the justice system

In 2025-2026, AGD committed $600,000 per annum over four years (from 2025-2026) to ALRM to continue the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Service (AJAS), and to continue the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme (AVS) and expand it into previously unserviced regional areas. The AJAS provides advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal people in relation to their interactions with the justice system, and the AVS provides culturally-appropriate supports to Aboriginal people detained in custody.

Outcome 11: Aboriginal young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

Leading Agency: Department of Human Services

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	No change

Nationally:

- in 2024-2025, the rate of Aboriginal young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 25.7 per 10,000 young people in the population
- The rate in 2024-25 is above that reported in 2020-21 where it was 20.5 per 10,000 young people, however, it is a decrease from 2018-19 (the baseline year) where it was 28.3 per 10,000 young people.

Nationally, the trend for the target shows no change from the baseline. In SA:

- in 2024-2025, the rate of Aboriginal young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 21.4 per 10,000 young people in the population
- the 2024-2025 rate is an increase from the previous year (17.3 per 10,000 young people in 2023-2024) and a decrease from 26.5 per 10,000 young people in 2018-2019 (the baseline year)

Based on progress from the baseline, the target is improving.

SA progress overview

All actions committed to support Aboriginal young people to not be overrepresented in the criminal justice system are now complete, Of the three actions in the SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026, 1 action was completed in 2025-2026, and 1 action overcame previous delays.

Progress towards Target 11 is supported by the SA Justice Partnership Committee and the Youth Justice Working Group, which focuses on strengthening diversionary programs, improving throughcare for children and young people, and advocating for improved access to translators and communication partners within the justice system.

Key SA actions

Port Augusta and Davenport Community Alliance Group

The Port Augusta and Davenport Community Alliance (the Alliance) is a formal, community-led place-based partnership established in October 2024. Bringing together Aboriginal community representatives, ACCOs, service providers, government agencies and local stakeholders, the Alliance uses a consensus-based model to jointly identify priorities, co-design initiatives and make decisions on funding and implementation. This collaborative governance model has strengthened coordination across agencies, embedded Aboriginal perspectives in decision-making, and supported a collective approach to service delivery.

The Alliance provided oversight for the co-designed *Port Augusta Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan* and has made strong progress in its implementation over 2025-2026. Actions relevant to Outcome 11 include:

- The Education and Wellbeing Hub opened in Term 1, 2026 to support young people who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education.
- Mangrove Court was officially launched in February 2026, with its first hearings held in April 2026, providing a culturally informed therapeutic response for Aboriginal young people in contact with the justice system.
- Summer Fest was delivered from January to March 2026, creating opportunities for culture, connection and activities for young people over the summer period.
- Operation Flinders also progressed into delivery, with the first exercise completed in May 2026.
- The Alliance have engaged Clear Horizon to develop the understanding, measurement, evaluation and learning (UMEL) plan for the Alliance as well as initiatives funded by the Alliance.

The "*This Place is Us – Our Voices, Our Story, Our Way*" mural in Port Augusta was developed through partnership between the Alliance and SAPOL. Co-designed by a local Aboriginal artist with Elders and young people, the 60-metre-long project promotes Aboriginal cultural identity and shared community connections. The initiative strengthens engagement, supports cultural expression, and reflects a collaborative, place-based approach to relationships and service delivery.



Figure 1 "This Place is Us" mural in Port Augusta

Night buses

Responding to concerns about escalating antisocial behaviour among Aboriginal youth cohorts in Port Lincoln and Whyalla, DHS continues to fund Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY) Aboriginal Corporation for Aboriginal Youth Worker positions (now 1.7 FTE), West Coast Youth and Community Support (WCYCS) for a night bus service in Port Lincoln; Whyalla Aboriginal Youth Centre (previously known as Plaza Youth Centre) for a night bus service in Whyalla. KWY is working with Aboriginal children and young people and their families, to provide supports in place and in collaboration with DHS where required. WCYCS and Plaza Youth continue to provide safe transportation services for Aboriginal young people in place.

Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment (RAW) Program

The Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment (RAW) Program is a culturally safe training and employment initiative for Aboriginal young people in contact with the justice system.

Delivered through a partnership between the RAW Group (a 100% Aboriginal owned and managed Australian company) and DHS. Participants are supported to develop skills, build confidence, and create pathways towards positive future employment outcomes. A pilot of the program ran over a 24-month period, across four intakes.

In 2025-2026, to April 2026, seven participants were enrolled in Group 3 of the Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment (RAW) Program with four completions. These four individuals remain active within the RAW Personnel Division for labour hire work, with ongoing discussions regarding potential apprenticeship and traineeship pathways for the youth. Intake for Group 4 occurred in May 2026, with final participant numbers and key outcomes to be reported back to DHS at the conclusion of the pilot program.

Other related work undertaken in SA

Tailoring road safety support in remote communities

SAPOL's Road Safety Section delivers annual outreach to APY Lands and Yalata, co-designing and delivering road safety education with communities. A range of hard copy road safety resources and digital downloads, including promotional materials, and posters have been made available through SAPOL's website, with selected resources translated into Pitjantjatjara to improve accessibility and cultural appropriateness.

The program includes a diversion pathway for Aboriginal young people, supporting early intervention and reducing justice system contact. This initiative demonstrates culturally safe service delivery, partnership with communities, and improved engagement while also supporting better access to education and employment opportunities.



Figure 2: Road safety education campaign in the APY Lands

Outcome 12: Aboriginal children are not overrepresented in the child protection system

Joint Lead Agencies:

- Department for Child Protection
- Department of Human Services

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%.	Worsening	Worsening

Nationally, Aboriginal children remain overrepresented in the child protection system:

- in 2025, 52.2 per 1,000 Aboriginal children aged 0–17 years were placed in out of home care
- the 2025 rate is an increase from 50.3 per 1,000 children in 2024, and an increase from 47.3 per 1,000 children in 2019 (the baseline year)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

In SA, Aboriginal children remain overrepresented in the child protection system:

- in 2025, 84.7 per 1,000 Aboriginal children aged 0–17 years were placed in out-of-home care
- this has worsened significantly since the baseline year (2019) (66.3 per 1,000 children).

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan contains 3 actions against this socio-economic outcome to support Aboriginal children to not be overrepresented in the child protection system. Of the actions reported through this process 2 are complete and 1 is in progress and on track. However, focussed effort is required to address worsening overrepresentation. Reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care remains an urgent priority for the South Australian Government. Targeted investment in family support service, kinship care reform and Aboriginal-led child and family centres is critical to progress.

Key SA actions

Child Protection Subcommittee jurisdictional plan

The Child Protection Subcommittee (under the SA Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap) was established in March 2025 and is co-chaired by DCP and Wakwakurna Kanyini as a member of SAACCON. It is structured on shared decision-making principles and works towards ensuring equal representation from SA government and Aboriginal organisations including SAACCON members.

A key task of the Child Protection Subcommittee is to support the design of SA's jurisdictional plan, a commitment under the Safe and Supported First Action Plan. The SA jurisdictional plan will be a 5-year plan to support delivery of all actions under the First Action Plan. SA's Jurisdictional Plan will identify short-term actionable goals and clear, measurable targets to capture progress against outcome 12.

The Child Protection Subcommittee has agreed that the SA jurisdictional plan will sequence and prioritise commitments for achieving Target 12, capture deliverables and timeframes, and identify achievable and collaborative priorities.

Moving forward, the Child Protection Subcommittee will set up a small working group to progress the jurisdictional plan with Wakwakurna Kanyini providing leadership over the work. The Child Protection Subcommittee continues to work closely with SAACCON to progress commitments relating to data sovereignty, while DCP has been progressively developing localised data-sharing agreements.

Child protection legislation implementation

DCP is working with DHS and other government agencies to develop policies and practice approaches to support a smooth transition when the new *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025* (SA) comes into effect in 2027.

The new legislation was passed by Parliament in June 2025 and enshrines the full Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and embeds a commitment to implement it to the standard of active efforts. The Act also places greater emphasis on Aboriginal-led decision-making and self-determination. Complementing this work, DCP also completed reviews of the Principle Practice Paper and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Impact Statement Procedure.

The *Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Act 2025* also made several changes to the Contact Arrangements Review Panel (CARP) designed to increase cultural leadership and the independence of panels. The new Act requires that panels considering the contact arrangements of Aboriginal children and young people are comprised of a majority of Aboriginal people and presided over by an independent, Aboriginal Chair. Additionally, consultation by the panel must take place with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child or young person's delegate decision-maker or with an Aboriginal organisation to inform their decision-making.

A project is underway to scope the operational changes required for CARP in line with the new Act Engagement has commenced with key Aboriginal organisations, including Wakwakurna Kanyini, SAACCON and Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement to understand community views and develop a collaborative approach to the project, including designing how independent Aboriginal advice will be incorporated into CARP reviews of Aboriginal children.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support final design report was published in 2024 and contains nine recommendations. Once established, SA will work alongside other governments and Aboriginal partners and with the Centre for Excellence to develop a targeted research agenda and commission research into best practice in culturally safe child protection and family support work.

Data sharing to support better decision-making

In addition to work with DTF and SAACCON to deliver the community data project under Priority Reform Four, at the national level data sharing activities are being led by the Australian Government and SNAICC to progress data activities under Action 3 of the Safe and Supported First Action Plan.

DCP is also supporting the data, monitoring and evaluation group which has been established to drive data-related activities across Safe and Supported and ensure Aboriginal cultural leadership provides guidance to ensure monitoring and evaluation processes and products are culturally sound, delivered in a manner which centres Aboriginal-led approaches, and meet the needs and expectations of Aboriginal peoples and communities.

Aboriginal Cultural Governance Framework

Since November 2025, DHS through Child and Family Support (CFS) has undertaken the development of an Aboriginal Cultural Governance Framework (ACGF). The ACGF establishes a foundation for systemic transformation within CFS by embedding cultural governance and strengthening accountability mechanisms across the organisation and the broader Child and Family Support System.

The ACGF has been co-designed in partnership with community-controlled organisations, non-government and government stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience. As part of this process, an external Aboriginal consultant facilitated a series of workshops, bringing together diverse perspectives to define cultural governance and identify what must be embedded across the system to achieve meaningful and sustained change.

Building a sustainable workforce

Department for Child Protection

The 2025–2026 period marked a significant acceleration in implementation of the DCP's Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan 2024–26. Aboriginal workforce progress has been incorporated into an internal Workforce Dashboard, increasing visibility of outcomes and supporting more informed decision-making at senior levels.

Critical enabling work progressed across several priority areas. DCP strengthened engagement with community and stakeholders to support Aboriginal employment pathways and progressed implementation planning for its anti-racism agenda through enhanced governance and foundational resources. These efforts, alongside a continued focus on attraction and retention, have contributed to reduced Aboriginal employee turnover and increased Aboriginal representation across frontline, specialist and leadership roles.

To support continues workforce growth and sustainability, an Aboriginal Traineeship Program is currently under development to create sustainable entry pathways, alongside an Aboriginal onboarding approach designed to strengthen cultural safety and connection. At a sector level, DCP has continued to contribute to national workforce reform, including work underway to develop a school-based program that engages Aboriginal students, raises awareness of career pathways, and strengthens DCP's presence within the community.

In 2026 – 2027, DCP will focus on consolidating and scaling implementation of the Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan, while also preparing for the next iteration of the Plan.

Increasing access to child and family supports through self-referral

DHS continues to progress the development of a self-referral pathway for Aboriginal families into the Child and Family Support System as recommended by the *Holding on to our Future* report prepared by the former Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. DHS is establishing a working group, including community representation, to oversee the planned community consultation.

During 2025-2026, project planning occurred and engagement with key stakeholders identified the western Adelaide metropolitan region as the preferred pilot site for the project. Engagement with the peak body Wakwakurna Kanyini and community consultation will occur in 2026-2027, ahead of implementation of a pilot service model.

Enlivening family-led decision-making

Family Group Conferencing (FGC) is utilised in SA in the statutory child protection context, with a particular focus on Aboriginal families and community members to identify strategies to keep children and young people safe, and where possible, with family. The FGC Program is an ongoing

initiative and is currently delivered by two external providers including an ACCO.

Since the FGC program commenced in 2020, activity has continued to increase, providing greater opportunities for family-led decision-making and improving outcomes for children and young people. FGCs for Aboriginal children and young people continue to make up nearly 50% of total FGCs.

Outcome 13: Aboriginal families and households are safe

Leading Agency: Department of Human Services

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	No assessment	No assessment

In 2018-19, the baseline year:

- 8.4% of Aboriginal females aged 15 years and over, nationally, experienced domestic physical or face-to-face threatened physical harm.

There is no new data since the baseline year of 2018-19.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 5 actions to support Aboriginal families and households to be safe. 3 actions are complete, 2 of which were completed during 2025-26, while the remaining 2 actions are currently delayed.

In partnership with SAACCON, in 2025 the Office for Women (OFW) (currently known as the Office for Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence) established the Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee to provide strategic advice and oversee work to progress towards achieving Closing the Gap Target 13. The Committee is comprised of equal ACCO and SA Government representation from the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence sector, with SAACCON and OFW sharing the co-Chair and secretariat duties.

Key SA actions

Aboriginal Partnership Committee

The Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (The Royal Commission) commenced on 1 July 2024, and released a final report in August 2025.

Of note, an Aboriginal Partnership Committee was established to guide the work of the Royal Commission, in recognition of the disproportionate rates of domestic, family and sexual violence experienced by Aboriginal women and children and the need to hear directly from Aboriginal people and communities about what needs to change. The membership of the Aboriginal Partnership Committee included equal representation from the Royal Commission and SAACCON.

This was the first partnership model to be developed to work alongside a Royal Commission to ensure that Aboriginal voices are not only heard but are central to developing recommendations that will directly impact Aboriginal people.

A dedicated 5-year strategy

Following the Royal Commission, the SA Government accepted recommendation 10, which includes:

"The South Australian government resource and support the development of a standalone 5-year Aboriginal domestic, family and sexual violence strategy."

Development of the 5-year strategy will be overseen by the Women and Families Safety Partnership Committee, with the strategy to focus on the rates of violence against Aboriginal women and children and the over-representation of Aboriginal people in current service systems.

Aboriginal-led service delivery

The OFW currently provides funding to ACCOs for a range of services under the Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses Schedule 2021–2030 Federation Funding Agreement — Affordable Housing, Community Services and Other, formerly known as the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response.

Funding provided to the ACCO domestic, family and sexual violence sector under this agreement has increased over time and enabled the establishment of new services and pilot programs delivered by ACCOs.

Six services delivered by ACCOs are currently funded under the Schedule, including Kumangka, which supported 183 clients in 2024–2025. Through the Schedule, a research project has also been funded to explore cultural safety within domestic, family and sexual violence services in SA. The project will inform improvements across the sector for Aboriginal clients and organisations.

Reviewing the cultural appropriateness of the Family Safety Framework (FSF)

During 2025-2026, OFW consulted with ACCOs and Aboriginal organisations working in the DFSV Sector in SA to better understand the cultural appropriateness of the FSF for providing a multi-agency response for Aboriginal women and children experiencing high-risk domestic and family violence. Targeted consultation has been effective in identifying practical improvements to the FSF and understand challenges and barriers. OFW is continuing to explore opportunities to engage ACCOs in FSF reviews.

Enhancing community safety in APY Lands

SAPOL has delivered new police infrastructure including outposts at Fregon, Indulkana and Pipalyatjara, enabling improved accessibility to policing services and supporting safety and security for families and households in APY communities.

The expanded presence has supported improved engagement with community members and strengthened SAPOL's ability to respond to local safety needs. Incorporating cultural considerations into facility design has also supported more appropriate and accessible service delivery. SAPOL will continue to utilise these facilities to support sustained, place-based policing, with a focus on increasing community engagement, maintaining operational presence, and monitoring community safety outcomes across the APY Lands.

Violence Prevention Program – Aboriginal Men

DCS continues to deliver the Violence Prevention Program – Aboriginal Men (VPP-AM) at the Cadell Training Centre and Port Augusta Prison through a co-facilitation model involving Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal clinicians. This approach supports the integration of cultural knowledge, lived experience and clinical expertise while maintaining cultural integrity and program fidelity.

The program is focused on balancing clinical requirements with culturally responsive practice and addressing the diverse cultural, linguistic and responsivity needs of Aboriginal participants. Ongoing efforts are being directed towards strengthening Aboriginal workforce capability, supporting staff cultural expertise, acknowledging and managing cultural load, and improving consistency in program delivery across sites to enhance participant access, engagement and completion rates.

Key strengths of the program include the continued use of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal co-facilitation, strengthened cultural supervision and consultation arrangements, Aboriginal Programs Peer Supervision, and strong collaboration between the Aboriginal Services Directorate and Rehabilitation Programs Branch to improve cultural safety, cultural capability and responsive service delivery.

Current priorities include the development of a cultural capability assessment tool and associated training package, completion of the cultural and governance review of Aboriginal-specific program manuals and delivery approaches, strengthening governance and quality assurance processes, reviewing referral and suitability pathways, exploring sustainable workforce models, reducing cultural load on Aboriginal staff, and ensuring rehabilitation planning and risk assessment practices better reflect cultural identity, language needs, strengths, protective factors and individual responsivity factors.

Strengthening Cultural Engagement and Partnership

SAPOL demonstrates an ongoing commitment to culturally informed engagement through participation in the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC) Law and Culture Gathering. A Family and Domestic Violence Section officer attended at the invitation of Senior APY Elders. This strengthened relationships with key cultural leaders and enhanced understanding of community priorities. Insights gained have informed SAPOL's approach to family and domestic violence prevention, early intervention and response, supporting more culturally responsive practices and reinforcing collaboration with a key ACCO.

Outcome 14: Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

Leading Agency: Department for Health and Wellbeing

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.	No assessment	Worsening

Nationally (which for this target is for New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory combined):

- in 2024, the age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal people rose to 33.9 per 100,000 people. This is the highest rate over the period from the baseline in 2018 (23.6 per 100,000 people)
- based on progress from the baseline, the target is worsening.

No assessment of progress is available for SA.

SA progress overview

Agencies are progressing actions committed to in the Implementation Plan 2024-2026, with all actions either complete or progressing on track. The SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 6 actions to support Aboriginal people to enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing. 3 actions are complete and 2 are progressing on track. During 2025-26, 1 additional action was completed.

Progress towards the target of reducing deaths by suicide helps to indicate whether people are experiencing greater degrees of social and emotional wellbeing. It is important to recognise that other indicators also help build a picture of social and emotional wellbeing.

The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people is determined by a multitude of factors beyond the mental or physical health of the individual. Concepts of autonomy and empowerment, connection to family, culture and Country, as well as employment and educational opportunity all contribute to social and emotional wellbeing[6].

[6] Productivity Commission *Annual Data Compilation report July 2025*, pp .38, 39

Key SA actions

Suicide prevention efforts

While the commitment to community-led suicide prevention and wellbeing initiatives remains, the establishment of Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Networks based on the existing standardised model proved challenging to implement. Importantly, however, two ACCHOs expressed interest in implementing elements of the Suicide Prevention Network model, which has provided early insights into how the model could be adapted for Aboriginal community-led approaches.

Preventive Health SA's Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention team, continue to deliver statewide suicide prevention projects and activities with the SA Suicide Prevention Community Grants (the Grants). Projects supported by the Grants play an important part in helping to prevent suicide through the provision of evidence-based activities. From 1 July 2025, the community grant program (2025-2026) prioritised ACCOs, as well as community groups and clubs in drought affected regions.

Preventive Health SA will continue to work in partnership with the ACCO sector and Aboriginal communities to design and implement culturally safe, community-led suicide prevention and wellbeing initiatives that are responsive to local context.

Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre

Department for Health and Wellbeing

The Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre is progressing a culturally grounded, holistic model of mental health and wellbeing care that places Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing at the centre of service delivery. Through a consortium partnership between the National Indigenous Network Initiative, Sonder and Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services (OARS) Community Transition, the Centre began interim outreach services in October 2025, including referrals between consortium partners and telephone support. Full operational services, including social and emotional wellbeing and clinical services, are expected to commence in late 2026.

Outreach has been the primary mechanism for community engagement, with increasing numbers of guests accessing culturally safe social and emotional wellbeing support across community locations and clinical service delivery continuing to expand as workforce capacity stabilises. The pattern of activity reflects strong service growth following the establishment phase, indicating increasing community awareness, strengthened referral pathways and improved access to responsive care.

The Centre has also delivered Ngangkari pop-up clinics across Adelaide in partnership with Coleman and Tucker, a 100% Aboriginal-owned cultural heritage service operating under the guidance of a Traditional Lore Man and respected Kaurna Elders. These clinics have provided accessible opportunities for community members to engage with traditional healing in culturally safe and familiar settings, reinforcing the importance of traditional healing within a holistic social and emotional wellbeing model.

The Centre is also progressing partnerships and Memoranda of Understanding with local health networks, ACCHOs and sector partners to support integrated service delivery, coordinated care pathways and culturally responsive referral arrangements. Formalisation of these agreements will continue as the service expands, supporting the Centre's development as a place that strengthens identity, restores balance and supports healing through culture-led care.

Race Equity Appraisal Tool

Preventive Health SA has engaged the Centre for Health in All Policies Research Translation to undertake a desktop rapid review and targeted consultation to inform the development of a Race Equity Appraisal approach for the SA public sector. This work has followed a staged and structured approach, including review, consultation, and development phases, with clearly defined deliverables and timelines. The plan is to support finalisation of a tool and commence implementation in 2027.

Gambling support

DHS currently funds the delivery of Aboriginal Gambling Help Services in a number of locations across SA from the Gambler's Rehabilitation Fund (GRF).

This year the number of ACCOs/ACCHOS funded by DHS has grown to 3 with the establishment of the Warntapinthi Wellbeing Aboriginal Corporation - assisted in its establishment by GHS SA with establishment costs and now contracted to deliver two Aboriginal Gambling Help Services in metropolitan Adelaide.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Codesign Project

Since September 2025, DHS's Community and Partnerships team, together with Dana Shen Consulting, has worked with the Port Lincoln Aboriginal community to co-design a new social and emotional wellbeing initiative that also contributes to the prevention and minimisation of gambling harm. The project aims to achieve two key outcomes: to co-design a holistic approach to social and emotional wellbeing that reflects the needs, aspirations and self-determination of Aboriginal people in Port Lincoln, and to develop a co-design 'blueprint' that can inform future DHS codesign with Aboriginal communities across SA.

The codesign team brings together local Aboriginal leaders, community members, people with lived experience, and sector representatives to collaboratively shape how this funding will support the local community.

Following in depth community conversations, two co-design workshops were held, where key themes from community engagement were validated and a range of models explored. In the reporting year, these options have been refined to a shortlist with the group working towards finalising a preferred model and establishing governance arrangements to support the initiative's implementation.

Service to Aboriginal Youth Program

The DHS funded Service to Aboriginal Youth (STAY) program offers a safe place for Aboriginal children and young people aged 5 to 19 to participate in free recreational, cultural, educational, and wellbeing-focused activities. Operating from 11 rural and remote locations across SA, it provides mentorship, life skills development, and assistance to help youth stay engaged with education, culture, and their communities. There are 6 ACCOs delivering STAY services. DHS has commenced an evaluation of the STAY Program, which includes a focus on improving community involvement in direction and application of services and will consider options to transition more STAY services to ACCOs.

Aboriginal Scholarship Program

DHS funds UnitingCare Wesley Bowden, in partnership with InComPro Aboriginal Association Incorporated and Lutheran Care, to deliver the Aboriginal Scholarship Program to support the development of Aboriginal Financial Counsellors. The program provides culturally safe mentoring, supervision, professional development and practical client experience for Aboriginal scholarship recipients working towards financial counselling accreditation. The initiative contributes to building a skilled Aboriginal workforce and increasing the availability of culturally responsive financial wellbeing support for Aboriginal individuals, families and communities.

Financial Counselling and Capability Support for Anangu on the APY Lands, with outreach in Adelaide

DHS funds MoneyMob Talkabout to deliver financial literacy, money management, advocacy and financial counselling services across the APY Lands through a permanent presence in Pukatja and outreach to remote communities. The program supports Anangu people to build financial knowledge and skills, access financial services, navigate financial challenges and connect with appropriate supports. The service provides a trusted and culturally responsive source of assistance for communities with limited access to mainstream services.

A complementary DHS funded service in Adelaide provides mobile financial counselling for Anangu people living in Adelaide and Port Adelaide. Through a culturally safe and trauma-informed outreach model, the service provides financial counselling, financial capability support, advocacy, emergency assistance and referrals to other services where required. The program helps individuals and families strengthen financial capability, address financial challenges and access coordinated support.

Grants to support local wellbeing

In 2025-2026, a $50,000 grant was awarded to Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association for their ‘Yarning Circle of Elders’ project through an Office for Ageing Well’s grant program. The Yarning Circle of Elders project will create a regular space for Elders to come together, yarn, and share their stories with the community. A further $4,800 was awarded to InComPro Aboriginal Association to fund art and craft materials to support Aboriginal Elders to connect through culturally grounded creative workshops.

In 2025-2026, work also continued on a $40,000 grant awarded the previous year to Aboriginal Community Housing Limited - the 'I am well (marni ai) at the Elders Village (Purrkanaitya)' – the project seeks to measure the wellbeing of Aboriginal tenants before they transition into a purpose-built elder's village at Warriparinga (Bedford Park).

Outcome 15: Aboriginal people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters

Leading Agency: Department for Environment and Water

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target 15a: By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met
Target 15b: By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	Improving	Improving and on track to be met

As at 30 June 2025, 4,421,946 square kilometres of the land mass of Australia and 113,496 square kilometres of the sea country of Australia were subject to Aboriginal people's rights or interests.

Nationally:

- there was a 13.1% increase in the area of land and 25.8% increase in the area of sea country subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests between the baseline year of 2020 and 2025
- based on progress from the baseline, both the land mass target and sea country target show good improvement and are on track to be met. [7]

In SA:

- there was a 1.2% increase in the area of land and 174.8% increase in the area of sea country subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests between the baseline year of 2020 and 2025
- based on progress from the baseline, both the land mass target and sea country target are improving.

[7] As at June 2024, the 2030 target of 15% for sea country has been exceeded.

SA progress overview

Progress towards actions committed to in the SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 continues, with all 4 actions to support Aboriginal people to maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters progressing as planned.

Key SA actions

A framework to advance Aboriginal water interests

Department for Environment and Water

Building on from existing water planning processes, DEW, in partnership with SA Native Title Services, Landscape Boards across SA, SA Water and the EPA held a series of workshops in 2025 for Traditional Owners, across the state, to co-design a framework to advance Aboriginal peoples' water interests.

A framework was drafted based on what we heard and shared at a workshop with Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBCs) in November 2025. Final feedback and endorsement of the framework were obtained at a further workshop with PBCs in April 2026.

The framework includes actions to progress the water targets under the National Agreement by supporting delivery of SA Government commitments to:

- Work with Traditional Owners and peak bodies to improve water planning processes and outcomes within the state.
- Provide safe and reliable potable water for regional and remote Aboriginal communities (Target 9b).
- Increase Aboriginal ownership of water access entitlements as part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (Target 15c – Inland Waters Target).

Landscape Boards supporting place-based action

Landscape Boards are statutory boards under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. They operate under the portfolio of the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water. The Landscape Boards strategically operate through an Aboriginal *Statement of Commitment* which underpins the place-based actions being taken by different boards across SA:

- The Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board is comprised entirely of Aṉangu members with connections to Country across the region, representating all the main landholding authorities. Its advocacy has elevated national attention on issues such as buffel grass strategic management and disaster resilience for desert communities.

- The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board engaged Aboriginal communities in shaping the 2026–2031 Regional Landscape Plan through workshops delivered with Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation and Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board. It also established the Aboriginal Water Interests Working Group to embed Aboriginal voices, cultural values, water rights and aspirations in water allocation planning.

- The Hills & Fleurieu Landscape Board has strengthened its relationship with the Ngarrindjeri Nation through culturally informed decision-making, Aboriginal art procurement and support for Aboriginal artists. It also supported Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation to build in-house capacity and establish the Yarluwar Ruwe Ranger Program, now employing more than 30 Ngarrindjeri rangers.

- The Kangaroo Island Landscape Board is working with Ngarrindjeri, Kaurna and Narungga Nations on an Aboriginal-led Country Planning process for Kangaroo Island. Through the Dudley Peninsula feral cat eradication program, it is also partnering with Tracks in the Sand to combine traditional knowledge, technology, cultural learning and employment pathways for young Aboriginal people.

- The Limestone Coast Landscape Board continues to work through the South East Aboriginal Focus Group, which has supported Aboriginal advice and participation in natural resource management for more than 21 years. Its adoption of the Lartara-Wirkeri Cultural Governance framework into the regional Walking Together Statement supports respectful relationships, shared outcomes, cultural identity and cultural leadership.

- The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board partners with Aboriginal communities as a key priority, supporting initiatives that increase Aboriginal participation and improve management of Country. Recent work with Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation and the SA Drought Hub delivered climate change yarning circles to explore local climate impacts, cultural values and community-led action.

- The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board embeds Aboriginal leadership through the Five Nations Landscape Committee, representing Narungga, Nukunu, Ngadjuri, Peramangk and Kaurna Nations. The Committee supports shared decision-making by enabling Aboriginal representatives to influence strategic planning, investment priorities and program design across the region.

- The Arid Lands Landscape Board region is home to 18 Aboriginal groups, a growing number of Indigenous Ranger teams and a number of Indigenous Protected Areas. The Board formed the Aboriginal Engagement Network (AEN) in partnership with Aboriginal groups in 2022 and now supports the Indigenous Ranger Gathering as an annual event. Projects are designed and delivered in partnership with cultural authorities, local communities and ranger programs, with increasing amounts of on-ground work being outsourced for completion as fee for service by the local First Nations entities. The Board has invested in the completion of 6 Healthy Country plans to underpin the development of enterprises and ranger programs across the region.

Collaborative water planning and management

Landscape Boards are also working with Traditional Owners to support their involvement in water planning processes. Several water allocation plans are being drafted or amended, with processes in place to incorporate Aboriginal values and interests.

In 2025–2026, an amended Water Allocation Plan for the Southern Basins and Musgrave Prescribed Wells Areas was adopted. The Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board worked with Nauo Aboriginal Corporation, Wirangu and Nauo Aboriginal Corporation and Barngarla Aboriginal Corporation through an Aboriginal Water Interests Working Group. The plan acknowledges the cultural importance of local groundwater resources to Aboriginal peoples in the region, sets objectives relating to access to water and details how the plan will contribute to those objectives.

Traditional Owners are also being engaged in the review and amendment of plans for the Barossa, Baroota, Lower Limestone Coast, Tatiara, Mallee, Peake Roby and Sherlock, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and Western Mount Lofty Ranges.

Continuing the Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests

In 2025–2026, the Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests continued to meet to progress discussions on Aboriginal water reform matters and the drafting of objectives for a new National Water Agreement. The Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests is providing advice on a number of national programs and reform processes, including the development of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Inland Waters Target.

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin project progress

Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin is an approximately $70 million program led by DEW that will contribute to managing the Coorong for long-term ecological health. The current phase of the program is focused on the delivery of wetland improvements at Teringie, Tolderol and Lake Hawdon North.

Throughout 2025–2026, DEW has continued to embed Aboriginal engagement and shared decision-making approaches into the delivery of the *Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin* program. This included continued engagement with relevant Aboriginal groups to inform planning, project design and implementation across the Coorong region, strengthening relationships and building trust.

Towards co-management

DEW co-manages 13.8 million hectares through:

- nine co-management boards with full co decision-making for park management
- five parks advisory committees which provide advice to the department on cultural and other matters related to park management.

DEW is working with its advisory committees to transition to co-management boards, strengthening Aboriginal leadership and decision-making in park management.

Outcome 16: Aboriginal cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

Leading Agency: Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	No assessment	No assessment

Nationally in 2025-26, there were 177 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken/used. Of these, 45 languages were categorised as strong.

For the first time since the baseline was established, new data from the National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) is available to report against Target 16 however due to changes in the survey methodology, the new data cannot yet be used to assess progress towards the target.

The 2025–26 NILS4 data will be used to establish a new baseline for the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

SA progress overview

Progress towards the actions committed to under the Implementation Plan 2024-2026 is on track. The Plan contains 1 action to support Aboriginal cultures and languages to be strong, supported and flourishing. This action is progressing on track.

Key SA actions

A new Aboriginal Languages Plan

The immediate priority this work has been progressing is the procurement process to secure a suitable supplier to develop the two-year SA Aboriginal Languages Plan. DPC have committed to developing the Aboriginal Languages Plan in partnership with Aboriginal community partners and SAACCON.

The immediate next step is to finalise the evaluation process. Following appointment, the preferred supplier will work closely with DPC and SAACCON to design the plan, ensuring cultural authority and community leadership guide development. DPC will also establish governance arrangements to support oversight, ensure accountability and maintain strong partnerships throughout the project lifecycle.

These steps will enable the creation of a culturally informed, community-led plan that strengthens the future of Aboriginal languages in SA.

Growing the Aboriginal languages workforce

DSD is supporting partnerships with, and providing support for, ACCOs to develop and deliver pathways for the Aboriginal languages workforce, including accredited training and qualifications (e.g. in teaching languages, interpreting, language revitalisation) and consider opportunities to support Aboriginal people to access and participate in these programs.

Subsidised and accredited vocational courses in learning Aboriginal languages have been supported on a fee free basis since 2024. These courses are available to Aboriginal students through Tauondi Aboriginal College at entry level through to Certificate IV level and have supported 26 Aboriginal students as at May 2026.

To further support delivery of these courses in community settings, DSD will pilot non-accredited training approaches with Tauondi Aboriginal College that provide a supported pathway for Aboriginal people to teach their languages in their communities and progress to becoming qualified educators. Scoping for this pilot will begin in late 2026.

Strengthening Aboriginal languages through education

Through the Aboriginal Education Strategy, the Department for Education has strengthened Aboriginal languages education by building strong relationships with Aboriginal language authorities at a system and site-level, creating a foundation for enduring partnerships and shared outcomes. The co-development of Aboriginal languages curriculum has directly contributed to the revival of South Australian languages, and provides a foundation for high-quality, culturally affirming language teaching and learning. Insights from the work have informed professional learning design, building the capacity of the Aboriginal languages workforce.

Anangu Bilingual Education Policy

Department for Education

The Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) is an Aboriginal incorporated decision-making body dedicated to providing leadership in education for Anangu schools. In February 2026, PYEC and DfE jointly adopted the Anangu Bilingual Education Policy.

PYEC and DfE worked in partnership to develop the policy which will strengthen, safeguard and grow bilingual learning for Anangu children and young people, and recognises the importance of placing Anangu languages and culture at the centre of Anangu children's learning. The policy recognises that when children are strong in language and culture, they thrive, and the responsibility the SA Government has to ensure its schools are safe, inclusive and collaborative places for all children and young people.

Guided by the policy and supported by continued investment in the Aboriginal Education Strategy, PYEC and DfE continue to work together on local, partnership-wide and system-level priorities for bilingual education through professional development, site planning, leadership development and collective capacity building.

Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service

DHS is strengthening Aboriginal Language Interpreting Services recruitment, training and employment pathways to meet high demand for Aboriginal language services, particularly Western Desert and Pitjantjatjara languages.

Working together with DfE, TAFE SA, National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), the Spinifex Court and Aboriginal organisations including service organisations in Port Augusta and Whyalla, Aboriginal language speakers are being supported to access training, gain qualifications and be employed as interpreters. Current efforts include funded TAFE SA training, support for NAATI accreditation, refreshed recruitment approaches and consultation with SAACCON, ACCOs and Aboriginal language service providers to explore opportunities to improve service delivery and strengthen the community-controlled sector.

In 2026-2027, DHS will continue trialling new recruitment and training initiatives to provide greater support for interpreters in remote and regional SA.

Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023

The nation-leading *Hydrogen and Renewable Energy Act 2023* embeds in legislation early engagement between the SA Government and Native Title groups. The legislative framework facilitates the identification of both land suitable for development of renewable energy projects on pastoral land, Crown land, and state waters, as well as areas which are not suitable based on cultural or environmental values. The Act also embeds the use of Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) at each stage of the project to ensure agreement-making is undertaken according to the principles of free, prior, and informed consent. On 22 January 2026, following extensive consultation with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation and the Gawler Ranges Aboriginal Corporation, the Whyalla West and Gawler Ranges East release areas were declared.

The formal call for tenders opened on 30 March 2026 over both areas for a period of 13 weeks. This extended period for tender applications, was provided so that potential applicants have an opportunity to engage with and pursue an agreement with BDAC in advance of making their application.

Both BDAC and GRAC raised matters to be addressed by any applicant responding to a call for tenders. These matters were included the call for tenders notice and form part of the prescribed criteria against which applications are assessed. BDAC requested that applicants outline any ILUA or other agreement that the applicant has in place with BDAC in respect to the proposed licence area. GRAC provided 22 matters for applicants to address and prepared a 'matters summary' and 'matters guide' to assist applicants in addressing the matters.

Language initiatives

To promote and preserve language and support language revitalisation for Ngarrindjeri people, and as part of its cultural program, the Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN (RMCLHN) has supported the

introduction of interactive Ngarrindjeri language signage, which has improved welcoming environments, cultural visibility, and staff cultural awareness.

The project involved the installation of totem poles, featuring artwork by Ngarrindjeri Elder Aunty Ros Richards, plaques featuring Ngarrindjeri words and phrases, an English translation, and a QR code to support public learning and pronunciation. The intent of the interactive poles is to provide a welcoming environment for Aboriginal communities and transform the LHN sites to be more culturally safe.

As part of this project, there are now four large totem poles and more than 70 plaques across three Ngarrindjeri sites, featuring 55 Ngarrindjeri words and phrases. The impact of the project was recognised as a winner of the RMCLHN 2026 NAIDOC Week award.

Alongside this, in 2025, DHUD installed dual language signage at creeks that cross the Oodnadatta Track – in Arabana and English after consultation with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation. Signage was also installed at a creek near Beltana in the Northern Flinders Ranges region in Adnyamathanha and English after consultation with a local Adnyamathanha Elder and approval of ATLA.

Outcome 17: Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

Leading Agency: Department of Treasury and Finance

Target Data - Productivity Commission progress assessment

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
Target: By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	No assessment	No assessment

Nationally:

- in 2014-15, 73.5% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over accessed the internet in their home.
- there is no comparable data on home access to the internet for non-Aboriginal people.
- this means that estimating a trajectory to achieve parity is not currently possible.

In SA:

- in 2014-15, 73.4% of Aboriginal people aged 15 years and over accessed the internet in their home.
- there is no comparable data on home access to the internet for non-Aboriginal people.

There is no new data since the baseline year of 2014-2015.

SA progress overview

The SA Implementation Plan 2024-2026 contains 2 actions against this socio-economic outcome. Of these actions, 1 is complete and 1 is not yet due to commence.

The South Australian Government actively works with industry, communities and the Commonwealth to improve telecommunications connectivity across SA, including supporting funding opportunities related to mobile coverage and First Nations digital inclusion. Through a Commonwealth-administered grants program, Umoona was awarded $1.07 million to deliver free public broadband Wi-Fi services in community spaces, including uncapped access, family-friendly content filtering, digital literacy support, and community engagement delivered through a local liaison officer.

Key SA actions

Cultural Wellbeing Baseline Data project

Preventive Health SA's partnership with the Australian National University's Yardhura Walani (National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing Research) represents a step toward advancing the agency work under Priority Reform Four: shared access to data and information at a regional level. The Cultural Wellbeing Baseline Data Project has supported Preventive Health SA to:

- Establish a foundational cultural wellbeing evidence base for SA
- Strengthen Aboriginal data governance practices and partnerships
- Advance alignment with Priority Reform Four, while highlighting key gaps
- Identify strategic choices for future investment in locally relevant, community-driven data systems.

These outcomes position Preventive Health SA to make informed decisions regarding the next phase of cultural wellbeing data development, with a stronger emphasis on regional relevance, Aboriginal leadership, and data sovereignty.

Supporting Shared Access to Data

Department for Education

The Department for Education is progressing several data initiatives to support shared access to information, local decision-making and culturally responsive planning.

Key initiatives include:

- Partnering with SAACCON to design a targeted data capability program for Aboriginal Community Education Officers and members. Following development, workshops will be delivered to build understanding of departmental data, strengthen confidence in data interpretation, and support the practical use of evidence in decision-making, planning and student support.
- Working in partnership with Indulkana and other APY Lands schools to explore the co-design of a culturally responsive student wellbeing survey. This work seeks to ensure approaches to measuring wellbeing reflect local contexts, priorities and understandings of wellbeing, while strengthening meaningful student voice and supporting access to wellbeing data that can be used by schools, communities and Aboriginal partners to inform local decision-making and action.

- Leading the development of an alternative wellbeing measurement approach for Aboriginal students who do not currently participate in the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection. This work seeks to address an important evidence gap through culturally responsive approaches to measuring wellbeing, while strengthening opportunities for Aboriginal stakeholders to access and use wellbeing data and insights to support local decision-making, planning and improved outcomes for Aboriginal students.

Communication actions

In response to findings from the Aboriginal-led Review, which identified gaps in communication, education and public awareness of Closing the Gap, the SAPC established the Closing the Gap (CTG) Website Maintenance Group in December 2025. The review highlighted the need for improved approaches to communicating progress, outcomes and partnership activities to Aboriginal communities, stakeholders and the broader public.

The CTG Website Maintenance Group brings together representatives from SAACCON, AGD-AAR and AGD Strategic Communications. The group has been tasked with redesigning and refreshing SA's Closing the Gap webpages to create a more accessible, informative and community-focused online presence. The initiative seeks to centralise key information and resources, improve community understanding of Closing the Gap, and ensure website content is developed and maintained through a genuine partnership approach.

Since commencing work in February 2026, the group has met regularly to progress the redevelopment of the website. Key activities have included developing governance and publication guidelines, reviewing content to ensure accessibility and usability, and establishing processes to support ongoing maintenance and continuous improvement. This work aims to ensure the website content remains current, relevant and reflective of partnership priorities.

The redesigned web pages will align with existing SA Government Closing the Gap content and information architecture while operating under a separate website address and distinct branding. This approach is intended to better reflect the shared partnership between government and Aboriginal community representatives and provide a neutral and trusted platform for communicating Closing the Gap initiatives, progress and outcomes.

Further communication enhancements are also being explored, including the publication of meeting communiqués and the promotion of positive Closing the Gap achievements through the web pages and existing communication channels. These initiatives will support greater transparency, strengthen community engagement, and contribute to broader awareness and understanding of Closing the Gap across SA.

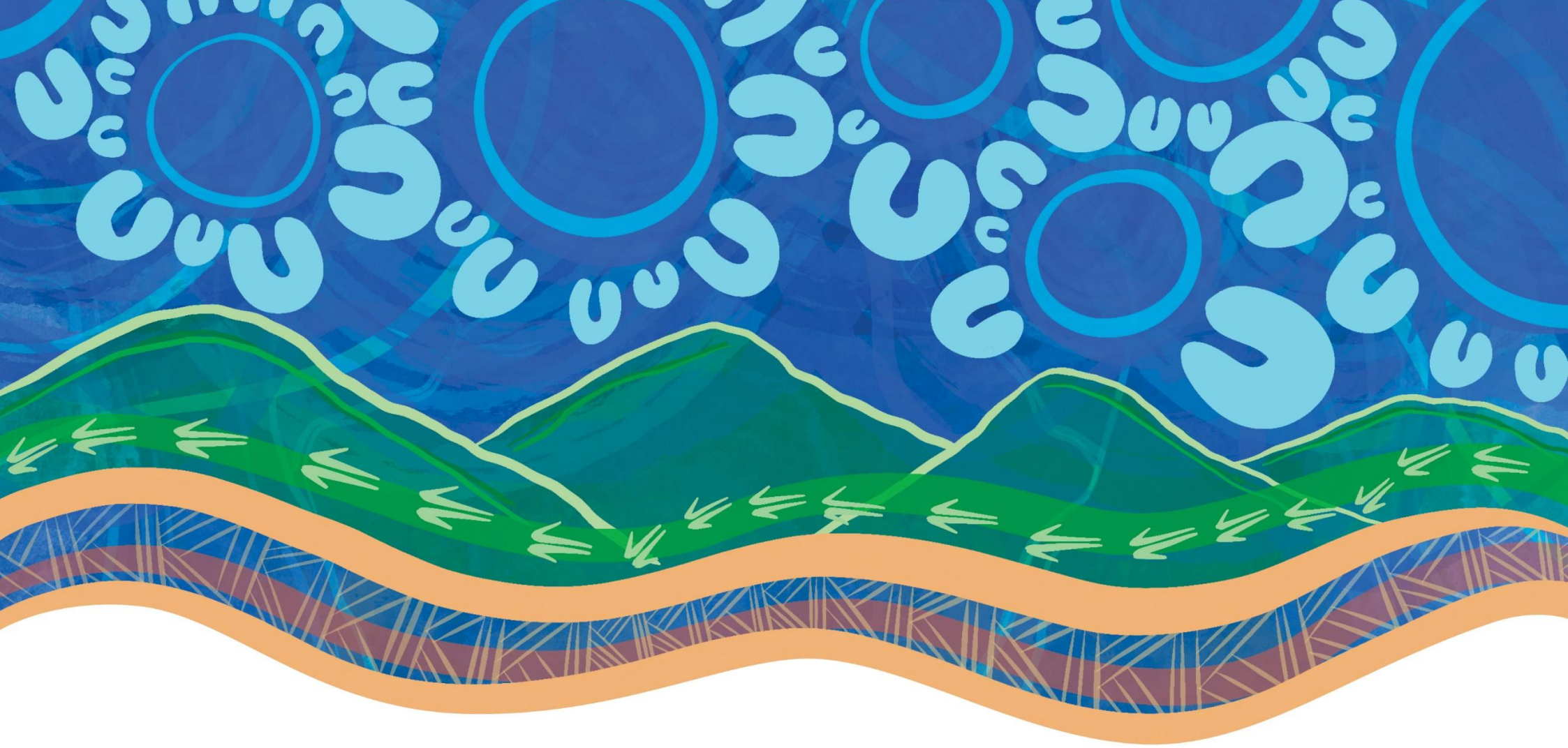
Next steps

The current SA Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2024-2026 is reaching expiry, and the SA Government is working in partnership with SAACCON to develop the next roadmap for Closing the Gap in South Australia.

As recommended by the Productivity Commission and independent Aboriginal-led reviews, the next Implementation Plan will adopt a more strategic approach to implementing the National Agreement by focusing efforts on the four Priority Reforms and applying a Theory of Change approach. Building on and synthesising the progress captured in this Annual Report, as well as previous reports under the 2024-26 Implementation Plan, the next phase of Closing the Gap in South Australia aims to strengthen the foundations for achieving the National Agreement's objectives.

Critically, this work will continue to be undertaken through a genuine partnership between the South Australian Government, SAACCON and Aboriginal communities. The worsening outcomes reflected in three Closing the Gap targets in South Australia reinforce the need to intensify efforts and strengthen community-led approaches. This partnership remains essential to driving sustainable change and achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal people, their families, children and communities.


SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Government of South Australia
SAACCON
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION NETWORK
CLOSING THE GAP



Closing the Gap

Appendix A - CTG Annual Report Implementation Status Update 2025-2026

Some action descriptions have been summarised. Full descriptions for each action can be found in South Australia's Implementation Plan.

Government of South Australia

SAACCON
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION NETWORK

CLOSING THE GAP

Abbreviations: Partners, South Australian Government Departments and Authorities

ACCO – Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation

ACCHO- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

ALRM – Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

AGD – Attorney-General's Department

AAR – Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

DCP – Department for Child Protection

DCS – Department for Correctional Services

DfE – Department for Education

DEM – Department for Energy and Mining

DEW – Department for Environment and Water

DHUD – Department for Housing and Urban Development

DHS – Department of Human Services

DIT – Department for Infrastructure and Transport

DPC – Department of the Premier and Cabinet

DSD – Department of State Development

DTF – Department of Treasury and Finance

OCPSE – Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employmer

ODA – Office for Data Analytics (DTF)

OFW - Office for Women

OECD - Office for Early Childhood Development

OIA – Office of the Industry Advocate (DTF)

PIRSA – Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA

SA Health - DHW – Department for Health and Wellbeing

SA Health - BHFLHN – Barossa Hills Fleurieu Local Health Network

SA Health - CALHN – Central Adelaide Local Health Network

SA Health – DHW-OCP – Office of the Chief Psychiatrist

SA Health – EFNLHN – Eyre and Far North Local Health Network

SA Health – FUNLHN – Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network

SA Health – NALHN – Northern Adelaide Local Health Network

SA Health – RMCLHN – Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network

SA Health – SALHN – Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

SA Health – WCHN – Women and Children's Health Network

SA Health – YNLHN – Yorke and Northern Local Health Network

SAACCON – South Australian South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network

The Trust – The South Australian Housing Trust

SAPHS – South Australian Prison Health Service

SAPOL – South Australia Police

Skills SA – Skills South Australia (DSD)

SRSA - State Records South Australia

TAFE SA – Technical and Further Education South Australia

Legend			
Complete		In progress – delayed	
In progress – on track		Not yet due to commence	
Not being progressed			

Priority Reform 1 – Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Outcome	Aboriginal peoples are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.
Target	There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal peoples and governments in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal peoples have chosen their own representatives.

Actions		Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
1.01	Strengthen and develop bilingual education in Aṉangu schools.	Ongoing	SAACCON DfE	In progress – on track	
1.02	Develop a whole of government approach to achieving shared objectives, including increased recognition of Aboriginal languages and culture, and investigating opportunities to strengthen and create new partnerships. Develop a 2-year whole of government plan that has agreed approaches, with consideration to the following items: • In partnership with Aboriginal communities and ACCOs, develop and implement policy including the South Australian Aboriginal Languages Policy, aligned with the national priorities for the sector as identified in Voices of Country (Australia's Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032), and the National Languages Policy Partnership 3 Year Plan and its 7 priority areas and 11 work areas.	December 2026 (2-year action plan complete)	SAACCON DPC	In progress – on track	

	• Implementation of a long-term cross-agency work plan for Aboriginal languages.				
1.03	The South Australian government will publicly report the review and strengthening of partnerships between Aboriginal parties and SA government, in accordance with Priority Reform 1 every two years. As per the commitment at clause 37 of that National Agreement, SA will include in the annual report, information on partnerships, including: • the number of partnerships • those that have been reviewed • for each partnership which strong partnership elements are met and unmet, and • what has been achieved through the partnerships. This activity will be supported by South Australia's 2023 Partnership Stocktake and Report on the Review and Strengthening of Partnerships.	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
1.04	Establish partnerships with and provide support for ACCOs to develop and deliver pathways for the Aboriginal language's workforce, including accredited training and qualifications (e.g. in teaching languages, interpreting, language revitalisation) and consider opportunities to support Aboriginal people to access and participate in these programs.	31/12/2026	SAACCON DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track	
1.05	In partnership with ACCOs, support professional development of the Aboriginal languages teaching and interpreter workforce, and develop Aboriginal languages curriculum, and teaching and learning resources for use by Aboriginal languages teachers.	Ongoing	SAACCON DfE DHS	In progress – on track	

1.06	Establish a South Australian Justice Partnership Committee between SA Government and SAACCON to:
	• consider and progress Justice Policy Partnership priorities in the South Australian context
	• where possible, formulate joint South Australian positions on national justice issues
	• progress implementation of actions in South Australia to achieve the targets of outcomes 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
	• develop and provide policy advice on matters related to outcomes 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including in relation to the following, which have been identified as priorities by SAACCON:
	  ○ bail, including bail accommodation and bail decisions
	  ○ the minimum age of criminal responsibility
		Ongoing	SAACCON
			AGD
				Complete	

	○ eligibility for specialist and diversionary courts o consideration of legislative amendments to ensure courts take into account the unique systemic and background factors affecting Aboriginal people in their sentencing decisions ○ the impact of the High-Risk Offenders Act ○ addressing systemic racism and bias. • identify opportunities to design tailored approaches to program delivery for Aboriginal peoples overrepresented in the criminal justice system, including identifying and resolving barriers to effective service delivery. By agreement, the Justice Partnership Committee can establish working groups to focus on discrete topics and priorities.				
1.07	Consider the outcomes of the Closing the Gap Expenditure Review being conducted pursuant to Clause 112 of the National Agreement and work pursuant to Clause 55 of the National Agreement for implementation within the justice sector.	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD DCS DHS	In progress on track	
1.08	Work from the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee - Over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the criminal justice sector will be shared with SAACCON and its members.	2025	SAACCON DCS	Complete	
1.09	Review current and continue monitoring the Aboriginal model of care for prisoners in partnership	30 June 2027	SAACCON SAPHS	In progress – on track	
1.10	In partnership DCS and SAACCON will co-design and implement an advisory committee to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal people who are overrepresented in correctional services.	N/A	SAACCON DCS	Not being progressed	
1.11	Review of the secondary cultural assessment to include self-identification as a survivor or descendent of the stolen generation that will support ACCO services deliver culturally informed responses upon release.	2026/2027	SAACCON DCS	In progress – on track	
1.12	DHS will establish a Youth Justice Working Group with SAACCON to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people	Ongoing	SAACCON DHS	Complete	
1.13	The Office for Women will engage SAACCON to identify and co-design frameworks that support building the ACCO DFVS sector funding, in response to the National Partnership Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response.	Ongoing	SAACCON DHS-OFW	In progress – on track	
1.14	Formal agreements in place between Local Health Networks (LHNs) and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) and/or relevant ACCOs. These could take the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which sets out the issues		SAACCON ACCHOs DHW-LHNs	In progress – on track	

	and actions that will be in scope for the agreement and the ways of working together, aligned to the Strong Partnership Elements (cl32 of the National Agreement). Co-design of a template that identifies key ways of working together and partnership approaches. Working group to include representation from SAACCON, AHCSA, LHN and ACCHOs who are not members of SAACCON. Facilitate the development of the MoU at the regional level with agreed priorities across the regional partners	2025-2026	NALHN	Complete	
		To be confirmed	RMCLHN	In progress - delayed	
		2027	WCHN	In progress - on track	
		2026	CALHN	In progress - on track	
		August 2026	BHFLHN	In progress - on track	
		2026	CALHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	EFNLHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	FUNLHN	In progress - delayed	
		July 2026	LCLHN	In progress - on track	
		July 2028	YNLHN	In progress - on track	
1.15	The parties will meet regularly to advance the agreed issues and actions. Initial steps to implement this action will include: • identifying ACCHOs / ACCOs within LHN boundaries and coordinating discussions • joint development of the MoU • establishment of regular meetings and creation of a shared work plan to address agreed issues and actions contained in the MoU.		SAACCON ACCHOs DHW-LHNs	In progress – on track	
		August 2026	LCLHN	In progress - on track	
		2026	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	RMCLHN	Not yet due to commence	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		July 2028	WCHN	In progress - on track	
		July 2028	YNLHN	In progress - on track	

1.16	Actions for a specialist response to substance use will be considered in the development of Regional MoUs.		SAACCON ACCHOs DHW-LHNs	In progress – on track	
		August 2026	BHFLHN	In progress - on track	
		2027	CALHN	Not yet due to commence	
		2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	
		Ongoing	FUNLHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		July 2028	YNLHN	In progress - on track	
1.17	Explore a centralised body with responsibility for cross-agency collaboration and coordination of the implementation, monitoring, and reporting and evaluation of Closing the Gap Health and Wellbeing actions, initiatives, and programs.	Ongoing	SAACCON DHW-LHNs DHS DTF-ODA	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	BHFLHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	DHW	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	CALHN	Complete	
		To be confirmed	EFNLHN	Not yet due to commence	
		To be confirmed	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	RMCLHN	Complete	

		To be confirmed	YNLHN	In progress - on track	
1.18	Increase participation of Aboriginal peoples in existing health governance structures: • Identify existing partnerships and opportunities for SAACCON/ACCOs/ACCHOs to be involved in working groups and executive level government meetings. • Aboriginal leaders appointed to LHN Board of Directors and Aboriginal Advisory Committees. • Reinvigorate register for Aboriginal people to indicate interest in sitting on LHN Boards. • Implement ongoing program of governance training to ensure pipeline of suitable candidates when vacancies arise.		SAACCON DHW-LHNs	In progress – on track	
		May 2027	BHFLHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	DHW	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	CALHN	Complete	
		2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	
		To be confirmed	FUNLHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	LCLHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	RMCLHN	In progress - delayed	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	WCHN	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	YNLHN	Complete	
1.19	Implement partnerships across government departments to fund and support capacity building for ACCHOs and/or ACCOs delivery of Closing the Gap initiatives. Partnerships can identify savings and redistribute funds to support the social and cultural determinants of health (benefit multiple agencies) based on agreed priorities. Partnerships need to have associated infrastructure, governance, training and shared accountability clearly built in to address power imbalances and ensure equity for true partnership.		SAACCON DHW-LHNs	In progress – on track	
		May 2027	BHFLHN	In progress - on track	
		2027	CALHN	Not yet due to commence	
		2027 - ongoing	EFNLHN	Not yet due to commence	
		To be confirmed	FUNLHN	In progress - on track	

		Ongoing	LCLHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	WCHN	In progress - on track	
		July 2028	YNLHN	In progress - on track	
1.20	Initial steps to embed cultural practice include: • initiatives that embed cultural practice such as Ngangkaris (Traditional Healers) and coworking models into early intervention, healthcare and mental health services, at all levels right up to psychiatric care • requires a high level of cultural responsiveness and a strengths-based approach to ensure cultural and clinical knowledges and practice are valued.		SAACCON DHW DHS	In progress – on track	
		2025-2026	CALHN	Complete	
		2026	DHW - OCP	Complete	
		To be confirmed	DHW	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	
		To be confirmed	FUNLHN	In progress - delayed	
		Ongoing	LCLHN	In progress- on track	
		2025-2026	NALHN	Complete	
		2027	SALHN	In progress- on track	
		Ongoing	WCHN	In progress- on track	
		July 2027	YNLHN	In progress - delayed	
1.21	Supported by a partnership agreement, government agencies will work collaboratively and in partnership with ACCHOs and/or ACCOs and: • recognise that there is no wrong door but there are multiple pathways/networks		SAACCON DHW DHS	In progress – on track	
		2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	

	• explore existing arrangements for short term/temporary housing available to support Aboriginal families when away from Country to access health services for e.g. pre-birth.	Ongoing	FUNLHN	Complete	
		Ongoing	LCLHN	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	NALHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	SALHN	In progress - on track	
		Ongoing	WCHN	In progress - on track	
1.22	Initial steps to implement a specialist response for mental health include: • re-conceptualisation of a 'good' mental health service for Aboriginal people to support holistic wellbeing • trauma-informed services implemented via a strong partnership which is locally led and acknowledges diversity, local language and concepts • holistic client-centred service response, which identifies and supports needs related to family violence, mental health and wellbeing, substance use and underlying impairments including undiagnosed disability • acute mental health responses that are safer and more culturally appropriate, such as a 000 option with Aunty/Uncle help option.		SAACCON DHW	In progress – on track	
		2027	DHW	In progress - on track	
		To be confirmed	FUNLHN	Not yet due to commence	
		Ongoing	LCHLN	In progress - on track	
		2025-2026	NAHLN	Complete	
1.23	Initial scoping to explore steps to implement (linked to an MoU between LHNs and ACCHOs) On-Country service delivery include: • new approaches to alcohol and other drugs programs on Country • grow employment and education opportunities on Country for Health.		SAACCON DHW DHS	In progress – on track	
		2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	
		To be confirmed	FUNLHN	Not yet due to commence	
		To be confirmed	NAHLN	In progress - on track	
		2027	SALHN	In progress - on track	
1.24	Design and test a reporting framework that measures progress against the elements of the South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031 to ensure agencies / statutory authorities are accountable for implementation	To be determined	SAACCON The Trust	In progress - delayed	

1.25	Following establishment of the SAPC, regular reporting will commence.	June 30, 2026	SAACCON The Trust	Complete	
1.26	The Trust and SAACCON will enter into joint discussions to determine how the Strategy fits into, and is funded as part of, the State and Commonwealth level housing and homelessness strategies and funding agreements.	Ongoing	SAACCON The Trust	In progress - on track	
1.27	Place-based partnerships are necessary to support the planning and transition of Aboriginal Housing and related services to the Aboriginal community-controlled sector. The Sector Reform strategies contained in the South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy are: • Implement Shared Local Decision-Making partnerships. • Prioritise the growth of the Aboriginal Community Housing sector (ACHS).	Ongoing	SAACCON The Trust	In progress - on track	
1.28	For shared local decision-making (SLDM) partnerships to be successful, government agencies must recognise the different leadership structures and networks within individual Aboriginal communities, especially in relation to how leaders acquire, exercise, transfer and sustain their authority. This requires government agencies to adopt a sustained commitment to working with and respecting Aboriginal community arrangements, relationships, shared connections and representative structures. SLDM partnerships are being piloted in three communities: one each in remote, regional and metropolitan settings where the Aboriginal community is defining the governance structures and the process of decision-making for the SLDM partnerships as well as deciding the composition of 'community' for this purpose.	Ongoing	SAACCON The Trust	In progress - on track	
1.29	As per clause 36(b) in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, in 2024 DfE is reviewing its partnerships (including with SAACCON member SAAETCC) with a view to strengthening them in line with the Strong Partnership Elements at clauses 32 and 33 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. As part of work to build the ACCO sector in SA (Priority Reform 2 in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap), the SA government is, in partnership with SAACCON, undertaking work to develop whole of government guidance on working with ACCOs.	2026	SAACCON DfE	In progress - on track	
1.30	The SA Government has also accepted recommendations from the SA Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care relating to the role of ACCOs in delivering early childhood reforms. The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD), in partnership with SAACCON, is undertaking work to co-design and fund ACCO involvement in early childhood education and care and integrated early years' service delivery.	2025-2026	SAACCON OECD	Complete	

1.31	Building on the whole of government guidance outlined above DfE will partner with SAACCON to develop guidance for schools (including OSHC), and OECD will partner with SAACCON to develop guidance for early childhood services on developing new, culturally responsive partnership arrangements. 'Guidance' includes information, resources, and access to advice and support. OECD and DfE will partner with SAACCON to produce guidance for ACCOs. This will be a process of 'two-way learning' that produces guidance on: • the various roles and responsibilities of corporate offices, local/regional teams, and schools and early childhood services • existing relationships between services and communities • advice for schools and early childhood services on how they can partner with local ACCOs and some of the focus areas and opportunities that could be the subject of partnership agreements • advice for ACCOs on how to navigate departmental governance structures and contact points, and the non-government sector, to partner with schools and early childhood services • types of partnership arrangements, including templates/example agreements.	To be confirmed – in consultation with SAACCON	SAACCON OECD DfE	In progress - delayed	
1.32	In partnership, OECD, DfE and SAACCON will map/identify: • service provision to Aboriginal children in early childhood services • funding arrangements for ACCOs to provide services • opportunities for service delivery by ACCOs • ACCO capacity to provide services to Aboriginal children in early childhood services • practical considerations regarding the provision of services in childhood services (including but not limited to infrastructure/physical space) • relevant funding streams and potential funding options for ACCO delivered services.	2025-2026	SAACCON OECD DfE	Complete	
1.33	OECD, DfE and SAACCON to scope opportunities and potential funding options to support cultural safety, including through training, in preschools (sector neutral).	2025-2026	SAACCON OECD DfE	Complete	
1.34	DfE and SAACCON will map/identify: • service provision to Aboriginal students in schools • opportunities for service delivery by ACCOs • ACCO capacity to provide services to Aboriginal students in schools • practical considerations regarding the provision of services in schools (e.g. infrastructure/physical space)	2027	SAACCON DfE	In progress - on track	

	• relevant funding streams and potential funding options for ACCO delivered services. This will inform further work to explore the potential to strengthen and develop partnerships between schools and ACCOs where ACCOs are funded to provide services to learners (giving effect to clause 55 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap).				
1.35	DfE and SAACCON member, SAAETCC, to partner to: • develop an evaluation framework to measure the success of identified programs • describe the factors that underpin successful programs	2026	SAACCON DfE	In progress - on track	
1.36	DfE to explore with SAACCON opportunities for ACCOs to be involved in using the framework developed to evaluate programs. Results of evaluations to be shared with SAACCON, DfE and non-government school authorities, as appropriate.	2026	SAACCON DfE	Not yet due to commence	
1.37	DfE to support SAAETCC to connect with non-government sectors, for SAAETCC to explore use of framework to measure outcomes for Aboriginal students in non-government schools	2026	SAACCON DfE	Not yet due to commence	
1.38	In partnership, develop South Australia's jurisdictional plan for the implementation of the National Framework's Aboriginal-specific 5+5-year Action Plan: • Safe and Supported: The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021- 2031. • Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026. • Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outcomes Framework.	2027	SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
1.39	The South Australian Government commits to working with SAACCON and Wakwakurna Kanyini to identify, review, evaluate and implement any policy, procedures, and guidelines in relation to the Contact Assessment Review Panel (CARP) that allow culturally informed decisions for the most vulnerable families.	Legislation implementation in progress, anticipation of July 2027	SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
1.40	In partnership, identify, review and develop services/programs to address the disparities Aboriginal families experience in equity of access to, and participation in evidence-based and culturally trauma informed early intervention services for Aboriginal families across regional and metro South Australia enabling self-determination.	Ongoing	SAACCON Wakwakurna Kanyini DCP DHS	Complete	

1.41	In partnership, address the disparities Aboriginal families experience in equity of access to, and participation in evidence-based and culturally trauma informed decision-making processes that enable self-determination such as Family-Led Decision Making across regional and metro South Australia.	Ongoing	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
1.42	Work related to the child and family sector will build on the commitment under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan – Action 2: Shift towards adequate and coordinated funding of early, targeted and culturally safe supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.	Mid-late 2026, contingent on National Strategy endorsement projected mid-late 2025.	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
1.43	Work together to design and deliver ACCO-led services that meet the needs of Aboriginal children and their families. The investment strategy will be implemented through reform of funding models and procurement policies to direct proportionate funding (proportionate to the level of representation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection sector and community need) to the ACCO sector.	Ongoing	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
1.44	DCP will fund the design, establishment, and implementation of a Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People. SAACCON and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People will be key partners with SNAICC in this work. DCP has engaged SNAICC – National Voice for our Children to support an Aboriginal-led design process for a Peak Body to represent the interests of Aboriginal children and young people.	September 2024	SAACCON DCP	Complete	
1.45	DCP to support proposed option for the Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People based on community consultation.	September 2024	SAACCON DCP	Complete	
1.46	DSD to engage SAACCON to inform the state-wide Skills Policy to 2030.	March 2024	SAACCON DSD (Skills SA)	Complete	
1.47	DfE and SAACCON will partner to support students and their families transition from school into the workforce or further education and training by developing a State-wide Strategic Service Model that includes the expansion of existing programs (e.g. SAASTA and Workabout)	2026	SAACCON DfE SAAETCC	In progress – on track	
1.48	DfE and SAACCON will partner to support students and their families transition from school into the workforce or further education and training by developing a series of industry immersion videos for Aboriginal students.	2026	SAACCON DfE SAAETCC	In progress – on track	
1.49	Building on existing school roadshows to include Aboriginal business owners, Aboriginal RTOs, and information on traineeships and apprenticeships. Roadshows will include and showcase Aboriginal young people and their families.	2026	SAACCON DfE SAAETCC	In progress – on track	

1.50	The development of programs for children and young people (primary school and beyond) and their families that showcase a broad range of options for the future and provide encouragement to ‘dream big’. The ‘Dream Big’ concept is part of the Aboriginal Pathways vision statement, Dream, Believe, Achieve, Succeed targeted at secondary Aboriginal learners.	2026	SAACCON DfE SAAETCC	In progress - delayed	
1.51	Services will be delivered by government agencies and the ACCO sector with linkages to corporate sector/industry as appropriate.	2026	SAACCON DfE SAAETCC	In progress – on track	
1.52	Explore opportunities in partnership to improve road safety and the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people who experience road trauma as well as increasing employment opportunities through licence attainment and retention.	Ongoing	SAACCON DIT	In progress – on track	
1.53	Facilitate opportunities for additional Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs) to enter into management partnerships with government departments and agencies responsible for land and waters. Management partnerships include a commitment to co-managing parks and developing Establishment of First Nations Engagement committee for oversight of commitments - November 2024. DEW SAACCON 45 Priority Reform 1: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making # Action Milestones Lead Partners new co-management agreements, country-based planning, on-ground projects and training and employment.	Ongoing	SAACCON DEW	In progress – on track	
1.54	Work with sector to progress inland waters outcomes	Ongoing	SAACCON DEW	In progress – on track	
1.55	Develop a proposal for government consideration of land handback.	Late 2026	SAACCON DEW	In progress – on track	
1.56	Signed in 2018, the Buthera Agreement has provided capacity-building support for the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) to drive development, economic enterprise and collaborative engagement with government agencies on Guuranda (Yorke Peninsula)	2028	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
1.57	The SAPC will: • continue to implement meeting and decision-making processes and protocols that safeguard the equality of the parties. • work to deliver the annual Shared Forward Work Plan (from partnership and other joint actions in the Implementation Plan). • continue to deliver governance arrangements necessary to oversee and manage the agreement and operationalise the Shared Forward Work Plan. • work via the 9-portfolio specific sub-committees to deliver coordinated monitoring and reporting on the implementation and outcomes associated with the socio-economic targets	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	

1.58	The Communications and Engagement strategy has now been split into two separate components, noting the significance of each in meeting the Priority Reforms: • Communications Framework – outlining communications approaches and key messages designed to raise awareness and understanding of CTG in South Australia. Communications Framework – late 2024, early 2025. Engagement Strategy – mid to late 2025. AGD SAACCON 47 Priority Reform 1: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making # Action Milestones Lead Partners • Engagement Strategy – outlining culturally safe and appropriate engagement strategies for engaging with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and community.	Communications Framework – Complete Engagement Strategy – 2027	SAACCON AGD	In progress – on track	
1.59	The South Australian Government and SAACCON, along with Commonwealth and local governments, will deliver a place-based partnership in Adelaide's Western Suburbs, which is co-located with the Community Data Project in the Western Suburbs.	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
1.60	Embed the definition of co-design into SA Government through updating PC036 and including self-determination measures within CE Agreements	To be determined	SAACCON DPC	In progress – delayed	
1.61	Launched in 2022 and supported by the Aboriginal Voice Consultation Network Register, the Aboriginal Voice framework is a mandated internal procedure that provides a mechanism for embedding input from Aboriginal staff at all stages of the development and design of departmental policies, projects, procedures, guidelines, frameworks and standards in a flexible, sustainable and ongoing manner.	Ongoing	DfE	In progress – on track	
1.62	The development of an Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a significant project that will establish the framework for achieving Targets 10 and 11 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. An Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a formal undertaking between government and Aboriginal communities to develop and implement a collaborative approach to improve justice outcomes.[8]	2026-2027	SAACCON AGD	In progress – delayed	

[8] It is anticipated that South Australia's Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) will be finalised in 2026-27. This extended timeframe is in direct response to advice from Aboriginal people and organisations that the government should give Aboriginal people and community organisations the time they need to engage meaningfully and respectfully on the content and scope of the AJA.

Priority Reform 2 – Building the community-controlled sector

Outcome	Building the community-controlled sector: There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.
Target	Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations.

Actions		Timeframe	Lead Agency	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
2.01	Increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs, including by: a) updating mapping of ACCO sector, identification of sector's goals and growth opportunities and defining what is required to achieve these outcomes b) creating a data set comprising government agency approaches to working with and funding ACCOs, undertaken by the Supporting Growth in ACCOs Working Group c) in partnership, develop a detailed whole of government policy framework and process to develop the sector and increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs. This would consider good practice, jointly agreed targets, accountability mechanisms and timeframes for implementation, as well as investments and supports required d) develop a transition plan that implements the findings of a), b) and c).	Mid 2026	SAACCON DTF	In progress – on track	
2.02	Leverage the procurement and contracting systems and processes to support the transition of service delivery to ACCOs, including by considering: • ways to strengthen policies that provides for the provision of services for Aboriginal peoples in SA, to enable the preferencing of ACCOs and other Aboriginal organisations as service providers of services for Aboriginal peoples in SA • review SA Government mechanisms and guidelines for funding ACCOs (including for contracted services) • establish Aboriginal Subject Matter Expert procurement panels for whole of government.	Timing to be confirmed, with a staged approach being pursued.	SAACCON DTF	In progress – delayed	
2.03	Where an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) seeks new/upgraded infrastructure to facilitate culturally responsive service delivery, SA Government will support the ACCO's infrastructure requirements. • supporting ACCOs to build Procurement, Project Planning and Project Management capability through mentoring and training opportunities for ACCO staff • supporting ACCO's in mentoring and training of ACCO staff in the development of Commonwealth funding submissions	Ongoing	SAACCON DIT	In progress – on track	

	• negotiate with ACCO's on accommodation opportunities within existing SA Government buildings which are surplus to government requirements, where ACCO's have identified a need for such accommodation • explore opportunities to gift or provide long term leases on SA Government buildings that are vacant, occupied by ACCOs or under-utilised.				
2.04	ACCO infrastructure and assets needs register to be established (akin to employment register). The register will indicate identified ACCO needs. • negotiate with ACCO's on accommodation opportunities within existing SA Government buildings which are surplus to government requirements, where ACCO's have identified a need for such accommodation • explore opportunities to gift or provide long term leases on SA Government buildings that are vacant, occupied by ACCOs or under-utilised.	Ongoing	SAACCON DIT	In progress – on track	
2.05	SA Government will provide funding to SAACCON to ensure that the SA Partnership Agreement and SA Joint Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap are adequately resourced. Funding requests will primarily be made through the SA Government's standard budget processes. There may be emerging needs associated with work directly between SAACCON and individual agencies and these needs may be considered on a case-by-case basis. This arrangement does not preclude SAACCON from seeking funds outside of arrangements with SA Government.	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
2.06	Establish a two-way secondment model that supports development of the capability and capacity of both the Aboriginal community-controlled sector and SA government.	31 December 2027	SAACCON OCPSE	Complete	
2.07	Establish a sub-committee under the SA Partnership Agreement tasked with developing a: • SA Aboriginal Workforce Development Needs Analysis. • SA Aboriginal Workforce Development Action Plan.	Financial year 2026/2027	SAACCON DSD	In progress – delayed	
2.08	SA Government will support the establishment of a South Australian Aboriginal Housing Peak Body, aligned to Aboriginal governance structures in South Australia, to support capacity and growth of the Aboriginal Community Housing Sector. The Peak Body will seek membership of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Authority (NATSIHA). The peak body's purpose is to facilitate access to quality, accessible, affordable and culturally appropriate housing to help empower Aboriginal individuals, families and communities to optimise their health and wellbeing and improve their employment opportunities, access to education, connection to the community and sense of home. Initial steps to establish a Peak Body will include a formal partnership agreement between SAACCON and The Trust.	February 2026	SAACCON The Trust	Complete	

2.09	On the establishment of the Peak Body, SA Government and Peak Body will partner to establish an Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Organisation (ACHO) operating with financial independence and explore a range of community models as determined through shared local decision-making and co-design.	To be determined	SAACCON The Trust	In progress – delayed	
2.10	The Peak Body and SA Government will partner to strengthen the ongoing sustainability of a housing sector ACHO. The partnership will develop capability assessment criteria to enable the Peak Body to make decisions about the delivery of services within community housing models.	To be determined	SAACCON The Trust	In progress – delayed	
2.11	Undertake audit of houses targeted for establishing the Peak Body, including full examination of the status of the housing and associated repairs and maintenance	To be determined	SAACCON The Trust	In progress – delayed	
2.12	The South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021 – 2031 contains several commitments related to economic participation. This will explore strategic funding models for community-based training to build long-term capability and viability with the plan developed in partnership with Aboriginal Community Councils and ACCOs.	Ongoing	SAACCON The Trust DSD	In progress – delayed	
2.13	In partnership, develop a plan for sustainable growth in the ACCO sector, aligning to the whole of government policy framework and process to develop the sector and increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs.	Subject to negotiation and agreement	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
2.14	The SA Child and Family Sector investment strategy should include: • staged implementation with sufficient safeguarding to ensure stability for ACCOs and Aboriginal families and children • embed mechanisms for jurisdictional data sharing that improves data infrastructure of the ACCO sector.	Mid-late 2026, contingent on National Strategy endorsement projected mid-late 2025.	DSD DHS DCP AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
2.15	DCP to provide funding support for an Aboriginal Child and Family Policy Officer. The role will include the provision of support for the implementation of Target 12 and to enable a dedicated SAACCON representative on the establishment steering committee for the establishment of a Peak Body for Aboriginal children and families in South Australia. The role will otherwise be at the discretion of SAACCON to support their focus in the child and family support sector.	Funding for the position was for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025	SAACCON DCP	Complete	
2.16	In support of the whole of government workforce development initiatives, partners commit to sector activity: • culturally safe, trauma-informed (including intergenerational trauma) and healing focused services across all service delivery (i.e., government, NGO, mainstream and Aboriginal specific) • develop strategies to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in family support and child protection through vocational and tertiary training pathways and direct support to ACCOs to attract, develop and train staff.	Ongoing	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	

2.17	In addition, the SA Government commits to work with SAACCON and other Aboriginal partners to deliver on: • Focus area 4 - Strengthening the child and family sector workforce capability of the Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026. • Action 4 – Listening to Lived Experience of the Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023-2026.	Dependent on national progress under Safe and Supported Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Action Plan Action 4.	SAACCON DCP DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	In progress – on track	
2.18	Support and participate in the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People's Inquiry into the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. On 30 June 2022, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP) launched the inquiry.	November 2024	SAACCON DCP DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	Complete	
2.19	Implement recommendations of Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People's Inquiry into the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle as agreed in partnership with SA Government, SAACCON and Peak Body.	Subject to negotiation and agreement	SAACCON DCP DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	In progress – on track	
2.20	Support the development and establishment of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Support to develop a targeted research agenda and commission research into best practice in culturally safe child protection and family support work, including consideration of: • review of best practice • research guidelines • collaboration on the development of culturally safe tools • understanding and addressing racism • investment priorities • develop Aboriginal measures of success • Aboriginal-led evaluation • develop culturally appropriate tools including assessment tools.	Timeframe for SA's involvement with the National Centre contingent on Safe and Supported progress towards establishment, which is still in early stages.	SAACCON DCP DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	In progress – on track	
2.21	DHS to work in active partnership to align efforts and share research and evidence with the Aboriginal Child and Family Research Centre of Excellence.	December 2027	SAACCON DCP DHS Wakwakurna Kanyini	In progress – on track	

2.22	Disaggregated data and information from all agencies are to be shared with ACCO's to support decision-making. Regional data sets must provide sufficient information about regional populations and priority focus areas to allow informed decisions to address inequities for the most vulnerable families.	End 2026	SAACCON DCP DHS DTF-ODA	Complete	
2.23	SA is committed to meet Australian Government specifications of agreed definition and approach to Indigenous Data Sovereignty, and to actively work with Aboriginal partners to identify data requirements in the child and family sector at state and regional levels. The Early Intervention Research Policy Data Set (EPDS - overseen by Pathways, Evidence and Partnerships) data will identify population needs, inequity in access to services, and explore outcomes relevant to Aboriginal families and communities. Essential to these activities is the development of methods that are appropriate for assessing service models and reporting the data collected.	Subject to negotiation and agreement	SAACCON DCP DHS DTF-ODA	In progress – on track	
2.24	In partnership with SAACCON, the Peak and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, work to fully implement the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle across legislation, policy, programs, processes and practice. This will be implemented through undertaking the section 169 legislative review of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 and related policy reform with a view to supporting self-determination: • require government to take active efforts to fully implement the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle including each of the five principles to increase consistency and accountability • embed the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle as the paramount framework for decision-making for Aboriginal children and young people in care (without displacing safety) • enable delegated authority to Aboriginal organisations of certain statutory powers and functions (e.g., powers of investigation, case management, care) in relation to an Aboriginal child or young person to be delegated to an ACCO, Aboriginal person, or Aboriginal community • increase the number of registered ACCOs as per section 12 of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (consultation on placement) • ensure all services and care environments across the entirety of the child protection sector (including out of home care) are culturally safe, trauma-responsive and therapeutic • legislative reform occurs in partnership with SAACCON, providing ACCOs an opportunity to inform the amended legislation • needs to be coupled with necessary policy reform to ensure funding for ACCOs to provide intensive support to address drivers/causes of child abuse and therapeutic approaches to care.	Mid-late 2025 - commence implementation Mid-late 2027 - completion	SAACCON DCP DHS	In progress – on track	
2.25	Commitment to support Aboriginal business development in primary industries, food, wine, fisheries and aquaculture through: • PIRSA development of a SA Aboriginal Business Strategy to increase the number of Aboriginal businesses and build capacity and capability in these sectors in collaboration with SAACCON	June 2027	SAACCON PIRSA	In progress – on track	

	• Development and implementation of PIRSA's Aboriginal Procurement Strategy to support the creation of Aboriginal jobs and enable economic participation in these sectors.				
2.26	Build the capacity of ACCOs to cope with the demands of climate change and engage in activities to improve sustainability, through providing them with information and support to enable them to apply for funding for projects focussed on climate resilience, revegetation activities, and carbon farming.	Ongoing	SAACCON DEW	In progress – on track	
2.27	National Sector Strengthening Plans – Early Childhood and Development, Health, Housing and Disability. Representatives from respective agencies will represent their sector and participate in Working Groups during development of the Plans, which aim to provide a national framework for a joined-up approach to build a strong community-controlled sector	December 2026	SAACCON DfE The Trust DHS	In progress – on track	
2.28	SA Government to support Aboriginal workforce development (in ACCOs and mainstream government agencies), by way of funding and in-kind support, including: • additional funding in service contracts for provision of accredited training to Aboriginal workforce • capacity building of accredited Aboriginal training providers 2025 - 2026 OCPSE SAACCON 56 Priority Reform 2: Building the Community-Controlled Sector # Action Milestones Lead Partners • TAFE and Universities implement targets for Aboriginal graduates by discipline as a percentage of total graduates • SA Government to provide targeted financial support for pre-employment training that advances Aboriginal participants on identified career pathways • further study to gain qualifications in management (similar to previous programs which provided support for Aboriginal staff to gain a Diploma in Management or Master of Business Administration) • workplace mentoring (particularly middle management).	2027	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – delayed	
2.29	Delivering for Community - Tauondi Aboriginal College Supporting business and commercial development capability	December 2029	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track	
2.30	Responding to concerns about escalating antisocial behaviour among Aboriginal youth cohorts in Port Lincoln and Whyalla: • Port Lincoln: Currently funding Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY) Aboriginal Corporation for two Aboriginal Youth Worker positions, and West Coast Youth and Community Support (WCYCS) for a night bus service. • Whyalla: Funding committed towards similar services through Plaza Youth (youth workers and night bus service), commencing August 2024.	30 Jun 2027	DHS	In progress – on track	
2.31	DHS has been funding the Australian Red Cross since 2018 to provide backbone support to Port Adelaide Aboriginal Leadership Group - Tiraapendi Wodli, for the coordination and implementation of the Justice Reinvestment Port Adelaide Initiative. This action spans across multiple targets.	30 Jun 2027	DHS	In progress – on track	

2.32	Deliver assertive outreach and Return to Country service. This action spans across multiple targets. DHS has funded Umoona Community Council from January 2024 to January 2025 to deliver an assertive outreach and Return to Country service alongside DHS led return to country coordinated programs.	Ongoing	DHS	Complete	
2.33	Through the Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce, DHS is working in partnership the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community, service providers, and three levels of government to resolve a Port Augusta community safety and wellbeing plan, to support safety and wellbeing in the region and ensure a sustainable and culturally appropriate service response for the next four years.	Complete	DHS	Complete	

Priority Reform 3 – Transforming government organisations

Outcome	Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.
Target	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.

Actions		Timeframe	Lead Agency	Status 2025-2026	2024-2025
3.01	Identify, develop or strengthen an independent mechanism or mechanisms to support, monitor and report on the transformation of government.	Ongoing	SAACCON AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
3.02	Develop and implement a Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement co-designed with SAACCON. This will include tools and guidance for how it's used, which will detail: • policy criteria when it's applied • the process of applying a CTGPIS • guidelines for agencies and statutory authorities on best practice • guidelines on engaging SAACCON / ACCOs to support completion of CTGPIS on an ongoing basis, including: ○ guidance on development of remedies for disproportionate impacts identified through process ○ an impact assessment tool which includes Closing the Gap Targets as measures.	To be determined	DPC AGD-AAR	Not being progressed	
3.03	Embed the Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement into departmental policies and Cabinet processes, including through its addition to approval standards.	To be determined	DPC AGD-AAR	Not being progressed	
3.04	Report on the implementation of the Closing the Gap Policy Impact Statement through the Annual Report.	To be determined	DPC AGD-AAR	Not being progressed	
3.05	Identify and eliminate racism by: • Developing a whole of government anti-racism strategy, reviewed in partnership with SAACCON. • Delivering ongoing programs that improve cultural competence of agency workforce, leadership and governance acknowledging that cultural learning requires non-Aboriginal people to engage in self-reflective practice, to recognise their privileges and role in addressing ongoing systemic racism. SAACCON and OCPSE will co-design the learning programs and materials in partnership. • Monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the strategy in partnership with SAACCON.	2028	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – on track	

3.06	Embed and practice cultural safety by identifying key learnings, points of consistency and alignment, best practice, shared challenges, and opportunities across SA government. An environmental scan will include learnings from current national Closing the Gap initiatives.	Ongoing	SAACCON OCPSE AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
3.07	Develop and implement a whole of government approach to transformation that embeds cultural safety and practice in partnership with SAACCON.	Ongoing	SAACCON OCPSE AGD-AAR	In progress – on track	
3.08	The Partners will evaluate a select list of Aboriginal-specific programs to identify success factors, evidence gaps and build a culturally responsive knowledge base. The list of programs will be jointly developed and agreed. The evaluations will: • be Aboriginal led • be jointly selected by SAACCON and SA Government • incorporate measures of success which have been jointly determined by SAACCON and SA Government • establish mechanisms to measure outcomes at program and population levels with learnings available to both Partners.	2026-2027	SAACCON DPC	In progress – delayed	
3.09	Review the public sector's Work Health and Safety Framework for cultural safety in partnership with SAACCON.	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – delayed	
3.10	Review Aboriginal cultural competencies across the public sector, including measurement of a baseline that gives consideration to the level of cultural capacity required for specific roles and functions (e.g. assessment, decision-making etc)	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – delayed	
3.11	In partnership with SAACCON, review cultural awareness training programs. Learnings may be demonstrated through case study outcomes	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – delayed	
3.12	Implement whole of government cultural learning programs, which will be developed and delivered in partnership with SAACCON and will consist of multiple levels of learning. This multi-level approach acknowledges that understanding Aboriginal cultures and being culturally responsive is an individual journey, and not everyone will be at the same stage of that journey. This approach must acknowledge that cultural learning requires non-Aboriginal people to engage in self-reflective practice, to recognise their privileges and role in addressing ongoing systemic racism.	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	Not yet due to commence	
3.13	The learning programs will be delivered via multiple mediums including online face-to-face and cultural immersion elements and will be mandatory for all executive and front-line service staff, at a minimum and accessible to members of Boards and Committees.	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	Not yet due to commence	

3.14	The impact of the reviewed Work Health and Safety Framework and cultural learning programs will be evaluated in partnership with SAACCON.	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	Not yet due to commence	
3.15	Review and develop strategies to increase the representation of Aboriginal peoples in agency governance and support their development	To be determined	SAACCON OCPSE	In progress – on track	
3.16	In establishing the SA social worker registration scheme (SWRS), and in consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, embed cultural capability requirements as part of the registration and ongoing professional learning requirements.	Subject to broader SWRS timeframes.	SAACCON DCP	In progress – on track	
3.17	Work with the tertiary sector to advocate that social work graduates have obtained appropriate cultural competencies as part of their degree.	Subject to broader SWRS timeframes.	SAACCON DCP	In progress – on track	
3.18	Review outcomes from action taken to improve trauma-informed, healing focussed and strength-based service delivery for Aboriginal peoples in health, education, human services, youth and adult justice systems. The review will: • identify key learnings, points of consistency and alignment, best practice, shared challenges and opportunities across SA government. An environmental scan will include learnings from current national, Closing the Gap initiatives • determine priorities to inform future work including updates to cultural awareness and sector-specific practice training.	To be determined	SAACCON AGD-AAR OCPSE	Not yet due to commence	
3.19	Develop and implement a whole of government standard of practice in partnership with SAACCON.	To be determined	SAACCON AGD-AAR OCPSE	Not yet due to commence	
3.20	Emergency management safeguards people at risk during and following an emergency with specific consideration given to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This will be achieved through collaborative engagement, comprehensive and integrated planning to enhance coordination, information sharing and outcomes.	To be determined	SAACCON DPC	In progress – delayed	
3.21	DHS and SAACCON, will, in partnership co-design and implement an Aboriginal Youth Justice Practice Framework for South Australia.	June 2028	SAACCON DHS	In progress – delayed	
3.22	DHS and SAACCON will, in partnership co-design and implement an Aboriginal model of care in youth justice systems that supports culturally trauma informed care and rehabilitation practices through culture. The partnership will also co-design monitoring mechanisms.	June 2028	SAACCON DHS	In progress – on track	

3.23	The new whole of government State Disability Inclusion Plan will be developed in line with the requirements set out in the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) and the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Act 2024. The new State Disability Inclusion Plan will acknowledge and address Aboriginal people with disability as a legislated priority group.	Complete	SAACCON DHS	Complete	
3.24	DHS will conduct targeted consultation with SAACCON and its members during the development stages of its agency Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure the DAIP can address the overlapping barriers to access and inclusion experienced by Aboriginal people with disability, including women and children who have experienced violence.	Complete	SAACCON DHS	Complete	
3.25	In partnership DCS and SAACCON to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal prisoners leaving prison, with a particular focus on reducing the rate of recidivism. This will include (at a minimum): • development and co-design of a best practice framework for engaging ACCOs in partnership with SAACCON noting this will have to comply with SA procurement legislation and piloted by a few government agencies • receive updates of current reintegration and transitional support programs to determine the proportion of released prisoners that access these programs • consideration of all release episodes, given the overwhelming majority of prisoners will be released to bail, off court or sentence served and most likely following a period of remand.	2025	SAACCON DCS	Complete	
3.26	In partnership establish a Women's and Family Safety Partnership Committee co-chaired by SA Government and SAACCON representing relevant service divisions that will provide advice and oversee implementation of any actions undertaken that will directly affect Aboriginal women and children experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence.	Dec 2025	SAACCON DHS-OFW	Complete	
3.27	The South Australian Government committed to a Royal Commission into Family and Domestic Violence within South Australia starting July 2024. It is anticipated to be completed in June 2025 and will engage with SAACCON to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific issues are included.	August 2025	SAACCON DHS-OFW	Complete	
3.28	The Office for Women will engage with SAACCON to develop an accompanying action plan focused on responding to violence against Aboriginal women and children in SA. The development of this dedicated action plan will be a commitment within the new strategy frameworks in SA.	To be determined	SAACCON DHS-OFW	In progress – on track	
3.29	Work with the Pastoral Board and pastoral leaseholders to build awareness and understanding of Aboriginal rights and interests on pastoral leases. This has been built into the Pastoral Board's Strategic Plan 2023-2025. The plan has an action to provide pastoral leaseholders with information about Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage. Information about leaseholders' obligations regarding Native Title, Aboriginal Heritage and Aboriginal access to pastoral leases has been included in a pastoral lessee handbook, to be released in 2024.	Ongoing	SAACCON DEW	In progress – on track	

	Information on Aboriginal rights and interests will also be included in other Board policies and guidelines, such as its new Guideline on Stockproof Boundary Fencing (April 2024), and forthcoming Guideline on Changes of Land Use on Pastoral Land. Future guidelines will also include similar information where relevant. DEW also undertakes regular consultation on Aboriginal rights and interests with SA Native Title Services and First Nations of SA to ensure these are incorporated in Pastoral Board decision making				
3.30	Government agencies will support greater Aboriginal representation on government boards and ensure that boards are aligned to and actively engaged with a relevant Reconciliation Action Plan. DPC will coordinate a review of current Board appointment and management practices across government and support each portfolio to determine the most appropriate approach to achieving this action. Each portfolio will then be supported to implement the agreed changes.	Ongoing	DPC	In progress – delayed	
3.31	The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee will provide strategic across-government leadership and endorsement of workplans to address whole of government strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Aboriginal peoples, including Closing the Gap-related work. It will also create opportunities to identify and develop emerging Aboriginal leaders across the public sector. The AAEC has established four working groups to progress Shared Forward Work Plans that address four specified South Australian Government strategic priority areas for Aboriginal affairs:	2026	DCS	Complete	
3.32	All Chief Executive Council agencies will have current Reconciliation Action Plans. DPC will coordinate the implementation of a whole of government Reconciliation Action Plan.	To be determined	DPC	In progress – delayed	
3.33	The Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce established a temporary site at Edwards Park called a ‘Safer Place to Gather’ where remote visitors who are rough sleeping and often impacted by alcohol misuse and chronic health conditions can seek shelter and access support services in a safe setting. DHS also coordinates a Return to Country (RtC) program throughout South Australia that enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose primary place of residence is a remote or regional community, to return home, should they desire. A multidisciplinary DHS Remote Visitor Outreach Team (RVOT) works closely with other government agencies, including SAPOL, The Trust and local government to provide a coordinated and joined-up service approach, with daily visits to Adelaide and Port Adelaide parklands to provide assertive outreach and the Return to Country program. The Team also conducts targeted visits to individuals to address specific concerns or needs.	Ongoing	DHS	Complete	

Priority Reform 4 – Shared access to data and information at a regional level

Outcome	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.
Target	Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

Actions		Timeframe	Lead Agency	Status 2025-2026	2024-2025
4.01	Develop and implement a plan for continuous and sustained collaboration between SA Government agencies, statutory authorities and SAACCON / ACCO sector on data and information sharing. This plan will align with the outcomes and actions of the Data Development Plan endorsed by Joint Council in August 2022. Regional level data outcome is that: • regional data sets matched to data needs of local / regional Aboriginal community groups and organisations • data on Aboriginal specific programs and outcomes to support evaluation of those programs. Statewide data outcome is that: • the ACCO sectors' initial priority is to share regional data and information to support decision-making. The regional data sets should provide sufficient information about regional populations and priority focus areas to make informed decisions to address inequities (for example, for the most vulnerable families) • progress a place-based data sharing agreement to inform Aboriginal-led service design, delivery, review and community-driven evaluations. Community-driven evaluations will be designed in partnership with the community and evaluation findings provided to enable the community to design solutions.	June 2027	SAACCON DTF-ODA	In progress - delayed	
4.02	The Partnership Agreement will necessitate regular data collection and analysis to understand the impact of actions and outcomes specifically related to Aboriginal peoples and communities. Data is being collated by the Productivity Commission and both Parties will have access to this. To improve shared access to data and information to enable Aboriginal communities to make informed decisions, SAACCON, in partnership with the Office for Data Analytics, will:	December 2027	SAACCON DTF-ODA	In progress - delayed	

	• implement (and adapt if necessary) the Maiam Nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles in a South Australian context, ensuring that appropriate governance structures are developed in relation to collection, authorisation and use of data • develop mechanisms and timelines for building the capacity of SAACCON and ACCOs to independently collect and manage data, in accordance with the Maiam Nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles • progress the work of the SA Implementation Plan for Closing the Gap that relates to Priority Reform 4, including: • investigate mapping ACCO sector digital/information technology infrastructure (including hardware and software), identifying workforce capability and training needs and existing data governance and controls environment, with consideration to any relevant work that Commonwealth may be progressing and the relevant Commonwealth timeframes • investigate mechanisms and infrastructure to support data capability of the ACCO sector • develop a plan to map existing data collections and assess data needs based on agreed priority areas of government and ACCO sector.				
4.03	The Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (OFW) will share appropriate de-identified data/key themes collected through the Family Safety Portal for use in the Women's and Family Safety Partnership Committee to assist in decision-making.	Complete	SAACCON DHS-OFW	Not being progressed	
4.04	OFW will engage with SAACCON to ensure any review of the Family Safety Framework incorporates culturally responsive tools and practices	Ongoing	SAACCON DHS-OFW	In progress - on track	
4.05	OFW will explore opportunities to increase ACCO engagement under the Family Safety Framework	Ongoing	SAACCON DHS-OFW	In progress - delayed	
4.06	In consultation with SAACCON, DfE will develop and deliver or work with other relevant agencies to develop and deliver a series of workshops for SAACCON and its membership regarding what data is publicly available, and how to access and interpret the data. Workshops will cover the following topics: • skills funding • skills data • schools funding • schools data • early childhood education and care funding • early childhood education and care data • Aboriginal education program-specific data.	2027	SAACCON DfE	In progress - on track	

4.07	Following the completion of these workshops, DfE will work with SAACCON to understand SAACCON's data requirements, and any further supports required to develop the expertise of the ACCO sector to access and interpret data. Further actions will be discussed and agreed at that time.	2026	SAACCON DfE	In progress - delayed	
4.08	DfE and SAACCON to participate in Data Sub-Committee being convened by DTF-ODA	Ongoing	SAACCON DfE DTF-ODA	Not yet due to commence	
4.09	SAACCON, in partnership with AGD-AAR and DTF-ODA will identify relevant agency and ACCO representatives (who will work with Commonwealth and local government representatives if they wish), to lead community engagement required to inform potential site nominations. • Establish a process, criteria and governance arrangements for determining priorities and approving community data projects. • Nominate community data projects to Joint Council for consideration. External research organisations and institutions may be invited to participate, including universities, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. The community data project will be established by way of a localised agreement. That is, SA Government and all relevant parties will enter into a local partnership agreement, consistent with Priority Reform One, with participating Aboriginal organisations in the region. The community data project will: • enable an Aboriginal community and participating Aboriginal organisations to access and use location-specific data on the Closing the Gap outcome areas • support an Aboriginal community to analyse and use regional specific data to help drive their own • development and discussions with governments on Closing the Gap • enable an Aboriginal community and participating Aboriginal organisations to collect and access other data which they consider important.	Complete	SAACCON DTF-ODA	Complete	
4.10	The Public Sector (Data Sharing) Act 2016 provides a legal framework to share public sector data between government departments and other trusted entities in South Australia. This is a multi-stage project and will require project management resources / champions to scope and define the project parameters and develop approach and a project plan.	To be determined	SAACCON DTF-ODA	Not yet due to commence	
4.11	Data SA is SA Government's Open Data Registry and contains links to over 1,600 data sets including some local government community profiles (Port Adelaide Enfield and Onkaparinga local government areas for example). In the first instance, SA Government could support ACCOs to build capability in using and interpreting data by providing training which assists ACCOs to identify, access and use data sets already available via Data SA.	To be determined	SAACCON DTF-ODA	Not yet due to commence	

4.12	Utilise the mapping of digital/information technology infrastructure (including hardware and software), identification of specialised workforce and levels of previous investment in relevant workforce development and training by organisation, sector and location to develop an investment map for prioritisation and action by SA Government and SAACCON.	To be determined	SAACCON DTF-ODA	Not yet due to commence	
4.13	The Data Sharing Act applies the Five Safes framework to shared data proposals and determines whether they are satisfied and the parties are able to enter an approved Data Sharing Agreement. The Five Safes break down the decisions surrounding data access and use into five related but separate dimensions.	To be determined	SAACCON DTF-ODA	Not yet due to commence	
4.14	DHS has facilitated the Ceduna Data Sharing Agreement which is now signed with all agencies and the West Coast Partnership. The agreement establishes formal partnerships to share relevant data between various Government agencies and Far West Coast Partnerships, the backbone organisation coordinating community action for the Far West Coast Region. The data shared under the agreement will improve local capacity to collect, manage and interpret data to inform shared decision-making.	Ongoing	SAACCON DHS	Complete	
4.15	Establish a working group with membership from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and the State Records SA Aboriginal Reference Group to improve access to archives by developing criteria to be used when assessing applications for access to records. This working group will also review and develop how the process to access archives is communicated to the community.	End of 2026	SRSA	In progress - on track	

Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

Target	Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.
Lead Agency	Department for Health and Wellbeing

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Refresh and launch campaigns and resources to encourage Aboriginal people toward smoking cessation.	2026	Preventive Health SA	In progress - on track	
Provide grants that support the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to strengthen culture and improve wellbeing.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	Complete	
Partnering with South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) to address racism in local sports and find evidence-based solutions.	March 2026	Preventive Health SA	Complete	
Developing an evidence-driven plan focused on the determinants of social and emotional wellbeing for South Australian Aboriginal children and adolescents.	2026	Preventive Health SA	In progress - on track	
Partnership with Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia to fund the establishment and implementation of local Suicide Prevention Networks in Aboriginal communities.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	Complete	
Delivering community education and awareness of the National Cancer Screening programs, including One Stop Screening Shop.	Ongoing	Preventive Health SA	Complete	
Develop a formal partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector to co-design health and wellbeing initiatives and partnering with South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Network (SAACCON) to support the implementation of Closing the Gap in South Australia, with an embedded approach to Health in All Policies.	2025-2026	Preventive Health SA	Complete	
The draft South Australian Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2024-2030 aims to prevent and reduce the harms and risks associated with alcohol and other drugs in South Australia. It outlines progressing the Closing the Gap priorities on partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and communities, and shared access to data and information embedding Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles.	2025 Strategy (Complete), 2027 mid-term review, 2030 final evaluation	Preventive Health SA SAPOL	In progress – on track	
Developing formative research to determine a culturally appropriate campaign to prevent/reduce alcohol consumption when planning and during pregnancy, and while breastfeeding to avoid risks of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Exploring partnership opportunities with Women's and Children's Health Network, in providing a culturally safe environment, to increase the community knowledge and awareness about the harms of drinking alcohol during pregnancy, when planning a pregnancy and during breastfeeding.	Ongoing	Preventive Health SA	In progress – on track	

Outcome 2: Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong

Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%
Lead Agency	Department for Health and Wellbeing

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Undertake initial scoping to explore steps to implement (linked to a memorandum of understanding between LHNs and ACCHOs) this action includes: • birthing centres on Country or birthing at local hospitals for better mother and child outcomes.		DHS DHW	In progress – on track	
	Completed	BHFLHN	In progress – on track	
	2025-2026	EFNLHN	Complete	
	July 2027	WCHN	In progress – on track	

Outcome 3: Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

Target	By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full-time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%
Lead Agency	Department for Education

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Co-design an Aboriginal Workforce strategy with the Aboriginal Community Sector, to be launched in mid-2025.	September 2025	OECD	Complete	

Outcome 4: Aboriginal children thrive in their early years

Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%
Lead Agency	Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD)

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
In partnership with Aboriginal leadership, local Aboriginal communities, the community-controlled sector and Aboriginal peak bodies, co-design initiatives to retain and increase the benefits of 3-year-old preschool for Aboriginal children, for rollout from 2026.		OECD	Complete	

Outcome 5: Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential

Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%
Lead Agency	Department for Education

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Continue to implement the Aboriginal Education Strategy, through which the Aboriginal education community and DfE have set a vision that each Aboriginal child and young person is a proud and confident learner, achieving at their highest potential. Three goals underpin this vision: • Aboriginal children establish foundations for success in the early years • Aboriginal children and young people excel at school • Aboriginal young people are on pathways to success.	2029 (Strategy is 2019-2029)	DfE	In progress – on track	
Learner Support Services assists students facing complex barriers to successfully complete their training and transition post school to further study or employment; and embeds structured mentoring and cultural diversity awareness training in funded activities. DSD invests in Learner Support Services for Vocational Education and Training (VET) student who need support, over and above what their registered training organisation (RTO) is	Ongoing	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track	

expected to provide, to stay in and succeed in their training and in the transition to further training or employment. Specialist services are available to Aboriginal students.				

Outcome 6: Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways

Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%
Lead Agency	Department of State Development (Skills SA)

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Skills SA are working with SAACCON to develop an Aboriginal Adult Education and Training Strategy in partnership with Aboriginal communities including consideration of the following elements: • supporting training pathways for all Aboriginal learners including VET in schools, and adult learners seeking to build, deepen or broaden their skills • delivery at all levels including pre-vocational community learning, foundation skills and certificate courses at all levels • culturally appropriate supports for Aboriginal learners, recognising Aboriginal cultural leadership • building capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled RTOs • building capability of RTOs to support Aboriginal learners • targeted support for students to improve retention. The strategy will consider social, community and economic outcomes for Aboriginal learners and community, noting that skills contribute to workforce development across a variety of Closing the Gap priority areas. To develop the Strategy, Skills SA and SAACCON will work together to: • establish shared governance for developing and delivering the strategy • undertake desktop research to identify needs and inform discussions • identify key stakeholders • facilitate community engagement • identify shared priorities, goals and outcomes	To be determined	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress - delayed	

• identify and establish course delivery partnerships • consider a range of funding arrangements to provide stability of Aboriginal RTOs to deliver courses • identify short-, medium- and long-term actions • prioritise actions and opportunities to align these to existing and planned activities supporting adult education and training.				
The Office of the Industry Advocate (OIA), with assistance from DTF, will seek approval to establish links to its SA Aboriginal Business Checklist for State and Local Government Procurement on agency websites to increase awareness of available services.	N/A	DTF-OIA	Complete	
OIA and SAACCON will review and identify any unaddressed factors that impact the growth and participation of Aboriginal businesses based on the outcomes of increasing the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs and consider mechanisms for addressing these.[9]	2027	DTF-OIA DPC (The Circle) SAACCON	In progress - delayed	
DTF, OIA, DSD, The Circle (DPC) and SAACCON to draft plan for preparing a broader Economic Participation Strategy for Aboriginal people and businesses that would bring together the pieces of work being undertaken across agencies and be a central repository of links to different services offered. This plan should draw on work being undertaken to increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs.[10]	2027	DTF-OIA DPC (The Circle) SAACCON	In progress - delayed	

[9] Action led by OIA aligns with Outcome 8 in support of Aboriginal Economic Development.

[10] Action led by OIA aligns with Outcome 8 in support of Aboriginal Economic Development.

Outcome 7: Aboriginal youth aged 15–24 is engaged in employment or education	
Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15-24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%
Lead Agency	Department of State Development (Skills SA)

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
The South Australian Government invests heavily in supporting apprentices and trainees including Aboriginal South Australians. Skills SA has a range of existing and new initiatives that offer flexible skills and training approaches that are Government-funded and co-designed with business and industry to support apprenticeship and traineeship growth. The South Australian Group Training Program provides funding based on training contract commencements and completions in the current financial year. Aboriginal learners are a 'targeted group', eligible for double the standard payment rate per commencement/completion. The Program was available in 2023-2024 and will continue to be available in 2024-2025.	Ongoing	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track	
The Fee Free TAFE Tranche 2 for First Nations learners commenced in 2024 and will continue for three years (to December 2026), offering 1,500 fee free training places for delivery by non-government training providers to Aboriginal students in South Australia. These places are supported by $4.8m of funding by the Australian and South Australian Governments and they are additional to fee free places being offered to Aboriginal students by TAFE SA.	31/12/26	DSD (Skills SA)	In progress – on track	

Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities	
Target	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 who are employed to 62%
Lead Agency	Department of State Development (Skills SA)

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
An Aboriginal Arts Strategy will be developed as an area of focus in the development of the government's Arts Plan, to grow South Australia's leadership in arts and cultural development and expression and build pathways to sustainable careers.	Ongoing	DPC	Complete	
With the aim of continuing facilitate improved access to employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal people, the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) supports the Aboriginal Economic Participation Policy (embedded in the South Australian Industry Participation policy). DEM will work closely with the Department for Innovation and Skills Procurement Team to increase the number and diversity of Aboriginal-owned businesses in winning procurement contracts for infrastructure projects with the department. Incorporated within DEM's procurement policy and procedures, the Aboriginal Economic Participation Policy aims to promote and stimulate the use of registered Aboriginal businesses throughout the department, particularly for contracts under $220k where purchasing officers can utilise direct negotiation with a prequalified Aboriginal business.	Ongoing	DEM	Complete	
In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, negotiate with the landowners (APY) a rehabilitation plan for the former Mintabie township in South Australia's Far North, and oversee the implementation of the agreed plan.	July 2027	DEM	In progress - on track	
Review of Government Building and Civil Construction industry capacity to stretch targets for relevant contracts. Deliverables include: • Traditional Owner participation and project partnerships • Traditional Owner and other Aboriginal cultural expression in urban design • labour hours for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees and apprentices • spend on sub-contracts with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses • improve employment opportunities in Government Building and Civil Construction industry	Ongoing	DIT	In progress - on track	

• deliver greater transparency and reporting on targets and Aboriginal employment/procurement outcomes.				
Working Group of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – with a vision to make the South Australian Government a culturally-safe employer of choice for Aboriginal South Australians and provide greater procurement outcomes for Aboriginal-owned businesses.	N/A	DHS	Not being progressed	
An initiative to Incorporate carbon-based income streams into North West Indigenous Pastoral Project Indigenous pastoral operations. Deliverables include: • introduce carbon farming sequestration activity on Aboriginal-held pastoral operations where appropriate and viable • improved fiscal viability of Aboriginal-held pastoral operations • establish carbon-based funding streams to enable ongoing pastoral development (infrastructure) on Aboriginal-held pastoral lands.	To be determined	PIRSA	In progress - delayed	
The Aboriginal Art and Cultures Centre (AACC) to be built at Lot Fourteen will be a global tourism attraction that showcases the past, present and future of Aboriginal cultures, while supporting contemporary visual, performing and multimedia arts and events. Construction of the AACC is scheduled to commence in late 2021, and the centre is due to open to the public in 2025. In 2021, the project will focus on: • co-design of the facility in partnership with the AACC Aboriginal Reference Group • implement the AACC Stakeholder Engagement Action plan, ensuring ongoing involvement of key stakeholders in the project development and delivery • develop and implement an Aboriginal Economic Participation Strategy, which will define and articulate opportunities across all AACC project phases including project development, design and construction delivery, and future operation of the AACC.	To be determined	DPC	In progress- delayed	
The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub has been established to assist the South Australian Aboriginal business sector with support to build their businesses through increased connections, capacity, capability and confidence. The initiative will focus on five key areas: • case management – Streamlined access to existing support and services through individual case management, referral and connection to the Aboriginal Entrepreneur Hub community. • access to new markets – Facilitating connections and building business to business relationships in a culturally safe and appropriate way • expert business advice	June 2026	DPC	In progress - on track	

• capability growth – networking opportunities • access to the physical Entrepreneur Hub.				
SAPOL are working to increase Aboriginal Employment in the South Australia Police Workforce. A landing page for First Nations employment has been approved for new recruitment, and First Nations specific recruitment material representing First Nations people in police, PSO, CC and ASO careers to attract First Nations applicants have also been developed. A review of the Community Constable Foundational Program is currently in the investigation stage. It will include attraction, recruitment, development, support and backgrounds, educational experiences and foundational skills of potential applicants and incorporate culturally responsive delivery and assessment methodology. SAPOL has also committed to a marketing strategy for Community Constables as well as a broader strategy for First Nations employees.	June 2026	SAPOL	In progress - on track	
The Screening Unit will implement measures to make the assessment process more accessible to Aboriginal applicants and to ensure that these applicants have culturally appropriate information and support to respond to requests for information, including: • Developing a tailored information sheet for Aboriginal applicants to ensure that the information is clear and relevant and include a pro-forma to offer Aboriginal applicants the option of consenting to a support person contacting the Screening Unit on their behalf. • Facilitating option for Aboriginal applicants to give a verbal submission. • Engaging an Aboriginal Liaison Officer (or utilising an existing Aboriginal Liaison Officer from within DHS). • Engaging the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement or other free	30 Jun 2027	DHS	In progress - on track	
Dedicated financial support pathways are available for Aboriginal peoples to become qualified in early childhood education and care.	Dedicated financial supports are available from mid-2024 until 2027	OECD	Complete	

Outcome 9: Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing aligned with their priorities and need	
Target 9a	By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%
Target 9b	By 2031, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households: i. within discrete Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard in or near to a town receive essential services that meet or exceed the same standard as applies generally within the town (including if the household might be classified for other purposes as a part of a discrete settlement such as a 'town camp' or 'town-based reserve'.
Lead Agency	South Australian Housing Trust

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Review existing actions under Pillar 4 of the AHS to work in culturally responsive services (with a view of being an ACCO led service delivery model). This action will be undertaken in Partnership with SAACCON.	Ongoing	The Trust DHS	In progress - on track	
Improve / increase referral pathways and specialist supported infrastructure e.g., crisis accommodation and supported accommodation for people who require these services.	Ongoing	The Trust DHS	In progress - on track	
Collate existing data and research and partner with SAHMRI on Environmental Health Impacts to inform Community Infrastructure needs to facilitate conversations with Aboriginal Communities for Healthy Housing outcomes.	Ongoing	The Trust DHW	In progress - on track	
Review and consolidate the Return to Country to be Aboriginal Community Controlled, led and delivered to ensure consistency.	Ongoing	The Trust DHS	Complete	
Improved integration and coordination of assertive outreach, culturally responsive support within Housing and Homelessness services.	Ongoing	The Trust DHS	In progress - on track	
The Remote Area Energy Supply (RAES) provides electricity to the Aboriginal communities on the APY lands, Oak Valley and Yalata. The service consists of generation operations and maintenance, distribution maintenance, meter reading and retail. These services are provided by a single contractor Cowell Electric Supply – contract conditions include: • percentage of annual profits as contribution to Yalari Limited - Educating Indigenous Children	Ongoing	DEM	Complete	

• partnership Alliances and Agreements with Aboriginal businesses for the purpose of identifying Aboriginal employment and other economic opportunities arising from the program • utilises services from Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporations (RASAC) and Furnell Plumbing services on APY Lands • Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc.: Generation operations and meter reading contract with Cowell Electric for Oak Valley community • Yalata Anangu Aboriginal Corporation (YAAC): Generation operations and meter reading contract with Cowell Electric for Yalata community • cultural competency and awareness training for Cowell Electric personnel and subcontractors.				
Develop a standard for a basic level of safe and reliable potable water for self-supplied remote communities, including Aboriginal communities. Undertake groundwater assessments to inform water security planning for self-supplied remote communities at high risk of water insecurity. Identify and progress water infrastructure projects to improve water security for high-risk self-supplied remote communities.	December 2029	DEW	In progress – delayed	
Developed in consultation with clients and their guardians, delivery of a culturally appropriate service model for Aboriginal people receiving care and support through the Department for Human Services' Disability Accommodation Service.	Dec 2027	DHS	In progress on track	
Develop a Strategic Implementation Plan to embed and progress Closing the Gap activity across the agency. The Strategic Implementation Plan aims to ensure the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is embedded agency wide into business as usual.		The Trust	Complete	

Outcome 10: Aboriginal adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system				
Target 10	By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15%			
Lead Agency	Department for Correctional Services			
Actions	**Timeframe**	**Lead Partners**	**Status 2025-2026**	**2024- 2025**
The Aboriginal Strategic Framework aims to encompass the needs of prisoners, offenders, staff and community. It provides a culturally informed and tailored approach to address the needs of Aboriginal prisoners and offenders and ensures that DCS programs, policies and supports are culturally safe. The Framework was informed through consultation with prisoners, staff and the community and outlines three components to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people: • ensure access to programs and services that are responsive to the unique cultural and gendered need of Aboriginal prisoners • build a culturally competent and responsive workforce • increase Aboriginal economic participation and strengthen partnerships with organisations, businesses and Aboriginal communities.	The ASF 2022-2023 completed and will soon be endorsed. ASF 2024- 2025 Action Plan to be endorsed.	DCS	Complete	
Over-representation of Aboriginal South Australians in the Criminal Justice Sector Working Group (Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee). A Working Group of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – with a vision to reduce the rate of incarceration and reoffending of Aboriginal South Australians through the delivery of more culturally appropriate and joined-up programs and services. The Department is committed to reducing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent by 2031.	Ongoing	DCS	Complete	
Improve access to culturally appropriate alcohol and other drug support for Aboriginal prisoners by formalising partnerships with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group and Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council SA.	2028	DCS	Complete	
Develop the South Australian Road Safety Strategy to include a section that is specific for Aboriginal people. The areas of attention will include research, community engagement and collaboration to address the over representation of Aboriginal road users in road trauma as well as incarceration due to road traffic offences.	2025	DIT	Complete	

Outcome 11: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system	
Target 11	By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30%
Lead Agency	Department of Human Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Youth Justice Services Forum with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.	Complete	DHS	Complete	
The Aboriginal Cultural Community of Practice now incorporates the Cultural Champions Network and has a broader range and scope. It is led by senior Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff. Membership is voluntary and driven by staff dedicated to improving cultural competency, safety and practice across DHS Youth Justice.	Ongoing	DHS	Complete	
Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisors and Consultants provide advice and support to staff working with Aboriginal young people across Community Youth Justice and Kurlana Tapa. There is also an emphasis on family mapping and scoping in collaboration with a young person and/or their families to identify young people's kinship networks and important community members. Key projects to further this action include the Aboriginal Youth Pathways to Employment Pilot Project with RAW Group (Aboriginal owned and managed Australian company), engagement with Aboriginal Cultural Consultants, in partnership with Metropolitan Aboriginal Youth and Family Services (MAYFS), and use of the Genopro Program to assist with Family, Kinship and Community mapping. In Kurlana Tapa in 2023 two operational Aboriginal Cultural Support Worker roles were created and these were implemented in 2024. This teams strives to action the objectives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Principal by providing operational and cultural support and advocacy to Aboriginal young people admitted to Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre. The Therapeutic Services teams based in Kurlana Tapa are culturally informed in their work and liaise closely with the Senior Aboriginal Cultural Advisor when conducting therapeutic work with young people.	June 2026	DHS	Complete	

Outcome 12: Aboriginal children are not overrepresented in the child protection system	
Target 12	By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%
Lead Agencies	Department for Child Protection and Department of Human Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
South Australian Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People – Design. In 2022, a Development of options for a South Australian Aboriginal Children and Families Peak Body: Final Report, was provided to government which included a clear plan for establishment, through a community designed model.	SA Government invested $3.2 million to establish	DCP	Complete	
South Australian Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People – Implementation.	Wakwakurna Kayani, was established in July 2024 and commenced operations on 30 September 2024	DCP	Complete	
Strategy to Reduce the Over-representation of Aboriginal Children and Young People. Implementation of the SA Jurisdictional plan for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children will be subject of negotiation and agreement.	Ongoing	DCP, DHS and multiple agencies	In progress – on track	

Outcome 13: Aboriginal families and households are safe

Target 13	By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50 per cent, as progress toward zero.
Lead Agency	Department of Human Services

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Continue work to improve the current service delivery model for the Independent Children's Lawyer involving Aboriginal children in litigation arising in the Adelaide registry of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia.	2026-2027	ALRM	In progress - delayed	
Building Capacity in Vulnerable Families Working Group (Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee).	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	In progress - delayed	
The Ceduna Services Collaboration supports: • safe, healthy and supportive family and community environments • positive child development and prevention of family violence and self-harm • positive engagement, active participation and achievement by individuals, families and communities, including with education. Now adopted as business as usual.	Ongoing	DHS	Complete	
A new whole of government State Disability Inclusion Plan will be developed in line with the requirements set out in the Disability Inclusion Act 2018 (SA) and the Disability Inclusion (Review Recommendations) Amendment Act 2024. The new State Disability Inclusion Plan will acknowledge and address Aboriginal people with disability as a legislated priority group.	Complete	DHS	Complete	
DHS will conduct targeted consultation with SAACCON and its members during the development stages of its agency Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) to ensure the DAIP can address the overlapping barriers to access and inclusion experienced by Aboriginal people with disability, including women and children who have experienced violence.	Complete	DHS	Complete	

Outcome 14: Aboriginal people enjoying high levels of social and emotional wellbeing				
Target 14	Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.			
Lead Agency	Department for Health and Wellbeing			
Actions	**Timeframe**	**Lead Partners**	**Status 2025-2026**	**2024- 2025**
DEW will work with First Nations groups and other partners to co-design a repatriation policy for repatriation of old people (ancestral remains and materials) to Country on National Parks and Crown land. Key deliverables include: • Develop a repatriation policy and work with First Nations groups on the policy and its procedures, which also contributes to a proposed SA Government Repatriation Plan. • First Nations groups provide input into the draft policy and/or procedure and are involved in subsequent consultation processes and evaluation, including ensuring that sites of cultural significance along with cultural knowledge and interests are appropriately considered and respected throughout the process.	2025	DEW	Complete	
Establish and sustain Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Networks - aligned with current and new suicide prevention networks across South Australia.	2025-2026	DHW – OCP	Complete	
DHS currently funds two ACCOs to deliver Aboriginal Gambling Help Services in a number of locations across South Australia from the Gambler's Rehabilitation Fund (GRF). Following legislative reform governing the GRF for the first time in almost 30 years, the administrative body responsible for the GRF, the Office for Problem Gambling, has been undertaking a rigorous consultation exercise to inform a future investment framework in line with the new legislation. This has involved ACCOs, Aboriginal people, communities and those impacted by gambling harm co-designing future interventions to ensure the future model of gambling harm support for Aboriginal people is designed by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people. As and when Aboriginal Gambling Help services are re-commissioned, a portion of funds will be dedicated to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Additionally, in mainstream tenders, providers will be required to demonstrate their capacity to work with Aboriginal clients, their families and communities.	Ongoing	DHS	Complete	
Engage and establish a new Aboriginal Coordinating Partner service to strengthen the program's cultural responsiveness, commission new Aboriginal Community Partner (ACP) services to strengthen Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing, and commission an evaluation of ACP services to be designed and delivered in partnership with ACP service providers.	Ongoing	DHS	In progress - on track	

The Services to Aboriginal Youth Program currently funds the following Aboriginal community-controlled organisations: • Aboriginal Family Support Services. • Ceduna Aboriginal Council. • Point Pearce Aboriginal Corporation. • Koonibba Aboriginal Corporation. • Raukkan Community Council. • Yalata Community Council.	30 June 2027	DHS	In progress - on track	
Through the SA Anti Racism Strategy Preventive Health SA will develop the Race Equity Appraisal Tool to support government agencies to identify and address institutionalised racism.	December 2026	Preventive Health	In progress - delayed	

Outcome 15: Aboriginal people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their lands and waters

Target 15a	Land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests
Target 15b	Sea mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests
Lead Agency	Department for Environment and Water

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Flinders Ranges World Heritage Nomination – obtain free and prior informed consent from Adnyamathanha to Flinders Ranges World Heritage.	Ongoing	DEW	In progress – on track	
National Water Reform Committee – Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests.	Ongoing	DEW	In progress – on track	
Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB) is an approximately $70 million program, which will contribute to managing the Coorong for long-term ecological health. HCHB will be implemented by the South Australian Government (delivered by DEW WIO). The current phase of the program is focussed on the delivery of wetland improvements are Teringie, Tolderol and Lake Hawdon North.	Ongoing	DEW	In progress – on track	
Efforts will continue on an ongoing basis to embed Aboriginal engagement in water planning and management processes and to incorporate Aboriginal values and interests within water allocation plans as they are reviewed and amended.	Ongoing	DEW	In progress – on track	

Outcome 16: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

Target	By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.
Lead Agency	Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Actions	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Establish a new Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service (ALIS) within the Interpreting and Translating Centre in DHS to: • support improved access and delivery of critical services to Aboriginal people with limited or no English • strengthen fair representation within the justice systems • enable direct participation in forums on matters that directly impact their lives. The ALIS service delivery model is being co-designed with key stakeholders including government service agencies, Aboriginal language speakers, communities and organisations. A key target for the ALIS is the expansion of the number of trained and experienced interpreters of Aboriginal languages. DHS is working with TAFESA, Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, and Aboriginal community organisations to support Aboriginal Language speakers to undertake training, gain qualifications and be employed as interpreters in the ALIS.	Complete	DHS	Complete	

Outcome 17: Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

Target	By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.
Lead Agency	Department of Treasury and Finance

Action	Timeframe	Lead Partners	Status 2025-2026	2024- 2025
Improve Aboriginal peoples' access to archives in State Records SA's custody, including developing a training program for Aboriginal community researchers.	2026-27	SRSA	Not yet due to commence	


Government
of South Australia
SAACCON
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL
COMMUNITY CONTROLLED
ORGANISATION NETWORK
CLOSING THE GAP