

# Closing the Gap

## Appendix G: Full list of 2026 Implementation Plan Commitments



Australian Government



CLOSING THE GAP

## Priority Reform One

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Progress the establishment of the First Nations Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Skills Policy Partnership	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>30 April 2026</b>
Progress implementation of 3 multi-year partnership agreements through the First Nations Environmental Water Partnerships Pilot Program to ensure that the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) is working more closely with First Nations people in the Murray-Darling Basin on environmental water management and decision-making. This aligns with the CEWH's obligations under the <i>Water Act 2007</i> and <i>Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2012</i> to consider the values and interests of First Nations people when managing Commonwealth environmental water	Minister for the Environment and Water	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Legal Assistance Sector to progress development of the National Access to Justice Partnership Closing the Gap Schedule through the Closing the Gap Engagement Forum. The Schedule will support progress towards the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reforms, and relevant targets and outcomes (particularly 10, 11, 12 and 13).	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Implement a Closing the Gap Place-Based Partnerships Community of Practice to establish a joined-up approach between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continue to support the First Nations Visitor Economy Partnership, which is comprised of First Nations tourism representatives from across Australia	Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide \$6 million over two years from 2026–27 to support the continuation of the Closing the Gap Housing Policy Partnership (HPP) and support delivery of the HPP work plan	Minister for Housing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide \$5.3 million over 2 years to continue the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Policy Partnership	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Finalise Place-Based Partnership Agreements in East Kimberley, WA and the Western Suburbs of Adelaide, SA	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continue to deliver the Strengthening Families and Communities Partnership in Central Australia in the NT	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Two

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Finalise the Sector Capability Analysis and Government Support Mapping projects to inform options to strengthen the Aboriginal Community-Controlled and First Nations Owned/Led Registered Training Organisation sectors	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work with states and First Languages Australia to deliver the Languages Sector Strengthening Plan to ensure actions are aligned to the needs of First Nations communities	Minister for the Arts	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the transition of 15 Australian Family Partnership Program (AFPP) sites from the AFPP to their own First Nations-led maternal and child health programs	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Develop a First Nations Disability Market and Sector Development Strategy	Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Finalise the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sector Strengthening Plan, developed in partnership with First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work with states and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) to deliver the Justice Sector Strengthening Plan, led by NATSILS, to better resource Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations within the justice sector	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Collaborate with the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership to drive progress on strengthening and growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce, and ACCO child protection and family support workforce	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Conduct a review of disability and carers programs to assess suitability for transition to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in the disability sector	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Develop a First Nations Aged Care Workforce Action Plan	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Deliver National Skills Agreement Closing the Gap Policy initiative Bilateral Implementation Plans	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Two

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Work with peak bodies and key stakeholders to build capacity within the community-controlled disability sector and foster shared decision-making to improve wellbeing outcomes for First Nations people with disability, consistent with the Disability Sector Strengthening Plan	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop Commonwealth implementation plan for the National Child and Family Investment Strategy	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Enhance First Nations-led maternal model of care to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Enable the establishment of a First Nations VET peak(s) or alternative arrangement – Indigenous Centre of Vocational Excellence (ICOVE)	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>30 April 2026</b>
Launch the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Peak Body to address Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 March 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Three

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Enhance diversity and inclusion, particularly opportunities for First Nations people within their industry sectors through the Jobs and Skills Councils	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Implement the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Framework for Embedding First Nations People Engagement to business as usual	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence implementation of the Joint Council response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led Independent Review of Closing the Gap	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Three

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Deliver simplified and culturally appropriate information on applying for grants to improve accessibility, clarity, and relevance of grant information for First Nations organisations to ensure they can more easily navigate and engage with grant processes, fostering greater participation and outcomes	Minister for Social Services	<b>1 July 2026</b>
Lead implementation of a national approach to working with and supporting First Nations people before, during and after disasters to enable more inclusive, culturally safe emergency management systems	Minister for Emergency Management	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Co-develop an Australian Public Service (APS) Priority Reforms Strategy with the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Bodies and Australian Public Service Commission	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Embed service delivery improvements to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) National Contact Centre	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 September 2026</b>
Develop and commence implementation of the NDIA cultural safety change initiative including cultural safety training for all staff	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Develop the NDIA cultural safety change initiative monitoring and evaluation framework and strategy	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Embed First Nations governance, representation and co-design frameworks and tools in the NDIA	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop an approach to embed quality and cultural safety for First Nations people in all National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) providers	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 March 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Three

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Develop a NDIA First Nations Workforce Strategy to establish the NDIA as a culturally safe employer of choice for First Nations people, with a focus on skills development, retention and increasing numbers of First Nations employees to better support First Nations Participants with disability	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Deliver a NDIS First Nations Engagement Strategy with principles and practice guidelines inclusive of First Nations approaches co-design framework and toolkit	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 July 2026</b>
Establish NDIS First Nations Innovation Circle to design and test First Nations-led innovation and cultural safety	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Digital government services designed and delivered with due consideration for the needs of communities at risk of digital exclusion, including First Nations people	Minister for Finance	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continuation of the Murra Program, a pilot initiative designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students, providing meaningful career development and pathway opportunities with the APS.	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Four

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Progress the development of Target 16 data in line with Languages Policy Partnership priorities	Minister for the Arts	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver and support the work program, deliberations and decisions of the Data Policy Partnership to enable a joined-up approach to data policies relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a focus on progressing Priority Reform Four of the National Agreement.	Assistant Minister for Productivity, Competition, Charities and Treasury	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Priority Reform Four

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Engage First Nations expertise and knowledge to develop the First Nations Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, informed by Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles, for activities delivered under the NDIS First Nations Strategy Implementation Plan	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work in partnership with First Nations stakeholders, Commonwealth agencies, the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and state and territory governments to ensure data governance and data sovereignty is appropriately maintained	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide support to all parties to reach a Partnership Agreement for the Blacktown Community Data project	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work with Queensland Commonwealth Heads of Agency forum to provide the Doomadgee community governance structure with access to data aligned with their priority areas	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support SAACCON to undertake the Data Ecosystem Mapping project in South Australia	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide practical guidance material for APS agencies to develop culturally appropriate data request forms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations under the Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide practical guidance for APS agencies to implement CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility and Ethics) principles for governance of Indigenous data to be people and purpose-oriented reflecting the crucial role of data in advancing Indigenous innovation and self-determination under the Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Lead the development of appropriate data indicators for Target 9b	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Continue 10 Birthing on Country services in rural, remote and very remote regions	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Invest \$16.5 million over 2 years to address the rising rates of congenital syphilis to reduce preventable infant deaths in vulnerable communities	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence capital work projects to support First Nations health under the First Nations Health Infrastructure and CTG Major Capital Works Program	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Expand culturally safe crisis support through 13YARN	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Implement the inaugural Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Schedule to the National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA) Addendum	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence implementation of the <i>Fourth National Hepatitis B Strategy 2025-2030</i> and <i>Sixth National Hepatitis C Strategy 2025-2030</i>	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Increase the number of First Nations people undertaking an annual preventative health assessment (MBS Item 715)	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Open up to 8 dialysis units in very remote First Nations communities to improve the health of First Nations people with kidney failure	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021-2031 (Workforce Plan) Working Group to develop a Data and Monitoring Framework for the Workforce Plan	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Fund the First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program - up to 500 Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practice trained in Primary Health Care and Practice	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support suicide prevention to ensure First Nations people can access lifesaving services through the Culture Care Connect Program	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Increase the First Nations psychology workforce through scholarships and support for up to 150 First Nations psychology students	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Secure endorsement of, and implement the National Strategy for Food Security in Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the expansion of the Nutrition Workforce up to 106 positions over the next 2 years in remote First Nations communities.	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Build on the success of the Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme and the National Code of Practice to continue delivering cost of living and food security outcomes and support to remote stores in remote First Nations communities.	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver the Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeship Program to build the capacity and skills of the healthcare workforce at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Design a First Nations engagement mechanism in Health Genomics to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are appropriately captured to inform the implementation of culturally safe and responsive approaches to health genomics	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver First Nations Vaccine Uptake Support grant, to increase antenatal, childhood and adult vaccination uptake for First Nations people attending Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Deliver a nationally expanded Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program to reduce rates of smoking and vaping among First Nations people by reducing tobacco use through delivering a locally tailored mix of smoking and vaping prevention activities	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the development of post-elimination strategies to ensure sustainable and effective measures are in place to prevent trachoma resurgence, including transition to the sector, where appropriate	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Delivery of the evaluation and research project for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Salary Support Program and First Nations GP Training research project	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish a First Nations GP Training Committee to develop a sustainable, culturally safe First Nations GP workforce pipeline, supported by strategic planning, targeted promotion, and robust evaluation	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Provide 100 new medical places and demand-driven Commonwealth Supported Places for First Nations students	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver a 5-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety and Cultural Education Strategy for GP Training	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Finalise development of the National Approach to Implementation for the National Review of First Nations Health Care in Prisons	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>1 July 2026</b>
Commence engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders on the refresh of the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>1 July 2026</b>
Finalise the implementation plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>1 July 2026</b>
Support key components of the Gayaa Dhuwi Declaration Framework and Implementation Plan	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence review of guidance to Primary Health Networks on working with and improving culturally safe mental health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support culturally appropriate social and emotional wellbeing and prevention programs within the Northern Territory	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Extend the Deadly Choices Program to support the uptake of First Nations Australians' health assessments	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support cultural safety across mental health services with appropriate referral pathways	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continue delivery of Quality Assurance for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services Program and commence its transition to the community-controlled health sector, ensuring equitable and timely access to diabetes related tests in remote areas	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Improve access to culturally appropriate health care services and coordinating care across providers to improve life expectancy in Qld	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Health and Wellbeing (Targets 1, 2 and 14)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Support on the ground culturally safe health and wellbeing services for children and their families in First Nations communities	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support early detection of and intervention for neurodevelopmental disorders under the Better, Safer Future for Central Australia Plan	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Expand the Goanna Academy to design, deliver, evaluate and improve prevention and early-intervention programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and community mental health outcomes	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Enable professional indemnity insurance for eligible entities, legislating formal coverage of homebirths and intrapartum care outside a hospital setting, including Birthing on Country models of care	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Remove the 152-store cap under the Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme, bringing the total number of eligible stores able to access 30 essential items made cheaper by the Scheme to 225.	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence implementation of the point-of-care for Human Papillomavirus Cervical Screening Testing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Ongoing co-design of the National Lung Cancer Screening Program (commenced on 1 July 2025) with First Nations peaks and through First Nations communities to ensure the implementation of a culturally safe and appropriate screening programs on Country	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Invest \$19.2 million to detect, treat and prevent rheumatic heart disease in high-risk communities	Minister for Health and Ageing	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Establish the first 2 of up to 7 Remote Training Hubs in Central Australian communities to further enhance the reach and flexibility of on Country learning	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the delivery of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Registered Training Organisations Community of Practice	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence TAFE Technology Fund, Mobile TAFE, \$31 million to deliver up to 12 new Mobile TAFE Projects across outer regional and remote Australia that have been developed in partnership with local First Nations communities	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Open an additional 2 Community Child Care Fund Restricted Expansion Program services in remote and very remote areas (building on the 2025 commitment of opening 3 new ECEC services)	Minister for Early Childhood Education	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commit funding to establish new ECEC services through the \$1 billion Building Early Education Fund to increase the capacity of existing ECEC services and support priority cohorts, including First Nations children and ACCOs	Minister for Early Childhood Education	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Implement the 3 Day Guarantee to ensure all CCS-eligible families caring for a First Nations child receive 100 hours of subsidised early childhood education and care per fortnight, regardless of activity levels	Minister for Early Childhood Education	<b>5 January 2026</b>
Finalise the development of the First Nations Education Policy in partnership with First Nations stakeholders, state and territory governments, and the non-government sector, and seek its endorsement at Education Ministers' Meeting	Minister for Education	<b>31 July 2026</b>
Finalise the new preschool focused, early childhood attendance target	Minister for Early Childhood Education	<b>31 July 2026</b>
Seek Education Minister support for the First Nations Teacher Strategy with phased implementation to follow	Minister for Education	<b>1 July 2026</b>
Appointment of a statutory First Nations Commissioner within the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) to recognise the central role that First Nations people play within the higher education sector and ensure that First Nations perspectives are at the heart of ATEC's work	Minister for Education	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Education and Early Years Development (Targets 3, 4, 5 and 6)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Expand Junior Rangers to support First Nations primary and secondary students	Minister for Indigenous Australians	31 December 2026
Support First Nations people to become educators through a one-off grant round to fund Good to Great Schools Australia to partner with a higher education provider/s to develop accredited teaching credentials, with the aim to strengthen career pathways in regional, rural and remote communities and support First Nations participation	Minister for Education	31 December 2026
Continue the SNAICC National Voice for our Children's Early Years Support Program to ensure continued support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations delivering integrated early years services	Minister for Early Childhood Education	31 December 2026
Commence implementation of Needs-based Funding	Minister for Education	31 December 2026

## Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Progress work on mandatory member service standards for the superannuation industry to improve the experience of First Nations people interacting with the superannuation system	Assistant Treasurer	31 December 2026
Implementation of Work Foundations supporting up to 1,000 individuals to access paid work placements including for First Nations people	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	31 December 2026
Implement Phase 1 of the Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program in 16 locations across states and territories	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	30 June 2026
Implement Phase 2 of the REAL Program, extending the program to additional correctional facilities across Australia	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	31 December 2026

## Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Implement the REAL Innovation Fund to support small-scale, trauma-informed, community-led, innovative projects to address systemic barriers and promote long-term economic participation for First Nations individuals who have had contact with the justice system	Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Undertake round 3 of the Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program to increase the number of job opportunities available to remote job seekers beyond the initial target of 3,000 jobs	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support approximately 40,000 remote job seekers through the Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES) to ensure they have the skills, ongoing mentoring and training they need to take up job opportunities	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Developing the capability of Indigenous Skills and Employment Program providers through building on the project monitoring plan program to enhance provider monitoring capability	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Co-design employment initiatives with Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations under the Outcomes Fund	Minister for Social Services	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Continue to support First Nations businesses to realise international investment and trade opportunities by facilitating business to business links in key markets	Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence culturally responsive monitoring and evaluation (CRME) of the Australian Government First Nations Clean Energy Strategy Progress Update Phase 1: 2025-2026, to measure the impact of the Strategy and its benefit to First Nations peoples. CRME will be informed by the Commonwealth Progress Update (formerly Implementation Plan) which provides a stocktake of responsibilities and dependencies across Commonwealth agencies	Minister for Climate Change and Energy	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence the First Nations Clean Energy On Country Mapping project under the First Nations Clean Energy Program. This will develop a methodology that can be used by First Nations peoples to assess On Country clean energy resources and identify opportunities to engage with the energy transformation on terms that recognise the rights and interests of First Nations peoples	Minister for Climate Change and Energy	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish Free TAFE as an ongoing program, in partnership with states and territories, to support at least 100,000 Free TAFE and VET places every year from 2027, underpinned by the Free TAFE Act 2025, with First Nations learners a priority group for access	Minister for Skills and Training	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Employment and Economic Development (Targets 7 and 8)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Ongoing support to existing Tailored Assistance Employment Grants projects to enable transition to redesigned First Nations employment supports in December 2027	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop a First Nations Economic Framework, a shared national approach to supporting long-term economic empowerment for First Nations people	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Work with the Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) Steering Group and the First Nations Economic Partnership to progress reforms to PBC funding to support community-led economic development and investment on Country	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Provide support to First Nations PBC to build capacity in participating in consent and agreement-making processes for Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme projects on Native Title land	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
As a Partner to the First Nations Economic Partnership, develop and progress policy options to advance economic empowerment for First Nations people, for Government's consideration. Immediate priorities outlined in the Partnership Agreement and annual work plan will be advanced in 2026	The Treasurer	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9a, 9b and 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Implement and achieve greater outcomes from the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) Round 3 First Nations stream, which includes \$600m in dedicated funding, and access to concessional loans, for projects delivered by or in genuine partnership with First Nations housing organisations	Minister for Housing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish a concierge service at Housing Australia to support First Nations organisations through the application and delivery process and help build the long-term capacity of the First Nations housing sector	Minister for Housing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Introduce a 10% First Nations tenancy target to apply to all social housing delivered under the HAFF Round 3	Minister for Housing	<b>31 January 2026</b>

## Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9a, 9b and 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Update the Housing Australia Investment Mandate 2018 to embed Closing the Gap priorities	Minister for Housing	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Monitor progress and delivery of the HAFF's acute housing measure for the repairs, maintenance and improvements of housing in remote Indigenous communities in WA, SA, Qld and the NT	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Build up to 270 houses in remote NT communities and town camps	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the delivery of the HPP work plan, including by providing advice on the implementation of HAFF Round 3 First Nations stream	Minister for Housing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Improve shared decision-making and monitoring of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clauses of the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness	Minister for Housing	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish a First Nations Digital Support Hub to support the digital capability and connectivity literacy of First Nations people across Australia	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Establish a Network of Digital Mentors to support the digital capability and connectivity literacy of First Nations people across Australia	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Complete the second round of survey work to further increase the scope and sample size of data available for First Nations people on the Australian Digital Inclusion Index and newly created First Nations dashboard	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continue implementation of the First Nations Digital Inclusion Roadmap to provide strategic direction for First Nations digital inclusion policy and encourage action by all levels of government as well as across the telecommunications industry and not-for-profit sectors	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence the rollout and delivery of free community Wi-Fi and affordable broadband access in up to 50 First Nations communities in remote and very remote areas of Australia	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support the 23 remote First Nations communities with free community-wide Wi-Fi in partnership with NBN Co. through the NBN Community Wi-Fi Program	Minister for Communications	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver annual targeted First Nations Building Digital Skills small grant rounds under the Be Connected Program	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Housing and Infrastructure (Targets 9a, 9b and 17)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Progress the implementation of 8 First Nations water infrastructure projects under the National Water Grid Fund, including progressing construction and completion of projects scheduled for delivery during 2026	Minister for the Environment and Water	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Administer the First Nations Clean Energy Program to increase access to reliable and affordable clean energy for First Nations peoples	Minister for Climate Change and Energy	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support Aboriginal Hostels Limited to provide culturally safe and affordable short-term accommodation services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Access to Justice (Targets 10 and 11)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Establish the final independent National Justice Reinvestment Unit to support the self-determination of justice reinvestment initiatives	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver a training and education package to enhance police response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experiencing family, domestic and sexual violence, and build their cultural capability	Attorney-General	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Commence implementation of the <i>National Plan to End the Abuse and Mistreatment of Older People 2025-2035</i> , and accompanying First Action Plan	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Publish the National Elder Abuse Research Program: <i>The Abuse and Mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Older People Report</i>	Attorney-General	<b>30 June 2026</b>
Implement the new 6-year NTRAI Remote Policy Schedule to drive a cultural reform agenda for NT police	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Progress the National Access to Justice Partnership Closing the Gap schedule	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Access to Justice (Targets 10 and 11)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Commence delivery of 6-year support for critical services in remote First Nations communities in the Northern Territory (NT) through the Northern Territory Aboriginal Investment (NTRAI) Partnership Agreement	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Continue to implement the Outcomes Fund and complete the evaluation of the program	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop the Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence Action Plan and Outcomes Framework	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 July 2026</b>
Undertake and deliver research and evaluation that directly relates to Closing the Gap socioeconomic targets 4, 12 and 13 to provide governments and the broader community with research outputs, including data, analysis and insights	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support ongoing delivery of the Lighthouse Project and culturally responsible support for First Nations families engaging with the family law system	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence evaluation of the Improving Multidisciplinary Responses (IMR) Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families with multiple and complex needs initiative	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Continue to promote the Keeping Our Kids Safe resources that support organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations	Attorney-General	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Informed by the Legal Supports Scoping Study undertaken by SNAICC, identify areas for improvement across child protection systems, youth justice systems and relevant legal systems to address barriers faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in seeking legal supports	Minister for Social Services	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Families and Kin (Targets 12 and 13)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Progress work to refresh the National Out-of-Home Care Standards (NOOHCS) and Indicators (Safe and Supported First Action Plan) to ensure out-of-home care is a supportive environment that reflects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people's needs	Minister for Social Services	31 December 2026
Primary legislation for the National Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People (National Commissioner) is enacted	Minister for Social Services	1 July 2026

## Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15a, 15b and 16)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Increase the number of rangers under the Indigenous Ranger Program, as progress towards 3,800 by 2030	Minister for Indigenous Australians	31 December 2026
Respond to the priorities of the Languages Policy Partnership (LPP) ensuring actions align to the themes of <i>Voices of Country: Australia's Action Plan for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-32</i>	Minister for the Arts	31 December 2026
Work in partnership with the LPP to celebrate and lift the profile of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages	Minister for the Arts	31 December 2026
Implement the Future Drought Fund (FDF) First Nations Advisory Group's (the Advisory Group) advice on approaches to embed First Nations insights and priorities into the systems and structures of the FDF; including launching the First Nations Strategic Framework	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	31 December 2026
Expansion of the existing Stores Efficiency and Resilience Package, to support more stores with improving access to food and essential goods through capital upgrades	Minister for Indigenous Australians	31 December 2026
Deliver Supporting Participation Activities to support First Nations people to access Future Drought Fund programs and initiatives, including leveraging the FDF to design and promote activities, and advise on improved communication channels	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	31 December 2026
Expand the Indigenous Protected Areas Program – up to 8 new IPA consultation projects are expected to be established in the upcoming grant round under the Australian Bushland Program	Minister for the Environment and Water	31 December 2026

## Connection to Country, Culture and Languages (Targets 15a, 15b and 16)

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Commence expansion of the Ghost Nets Initiative that supports Indigenous groups to detect, collect, and recycle ghost nets from beaches and coastal areas across northern Australia and the Torres Strait	Minister for the Environment and Water	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Progress the development of Ngurra as a nationally significant precinct that recognises the central place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia's story through a dedicated space for engagement with First Nations cultures, histories and knowledges, and a culturally appropriate space for physical and spiritual care of limited provenance Ancestors repatriated to Australia from overseas institutions	Minister for Indigenous Australians	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop a suite of Commonwealth Inland Waters Target (15C) actions including, water education resources to empower First Nations peoples to lead, participate in, and influence water management and governance	Minister for the Environment and Water	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Develop a national framework to guide how all governments can appropriately work with First Nations communities before, during and after disasters.	Minister for Emergency Management	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Complete an evaluation of changes to the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> made by the Native Title Legislation Amendment Act 2021 to identify potential areas for improvement	Attorney-General	<b>25 March 2026</b>
Deliver the Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program to strengthen and protect Australia's environment and biosecurity	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Cross-cutting

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Deliver research under the Working for Women Research Partnership about opportunities and barriers shaping gendered experiences and inequalities in Australian working life, including a strong emphasis on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Minister for Women	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver support for the Anangu Elders Advisory Group to convene three, two-day meetings to facilitate discussion on the group's strategic priorities and progress work required to become a registered aged care provider	Minister for Aged Care and Seniors	<b>30 June 2026</b>

## Cross-cutting

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Implement the First Nations specific recommendations of the <i>Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of people with disability</i> with continued design of a First Nations Disability Forum as the first step	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Implement <i>Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031</i> to policies, programs and services of government that are responsive to First Nations people with disability, their families, carers and communities	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Deliver the following actions of the National Carer Strategy Action Plan 2024-2027: 1a, 1b, 1.7, 1.8, 5.1	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence identification and development of appropriate and culturally safe in-person and online training through Carer Gateway to ensure the diverse needs of carers such as people with disability, women and First Nations people are met	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Support participation of First Nations people with disability at key international human rights forums through the Supporting Participation by Representatives of People with Disability in Key International Forums on Human Rights Program (Supporting Participation Program) – 2025-26 Activities	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>30 September 2026</b>
Establish a new Commonwealth individual disability advocacy program to deliver more culturally safe and responsible advocacy supports and services	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>

## Cross-cutting

Action	Lead	Timeframe
Implement <i>New Aged Care Act</i> and Support at Home Program allowing all participants to have a right to aged care services that are culturally safe, trauma-aware and healing informed	Minister for Aged Care and Seniors	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Improve NDIS First Nations policies in line with the Disability Royal Commission and NDIS Review findings	Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme	<b>31 December 2026</b>
Commence remote community infrastructure projects that support safe spaces for play, sport, creative expression and cultural connection	Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	<b>31 December 2026</b>



**Australian Government**

Appendix G: Full list of 2026 Implementation Plan Commitments



**CLOSING THE GAP**