

OVERARCHING BILATERAL INDIGENOUS PLAN
BETWEEN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA AND THE
STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
TO CLOSE THE GAP IN INDIGENOUS
DISADVANTAGE

2010 - 2015

A New Partnership to Close the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage

Preliminaries

1. The Commonwealth of Australia and the State of South Australia (the Governments) are committed to Closing the Gap in disadvantage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia.
2. In November 2005, the first Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs was signed by the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of South Australia. This was the first new bilateral agreement to come out of the June 2004 Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) commitment to improve services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This new plan includes components of and builds on that first Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs.
3. In December 2007, COAG agreed to a new partnership between all levels of government to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve the target of Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage. Accordingly, the Governments have agreed to replace the Overarching Agreement on Indigenous Affairs with a new Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan (OBIP) to provide a platform for implementing this new partnership in South Australia.
4. OBIPs will underpin cooperative work to realise the commitments and objectives made under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA), including through:
 - incorporating Implementation Plans developed under all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific National Partnerships;
 - progressing implementation of the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians;
 - identifying activities that the Commonwealth, States and Territories will undertake to improve data required under the NIRA;
 - including relevant commitments under mainstream COAG reforms as listed under Schedule C of the NIRA;
 - outlining partnership arrangements for engagement between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
 - establishing robust and ongoing bilateral governance and oversight mechanisms.

Objective

5. This Plan sets out the agreed positions on:
 - principles underpinning bilateral plans;
 - priority areas for bilateral action;
 - arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across South Australia; and
 - whole of government machinery.

COAG Targets and Building Blocks

6. The new partnership agreed to by COAG in 2007 included setting six ambitious targets. Progress to meet these targets will be measured against the following baselines for:

Target: closing the life expectancy gap within a generation.

Baseline:

- The baseline for the life expectancy target is 2005-2007.
- Indigenous estimates of life expectancy are not produced for South Australia due to the small number of Indigenous deaths reported in this jurisdiction.
- All-cause mortality can also be used as a proxy indicator. The baseline year for this indicator is 2006 as the life expectancy baseline for the target covers the period 2005-07, and 2006 is the mid-point of this baseline. For 2006, the age standardised all-cause mortality rate for Indigenous Australians was 964.0 per 100,000 compared with 607.9 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous Australians. The rate difference (the gap) was 356.1 per 100,000.

Target: halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Baseline:

- The baseline for this target is 2008.
- For 2008, the South Australian child mortality rate for Indigenous children aged 0 to 4 years was 148.5 deaths per 100,000 children, and for non-Indigenous children aged 0 to 4 the rate was 77.4 per 100,000 children.
- The rate difference was 71.1 deaths per 100,000 children.

Target: ensuring all Indigenous four year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years.

Baseline:

- The baseline for this target is 2008.
- There is currently no agreed measure, for this target under the NIRA. It is proposed that data compiled as part of the new national early childhood education and care data collection be used to measure progress against the target.

Target: halving the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade

Baseline:

- The baseline for this target is 2008.
- For the baseline year of 2008, in South Australia the proportion of students who achieved at or above the national minimum standard (2008 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) in:
 - Year 3 reading was 71.5 percent for Indigenous students and 92.5 percent for non-Indigenous students;
 - Year 3 writing was 82.5 percent for Indigenous students and 95.7 percent for non-Indigenous students;

- Year 3 numeracy was 79.2 percent for Indigenous students and 94.6 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 5 reading was 60.6 percent for Indigenous students and 91.3 for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 5 writing was 69.0 percent for Indigenous students and 92.8 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 5 numeracy was 68.5 percent for Indigenous students and 91.7 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 7 reading was 69.6 percent for Indigenous students and 94.4 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 7 writing was 67.5 percent for Indigenous students and 93.4 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 7 numeracy was 75.9 percent for Indigenous students and 95.4 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 9 reading was 62.5 percent for Indigenous students and 93.5 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 9 writing was 57.4 percent for Indigenous students and 88.9 percent for non-Indigenous students;
- Year 9 numeracy was 68.7 percent for Indigenous students and 93.7 percent for non-Indigenous students.

Target: halving the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020.

Baseline:

- The baseline for this target is 2006.
- For the baseline year of 2006, in South Australia the proportion of the 20-24 year old population having attained at least a year 12 or equivalent or Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate II or above was 42.7 percent for Indigenous 20-24 year olds and 78.6 percent for non-Indigenous 20-24 year olds.

Target: halving the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Baseline:

- The baseline for the target is 2008.
- For the baseline year of 2008, in South Australia the proportion of the Indigenous working age population (15-64 year olds) employed was 51.7 percent and for the non-Indigenous working age population was 73.0 percent.
- The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous South Australians was 21.2 percentage points.

7. COAG recognises that overcoming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage will require a long term, generational commitment that sees major effort directed across a range of strategic platforms or 'Building Blocks'. The Building Blocks endorsed by COAG underpin reforms developed to achieve the six specific targets aimed at Closing the Gap. The Building Blocks are:

- Early Childhood;

- Schooling;
 - Health;
 - Economic Participation;
 - Healthy Homes;
 - Safe Communities; and
 - Governance and Leadership.
8. COAG recognises that strategies aimed at achieving improvements in any particular area will not work in isolation – the Building Blocks must fit together through the integration of policy ideas and an agreed approach to their implementation.
 9. Further detail on the agreed ‘Building Blocks’ are set out in Schedule C to this Plan and the parties agree to work together to implement those priority areas.
 10. The Governments agree to address these identified drivers of disadvantage in an integrated way. This may include through local and regional agreements.
 11. The parties agree that future COAG and other relevant activity should be incorporated into Schedule C where appropriate.
 12. In keeping with the Service Delivery Principles for Programs and Services for Indigenous Australians (Schedule A to this Plan), the South Australian OBIP Working Group is committed to the Closing the Gap targets and Building Blocks and also recognises the importance of land, environment and culture to the achievement of these goals/targets/outcomes. The Building Blocks, as well as broader government programs and resources address key priorities in the areas of land, environment and culture, including:
 - Land – land management, native title claim resolution, links between land and heritage, traditional land access;
 - Environment – natural resource management, environmental protection; and
 - Culture – heritage protection and preservation, language preservation, cultural accessibility of programs and services, Reconciliation.

Additionally, the State of South Australia will address these priorities through *South Australia’s Strategic Plan*.

COAG Agreements

13. In making this Plan, the parties reaffirm their commitment to the Closing the Gap National Partnership Agreement on an Indigenous Clearinghouse which focuses on building an evidence base which contributes to achieving the Closing the Gap targets and objectives in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
14. The Governments acknowledge the following Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific National Partnership Agreements are being implemented through various intergovernmental fora specific to those agreements. Schedule C to this Plan includes initiatives being undertaken across each Building Block (see Clause 7) and sets out the work being undertaken in South Australia to support the implementation of these agreements in support of the Closing the Gap targets:

- [National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation;](#) and
 - [National Partnership Agreement on an Indigenous Clearinghouse.](#)
15. The Governments agree that where National Partnership Agreements adopted by COAG have particular relevance to the Closing the Gap targets, these will be incorporated within this Plan. These include:
- [National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on TAFE Fee Waivers for Childcare Qualifications;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Smarter Schools - Low Socio-Economic School Communities;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Smarter Schools – Literacy and Numeracy;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Schedule C: Social Housing;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Schedule D: Building the Education Revolution;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Essential Vaccines;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places Program;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on School Pathways Program;](#)
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness;](#) and
 - [National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing.](#)
16. The Governments agree that where National Agreements, Strategies and Frameworks adopted by COAG have particular relevance to the Closing the Gap targets, these will be incorporated within this Plan. These include:
- [National Education Agreement;](#)
 - [National Healthcare Agreement;](#)
 - [National Disability Agreement,](#) including a National Indigenous Access Framework;
 - [National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development;](#)
 - [National Affordable Housing Agreement;](#)
 - [National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children;](#) and
 - [Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy.](#)

COAG Service Delivery Principles

17. In making this Plan the Governments have regard to the Service Delivery Principles for Programs and Services for Indigenous Australians (Schedule D to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and Schedule A to this Plan) that have been agreed by COAG and form part of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement. The principles aim to guide the design and delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific and mainstream government programs and services provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
18. Consistent with these principles, the Governments are committed to building on existing bilateral arrangements and to working cooperatively and in good faith towards achieving mutually agreed objectives.

Principles Underpinning Bilateral Plans

19. In addition to the overarching COAG Service Delivery Principles, jurisdictions will also follow the National Investment Principles in Remote Locations and the Principles Taken into Account in Deciding Sequencing (as set out in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and Remote Service Delivery National Partnership).
20. The development and implementation of activities under this plan will be based on the evidence for what works, such as that available through the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.
21. Reporting under existing agreed arrangements will be the source of information for oversight of this Plan.
22. Further reporting arrangements will only be instituted by agreement of the OBIP Working Group as described at Clause 34 or as determined by COAG.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Context in South Australia

23. The Governments acknowledge that the following data provide a snapshot of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of South Australia.

There are 28,055 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons usually resident in South Australia. This is 5.4 per cent of Australia's total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and 1.8 per cent of South Australia's total population.¹ Approximately 48.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians live in major cities, 32.4 per cent live in regional areas, 4.3 per cent in remote areas and 14.4 per cent in very remote areas.²

The Governments acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians experience significantly lower outcomes than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians as evidenced by the following data:

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2008) *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*, June 2006 (ABS Cat. No. 3238.0.55.001)

² ABS (2008) *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Australians*, June 2006 (ABS Cat. No. 3238.0.55.001)

- For the period 2004-2008 there were 676 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in South Australia. The all-cause mortality rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians is 1.7 times the rate for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians;³
 - For the period 2003-2007, the child mortality (0-4 years) rate for South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 2.1 times the rate of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children;⁴
 - In 2007, the infant mortality rate for South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was over twice that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (up to one year of age);⁵
 - In 2008-09, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under aged 16 in South Australia were 13.4 times as likely as non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be the subjects of substantiations of child protection notifications;⁶
 - In 2008, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experienced unemployment rates 13.8 percentage points higher than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;^{7 8}
 - A gap of 19.4 percent in Year 7 reading benchmarks, with 74.3 percent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving benchmarks compared with 93.7 percent of students overall;⁹ and
 - The Year 12 or Certificate II completion rate for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians is 2.0 times as high as the completion rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians.¹⁰
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles in South Australia are 2.8 times more likely than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles to be apprehended by police at least once.¹¹
24. The Governments acknowledge that the size and complexity of the task required to Close the Gap in disadvantage between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people requires concerted and sustained effort utilising the considerable expertise that exists within South Australia.
25. The Governments are committed to working together and in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities in order to take action and address entrenched levels of disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia.

³ ABS 2010 (unpublished)

⁴ SCRGSP 2009, *National Agreement Performance Information 2008-09: National Indigenous Reform Agreement*, Productivity Commission, Canberra Table NIRA 9.4

⁵ ABS (2008) *Deaths Australia, 2007* (ABS Cat. No.3302.0)

⁶ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2010), *Child protection Australia 2008-09* (AIHW Cat. No. CWS35). (<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/cws/35/10859.pdf>)

⁷ ABS (2008) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008*. (ABS Cat. No.4714.0)

⁸ ABS (2009) *Education and Work Australia*, May 2009 (ABS Cat No. 6227.0)

⁹ MCEETYA (Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs) (2007), *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007* (http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/anr2007/ch9_indig.htm)

¹⁰ SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) (2009) *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra (<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2009>)

¹¹ Office of Crime Statistics and Research (OCSAR) (2005) *Crime and Justice in South Australia – Juvenile Justice*, Adelaide (http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au/publications_statistics.html)

Arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultation and representation

26. The Governments will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to determine arrangements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultations and representation at the regional or local level. The parties will be guided by:

- A range of key mechanisms through which governments will engage and build partnerships, all of which are to be utilised as appropriate, consistent with the position on engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians agreed by all Australian governments through the National Integrated Strategy on Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage (NIRA, pp. A22-23), including:
 - jurisdictional advisory groups and representative bodies;
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory groups – sector specific;
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander expert organisations on specific topics; and
 - informal or ongoing relationships.
- At the national level, the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (NCAFP) will be the peak body for advice to the Australian Government on issues of national significance. Where appropriate, the NCAFP will be consulted on the implementation of OBIPs
- The implementation plans of the National Partnerships listed in Clause 14.

27. These arrangements will involve:

- a major focus on capacity development at the local level;
- in remote areas – engagement with communities as outlined in the Remote Service Delivery National Partnership Agreement. Government Business Managers will facilitate interaction between communities and all government agencies at all stages of the service planning and delivery cycle; and
- in urban and regional areas – engagement with the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement.

Joint Machinery

28. The COAG Reform Council (CRC) will assess progress in Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage against the objectives, outcomes and performance indicators (PIs) and benchmarks noted in the NIRA and agreements and strategies referenced therein.

29. The Governments will contribute to the effective implementation and evaluation of measurable outcomes under the Plan.

30. This will include:

- joint Ministerial oversight including meetings between relevant South Australian and Commonwealth Government Ministers as appropriate;

- an OBIP Working Group to review and jointly report on progress of reforms and other activities under OBIPs (including senior representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs);
 - establishing or strengthening joint coordination arrangements, such as those outlined in the various National Partnerships; and
 - where possible aligning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reporting obligations.
31. The National Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services and the South Australian Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services will work in partnership to cut through red tape and ensure that services are delivered and conditions enforced.
32. A joint OBIP Working Group has been established. The OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference outline the agreed roles and responsibilities of the group. The Terms of Reference are at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Term of Plan

33. The term of this Plan will be for five years with an option to renew. After five years the Plan will be jointly reviewed and can be amended at any time by agreement in writing between the Governments.

Terms of Reference

South Australian Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan Working Group

34. The South Australian OBIP Working Group has been established to monitor and oversee matters of priority and progress relating to the OBIP and Building Blocks.

The Working Group is led jointly by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC-AARD). The responsibility for chairing meetings will rotate between FaHCSIA and DPC-AARD. Member organisations include:

- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs;
- SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet - DPC-AARD and Cabinet and Policy Coordination;
- SA Department of Treasury and Finance;
- Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR);
- Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA); and
- Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

The Working Group will meet biannually for monitoring purposes. The OBIP Working Group will:

- Review COAG Reform Council (CRC) reporting on outcomes for South Australia under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement;

- Identify issues arising from CRC reporting processes through the Working Group on Indigenous Reform (WGIR) and develop joint responses where cross government and cross agency responses are required;
- Contribute to the resolution of any issues arising under National Partnerships as requested by lead agencies;
- Share relevant information between Commonwealth agencies and the South Australian Government, for example
 - Agreed data exchange mechanisms; and
 - Regular forums;
- Collaborate with other stakeholders and governance groups, for example the Remote Service Delivery Board of Management;
- Recognise the role of each member jurisdiction to report on Working Group matters to its respective Minister;
- Working with the governance mechanisms of the relevant NP's, escalate issues where they cannot be resolved by the Working Group in an appropriate timeframe to the Deputy Chief Executive Sustainability and Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the SA State Manager, FaHCSIA;
- Establish an Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee will progress Schedule D to the OBIP through implementation of joint initiatives across government agencies to improve service coordination in priority regions; and
- Establish Building Block sub-committees as required to address specific issues arising.

The role of the OBIP Working Group will complement, and not duplicate, the role of joint governance mechanisms established under each NP, which retain responsibility for monitoring and reporting on implementation of the respective NAs and NPs.

Secretariat

The secretariat function will rotate between FaHCSIA and DPC-AARD. The agency that is chairing the meeting will provide secretariat support.

SCHEDULE A

SERVICE DELIVERY PRINCIPLES FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS¹²

Purpose

These principles draw upon the National Framework of Principles for Government Service Delivery to Indigenous Australians agreed to by COAG in 2004. These principles are to guide COAG in the:

- (a) design and delivery of Indigenous specific and mainstream government programs and services provided to Indigenous people; and
- (b) development and negotiation of National Partnership Agreements, National Agreements and reform proposals.

Principles

Priority principle: Programs and services should contribute to Closing the Gap by meeting the targets endorsed by COAG while being appropriate to local community needs.

Indigenous engagement principle: Engagement with Indigenous men, women and children and communities should be central to the design and delivery of programs and services.

Sustainability principle: Programs and services should be directed and resourced over an adequate period of time to meet the COAG targets.

Access Principle: Programs and services should be physically and culturally accessible to Indigenous people recognising the diversity of urban, regional and remote needs.

Integration principle: There should be collaboration between and within Governments at all levels and their agencies to effectively coordinate programs and services.

Accountability principle: Programs and services should have regular and transparent performance monitoring, review and evaluation.

Principles in Detail

Priority principle: Programs and services should contribute to Closing the Gap by meeting the targets endorsed by COAG while being appropriate to local community needs. The COAG targets are:

- (a) close the 17 year life expectancy gap within a generation;
- (b) halve the gap in mortality rates for children under five within a decade;
- (c) halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade;

¹² These principles form Schedule D to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement and Schedule C to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

- (d) halve the gap in employment outcomes and opportunities within a decade;
- (e) at least halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates by 2020; and
- (f) within five years provide access to a quality early childhood education program to all Indigenous four year olds in remote Indigenous communities.

Indigenous engagement principle: Engagement with Indigenous men, women and children and communities should be central to the design and delivery of programs and services. In particular, attention is to be given to:

- (a) recognising that strong relationships/partnerships between government, community and service providers increase the capacity to achieve identified outcomes and work towards building these relationships;
- (b) engaging and empowering Indigenous people who use Government services, and the broader Indigenous community in the design and delivery of programs and services as appropriate;
- (c) recognising local circumstances;
- (d) ensuring Indigenous representation is appropriate, having regard to local representation as required;
- (e) being transparent regarding the role and level of Indigenous engagement along a continuum from information sharing to decision-making; and
- (f) recognising Indigenous culture, language and identity.

Sustainability principle: Programs and services should be directed and resourced over an adequate period of time to meet the COAG targets. In particular, attention is to be given to:

- (a) service system orientation, particularly:
 - i. using evidence to develop and redesign programs, services and set priorities;
 - ii. recognising the importance of early intervention; and
 - iii. including strategies that increase independence, empowerment and self management;
- (b) ensuring adequate and appropriate resources, particularly:
 - i. setting time-frames for meeting short, medium and longer-term targets and outcomes;
 - ii. considering flexibility in program design to meet local needs;
 - iii. considering workforce supply and future planning;
 - iv. considering sustaining or redesigning services to best use existing resources, as well as the need for programs and services to meet the COAG targets;
 - v. minimising administrative red tape to enable greater integration of program and service delivery;
 - vi. ensuring that programs and services are efficient and fiscally sustainable; and
 - vii. ensuring that infrastructure is appropriate and adequately maintained.
- (c) building the capacity of both Indigenous people and of services to meet the needs of Indigenous people, particularly:

- i. developing the skills, knowledge and competencies, including independence and empowerment of Indigenous people, communities and organisations;
- ii. supporting Indigenous communities to harness the engagement of corporate, non-government and philanthropic sectors;
- iii. building governments' and service delivery organisations' capacity to develop and implement policies, procedures, and protocols that recognise Indigenous people's culture, needs and aspirations;
- iv. ensuring that programs and services foster and do not erode capacity or capability of clients; and
- v. recognising when Indigenous delivery is an important contributor to outcomes (direct and indirect), and in those instances fostering opportunities for Indigenous service delivery.

Access Principle: Programs and services should be physically and culturally accessible to Indigenous people recognising the diversity of urban, regional and remote needs. In particular, attention is to be given to:

- (a) considering appropriate and adequate infrastructure and placement of services (including transport, IT, telecommunications and use of interpreter services);
- (b) minimising administrative red tape that may be a barrier to access; and
- (c) providing adequate information regarding available programs and services.

Integration principle: There should be collaboration between and within Governments at all levels, their agencies and funded service providers to effectively coordinate programs and services. In particular attention is to be given to:

- (a) articulating responsibilities between all levels of government;
- (b) identifying and addressing gaps and overlaps in the continuum of service delivery;
- (c) ensuring services and programs are provided in an integrated and collaborative manner both between all levels of governments and between services;
- (d) ensuring services and programs do not set incentives that negatively affect outcomes of other programs and services; and
- (e) recognising that a centrally agreed strategic focus should not inhibit service delivery responses that are sensitive to local contexts.

Accountability principle: Programs and services should have regular and transparent performance monitoring, review and evaluation. In particular, attention is to be given to:

- (a) choosing performance measures based on contribution to the COAG targets and report them publicly;
- (b) ensuring mainstream service delivery agencies have strategies in place to achieve Indigenous outcomes and meet Indigenous needs;
- (c) clearly articulating the service level to be delivered;
- (d) ensuring accountability of organisations for the government funds that they administer on behalf of Indigenous people;
- (e) periodically measuring/reviewing to assess the contribution of programs and services to the above, and adapting programs and services as appropriate;
- (f) clearly defining and agreeing responsibilities of government and communities;

- (g) supporting the capacity of the Indigenous service sector and communities to play a role in delivering services and influencing service delivery systems/organisations to ensure their responsiveness, access and appropriateness to Indigenous people; and
- (h) evaluating programs and services from multiple perspectives including from the client, Indigenous communities and government perspectives and incorporating lessons into future program and services design.

SCHEDULE B

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENTS IN REMOTE LOCATIONS¹³

National principles for investments in remote locations include:

- (a) remote Indigenous communities and remote communities with significant Indigenous populations are entitled to standards of services and infrastructure broadly comparable with that in non-Indigenous communities of similar size, location and need elsewhere in Australia;
- (b) investment decisions should aim to: improve participation in education/training and the market economy on a sustainable basis; and reduce dependence on welfare wherever possible; and promote personal responsibility, and engagement and behaviours consistent with positive social norms; and
- (c) priority for enhanced infrastructure support and service provision should be to larger and more economically sustainable communities where secure land tenure exists, allowing for services outreach to and access by smaller surrounding communities, including:
 - (i) recognising Indigenous peoples' cultural connections to homelands (whether on a visiting or permanent basis) but avoiding expectations of major investment in service provision where there are few economic or educational opportunities; and
 - (ii) facilitating voluntary mobility by individuals and families to areas where better education and job opportunities exist, with higher standards of services.

PRINCIPLES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING SEQUENCING¹⁴

The following principles will be taken into account in deciding sequencing:

- (a) areas where we have already applied significant reform effort that can be readily built upon (see below):
 - (i) that is, locations where communities have demonstrated a willingness to actively participate in the change process, supported by strong leadership;
- (b) preparedness to participate in steps to rebuild social norms – for example, welfare reform and alcohol management;
- (c) labour market opportunities and potential for corporate investment/partnerships and business development;
- (d) capacity to be developed and utilised as a service hub (including transport) with linkages with smaller communities/homelands; and
- (e) capacity of service supply needs to be met – including consideration of capacity of existing local service providers and capacity of the location to support incoming services (for example, availability of built facilities and staff housing for staff).

¹³ These principles form Schedules A and B to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery.

¹⁴ See above.

BUILDING BLOCK: EARLY CHILDHOOD

For an equal start in life Indigenous children need early learning, development and socialisation opportunities. Access to quality early childhood education and care services, including pre-school, child care and family support services such as parenting programs and supports, is critical. Appropriate facilities and physical infrastructure, a sustainable early childhood education and health workforce, learning frameworks and opportunities for parental engagement are also important and require attention. Action in the areas of maternal, antenatal and early childhood health is relevant to addressing the child mortality gap and to early childhood development.

Context

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in child mortality and early childhood outcomes is framed by the following data snapshot:

- For the period 2003-2007, the child mortality (0-4 years) rate for South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children was 2.1 times the rate of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children;¹⁵
- South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were more than twice as likely as non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be absent from non-government preschools;¹⁶ and
- In 2008, more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were accessing preschool education in South Australia than ever before.¹⁷

Research has shown that health, growth and development in the first three years of life play a crucial role in later outcomes. Evidence shows that substantial benefits accrue from investments made in the first few years of life and this is even more so for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Objectives

Objectives under the Early Childhood Building Block are contained in:

- National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development;
- Investing in the Early Years – A National Early Childhood Development Strategy;
- National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education; and
- National Partnership Agreement on TAFE Fee Waivers for Childcare Qualifications.

¹⁵ SCRGSP 2009, *National Agreement Performance Information 2008-09: National Indigenous Reform Agreement*, Productivity Commission, Canberra Table NIRA 9.4

¹⁶ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra (<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2009>)

¹⁷ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra (<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/indigenous/keyindicators2009>)

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government activities that aim to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood developmental outcomes;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities where appropriate;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in South Australia;
- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse; and
- Implement and progress the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014* when agreed by COAG.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Children and Family Centres	Construction and operation of Children and Family Centres offering childcare, early learning and parent and family support services for Indigenous children and their families in Ceduna, Whyalla, Christies Beach/Noarlunga and Pukatja (Ernabella).	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing; SA Department of Education and Children's Services; SA Department of Health; SA Department for Families and Communities
Early Childhood Centres	Construction of two Early Childhood Centres in Amata and Indulkana.	Commonwealth Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations and SA Department of Education and Children's Services
Universal Access to Early Childhood Education	The National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education (NP ECE) will contribute to COAG's target of ensuring access to quality early childhood education programs for all Indigenous	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; SA Department of Education and Children's Services

	four-year olds in remote communities within five years to 30 June 2013. The NP funding and associated state and territory action plans will be a major factor in achieving this goal.	
National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care (NIA ECEC)	DEEWR recognises the need for comprehensive and nationally comparable early childhood data to measure progress to ensure all Indigenous four-year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years. To address this, a National Information Agreement on Early Childhood Education and Care (NIA ECEC) has been signed by relevant Commonwealth, state and territory authorities. A key outcome of the NIA ECEC will be the development of a national early childhood education and care data collection.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations; SA Department of Education and Children's Services and other state and territory governments

Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Indigenous Parenting Support Program	Indigenous Parenting Support Services help Indigenous parents to overcome barriers to good family relationships and support through transitions to child care, pre-school and primary school. They proactively address social, cultural, personal, historical, and financial and health factors that can present barriers to effective parenting.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Locational Supported Playgroups	Locational Supported Playgroups are targeted to vulnerable Indigenous families with young children living in remote areas. They aim to promote	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

	<p>positive outcomes for Indigenous families by providing playgroup services, and parenting and early childhood development support. These services are provided under the direction of a paid coordinator and a skilled early childhood worker.</p>	
Intensive Supported Playgroups	<p>Intensive Supported Playgroups are mobile playgroup services that are delivered across a number of sites by a skilled family support worker and early childhood worker, who initiate and facilitate the playgroups. They are targeted at locations where the living arrangements of families are impacting adversely on the capacity of caregivers to parent effectively.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs</p>
Budget Based Funded Services	<p>Budget Based Funded Services (BBF) are non-mainstream, not for profit child care services that have been developed to provide flexible care to families living in rural and remote communities, providing access to early learning and care where the market would otherwise fail to deliver.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</p>
Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Traineeships	<p>Indigenous traineeships will provide young Indigenous people structured training and support to be delivered in eligible Commonwealth centre-based Indigenous Budget Based Funded (BBF) child care services.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</p>
Indigenous Preschool Funding under the <i>Indigenous Education Targeted Assistance Act 2000</i>	<p>Funding under the Indigenous Education Targeted Assistance Act 2000 is provided to eligible government and non-government preschools to</p>	<p>Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations</p>

	support the participation of Indigenous children in early childhood education programs.	
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South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Learning Together and Early Learning programs	These programs support parents and children in an early learning setting.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services
Aboriginal Family Strategy	Strategy being developed to increase the level of support for and delivery of an integrated service system involving care, education, health and family support services for Aboriginal children and their families.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference which are at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: SCHOOLING

Human capital development through education is key to future opportunity. Responsive schooling requires attention to infrastructure, workforce (including teacher and school leader supply and quality), curriculum, student literacy and numeracy achievement and opportunities for parental engagement and school/community partnerships. Transition pathways into schooling and into work, post-school education and training are also important. Life-long learning is important and attention is also needed regarding adult literacy and numeracy skills.

Context

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in schooling outcomes is framed by the following data snapshot:

- In 2008, 43.6 per cent of the 19 year old population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians had attained a year 12 or equivalent qualification compared to 73.5 per cent of non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 19 year olds.¹⁸
- There is a gap of 16 percentage points in secondary school attendance between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in South Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary school students in South Australia attend school 74 per cent of the time as compared to 90 per cent for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary school students in South Australia attend school 81 per cent of the time, compared with 90 per cent attendance for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This is a gap of nine percentage points;¹⁹
- In South Australia there is a gap of 22.9 percentage points in Year 7 reading benchmarks, with 71.5 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving benchmarks compared with 94.4 per cent of non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
- There is a gap of 20.9 percentage points in Year 7 writing benchmarks, with 73.0 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving benchmarks compared with per cent of non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students; and
- The gap in achieving Year 7 numeracy benchmarks is 21.4 percentage points with 73.6 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieving the benchmarks compared to 95.0 per cent of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.²⁰

Starting school early, improving attendance rates, providing high quality teaching and leaving school later are essential to improving literacy and numeracy skills and therefore providing a good start in life. Preschool and early education programs have been associated with increased levels of school completion and improved literacy and social skills necessary for school success.

¹⁸ SCRGSP (2009) *National Agreement performance information 2008, National Education Agreement*, Productivity Commission, Canberra

(<http://www.coagreformcouncil.gov.au/reports/education.cfm>)

¹⁹ MCEETYA (2007), *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2007*

(<http://cms.curriculum.edu.au/anr2007/index.htm>)

²⁰ MCEECDYA (2009) *National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy – National Report: Achievement in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy 2009*, Table 7.R3

(http://naplan.edu.au/reports/national_report.html)

Objectives

Objectives under the Schooling Building Block are contained in:

- National Education Agreement;
- National Partnership Agreement on Smarter Schools – Literacy and Numeracy;
- National Partnership Agreement on Smarter Schools – Improving Teacher Quality;
- National Partnership Agreement on Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities;
- Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Schedule D: Building the Education Revolution;
- National Partnership Agreement on Youth Attainment and Transitions; and
- National Partnership Agreement on Advanced Technology Industry – School Pathways Program.

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education initiatives;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australia;
- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse; and
- Implement and progress the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014* when agreed by COAG.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Youth Connections	The Youth Connections program provides a holistic approach to servicing young people at risk of disengaging from education and/or community, including support for individual young people and the broader community.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
School Business Community Partnership Brokers	Partnership Brokers broker partnerships between and among schools, business and industry, parents and	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

	families and community groups to support student engagement and improve education and transition outcomes.	
Sporting Chance Program	The Sporting Chance Program is an education program that uses sport and recreation as a vehicle to increase the level of engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in their schooling to improve their education, training and employment outcomes.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Indigenous Youth Leadership Program	The Indigenous Youth Leadership Program provides secondary and tertiary level scholarships to help increase the rate of Year 12 and Tertiary Qualification attainment by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Indigenous Youth Mobility Program	The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged 16 to 24, move away from home to study and apprenticeship options in IYMP host locations. The program provides funding for education, training and accommodation costs to obtain Certificate III qualifications and above. IYMP also provides mentoring and other practical support to help participants.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Aboriginal Education Workers	Aboriginal Education Workers support teachers and Aboriginal students to maximise educational outcomes.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services
SA Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA)	SAASTA is an initiative of the SA Government's Social Inclusion Unit. The centre caters for students who have an ambition to pursue a professional sporting career.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services and SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Aboriginal curriculum policy and learning strategies	Curriculum policy and learning strategies are developed to explicitly address the teaching, learning and assessment needs of Aboriginal learners.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services
Individual Learning Plans	Individual learning plans are prepared for all senior secondary Aboriginal students.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services
Case Management	A case management approach is providing Aboriginal people with access to a range of school based training and employment programs and intensive assistance.	SA Department of Education and Children's Services

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference which are at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: HEALTH

Achieving improved outcomes for children requires access to, and delivery of, effective primary and preventative health care. Community primary health services play an important role and also need to be responsive to and accountable for achieving government and community health priorities. Parental health is critical to supporting children and the heavy onset of chronic diseases in the 34-45 age range requires concerted effort in prevention, management and treatment. Parents also need the skills to promote healthy, structured lifestyles.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience a burden of disease two and a half times that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This health disparity has its origins in early childhood development and continues to exert its impact across the life course. Low birth weight, which is twice as common for babies of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers, is a key determinant of infant survival; longer term health and education attainment. Increasing access to quality antenatal care, early childhood and maternal health programs, and comprehensive primary health care provides an opportunity to identify and address risk factors for chronic diseases that can commence during pregnancy, in childhood or early adolescence, and persist into adulthood. To halve the gap in the mortality rate between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under five within a decade all children need a healthy start to life.

The main contributor to the life expectancy gap is the difference in health outcomes. Chronic diseases such as circulatory disease, cancer, diabetes and respiratory disease account for about two-thirds of excess mortality among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Comprehensive primary health care is fundamental to the prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases and their risk factors. Closing the life-expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians will require sustained and concerted effort by all governments working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Context

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in health outcomes is framed by the following data snapshot:

- South Australia has 302 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the health workforce. This is 0.7 percent of the state's total health workforce;²¹
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foetal death rate is 9.5 per 1000 total births compared to 5.4 per 1000 total births for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians;
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander neonatal death rate is 4.2 per 1000 live births compared to 2.4 per 1000 live births for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians; and
- In the period 2004 -2006, South Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were hospitalised at 1.5 times the rate of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians²².

²¹ SCRGSP (2010) *Report on Government Services 2010: Indigenous Compendium*, Productivity Commission, Canberra (<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/reports/rogs/compendium2010>)

²² AIHW (2008), *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework*, 2008 Report: Detailed Analyses. Cat. No. IHW 22. Canberra: AIHW

Objectives

Focused effort in these priority areas is essential to achieving improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples:

1. Improving access to early ante-natal care, sexual and reproductive health services, and child and maternal health programs;
2. Addressing the factors that contribute to chronic and preventable diseases, with a strong focus on smoking and physical activity;
3. Expanding access to well-coordinated, comprehensive, culturally secure primary health care, allied health and related services;
4. Delivering better clinical outcomes through quality, culturally secure hospital and hospital-related services;
5. Ensuring access to comprehensive and co-ordinated health care provided by a culturally competent health workforce within a broader, accountable health system; and
6. Increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the health workforce and reforming and improving health workforce supply.

Objectives under the Health Building Block are contained in:

- National Healthcare Agreement;
- National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes;
- National Disability Agreement, including development of a National Indigenous Access Framework;
- National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health;
- National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform; and
- National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health initiatives;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australia; and
- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Bringing them Home Program	Provides funds for organisations to employ counsellors to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by past policies of forced removal of children.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and Country Health SA
Substance Use	Improves the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the delivery of holistic and culturally appropriate substance use services to priority communities.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and Country Health SA
Link-Up Program	Assists Stolen Generations members to trace their families and be reunited with them where possible.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Healthy for Life	Enhances the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care services to improve the quality of child and maternal health, men's health and chronic disease services.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and Country Health SA

Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Child and Maternal Health	Delivers holistic and culturally appropriate child and maternal health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Communicable Diseases	Delivers a holistic and culturally appropriate communicable disease strategy to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
Enhanced Primary Health Care	Enhances the capacity of existing services in rural and remote areas to provide comprehensive, coordinated primary health care services.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

Mental Health	Increases the capacity of social and emotional wellbeing.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
New Directions – Mothers and Babies	Improves access to antenatal and postnatal care, health and development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and/or children.	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Aboriginal Health Care Plan 2010-2016	Plan to ensure health care services can cater to the distinct needs of South Australia's diverse Aboriginal population.	SA Department of Health
SA Health Strategic Plan 2008-2010	The key strategic directions of SA Health including key new strategies, programs and plans.	SA Department of Health
SA Health Reform Plan	Strategic plan for addressing future challenges in health care in South Australia.	SA Department of Health
Our Culture, Our Babies, Our Future Framework	The Framework details guidelines for health pregnancy, birthing and infant care for Aboriginal women.	SA Department of Health
Expansion of the regional Family Birthing Program	The existing regional Family Birthing Program in Port Augusta and Whyalla is being expanded to a statewide Aboriginal Family Birthing Program.	SA Department of Health
Family Home Visiting Program and Universal Home Visiting Program	These programs provide support to Aboriginal parents across the state.	SA Department of Health
Regional Aboriginal Integrated Social and Emotional (RAISE) wellbeing program	RAISE is addressing the needs of Aboriginal people living with a mental illness.	SA Department of Health

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference which are at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Individuals and communities should have the opportunity to benefit from the mainstream economy – real jobs, business opportunities, economic independence and wealth creation. Economic participation needs to extend to disadvantaged job seekers and those outside of the labour market. Access to land and native title assets, rights and interests can be leveraged to secure real and practical benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Other financial assets, capacity building, employment and training programs, incentive structures and social and physical infrastructure, including communications and transport, are needed to foster economic participation and community engagement. Through this participation parents and other adults can become effective role models for their families and community. The design and delivery of welfare (both transfer payments and services) needs to promote active engagement, enhanced capability and positive social norms. Ensuring that communities have support to address factors that are a barrier to engagement such as problem gambling is critical.

Context

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in economic participation outcomes is framed by the following data snapshot:

- In 2008 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians aged 15-64 experienced unemployment rates 13.8 percentage points higher than non Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians;^{23 24}
- Over 10 per cent of employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians aged 15 years and over are employed through Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP);²⁵
- The number of Indigenous Land Use Agreements in place in South Australia increased to 46 in 2010;²⁶ and
- The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in owner/purchaser households is less than half that of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.²⁷

Objectives

Objectives under the Economic Participation Building Block are contained in:

- National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation;
- National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Public Internet Access;
- National Agreement on Skills and Workforce Development;
- National Partnership Agreement on Seamless National Economy; and
- National Partnership Agreement on Productivity Places Program.

²³ ABS (2008) *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008* (ABS Cat. No.4714.0)

²⁴ ABS (2009) *Education and Work Australia*, May 2009 (ABS Cat. No. 6227.0)

²⁵ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Figure 8.1.2

²⁶ National Native Title Tribunal (2010) *Register of Indigenous Land Use Agreements September 2010*, Online, Available at (<http://www.nntt.gov.au/Indigenous-Land-Use-Agreements/Search-Registered-ILUAs/Pages/Search.aspx>)

²⁷ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Figure 8.3.3

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development initiatives;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australia; and
- Develop and share an evidence base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Employment and Economic Development Strategy (APY Lands)	Creating employment and economic development opportunities for Indigenous people on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
Ngarrindjeri Regional Partnership Agreement	This agreement sets out strategic and innovative approaches and projects for joint action to address important issues of economic development and Caring for Country in the Ngarrindjeri region.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Indigenous Business Australia, Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, SA Department for Water, SA Department of

		Environment and Natural Resources and SA Department of Primary Industries and Resources
Narungga Regional Partnership Agreement	This project will support the Narungga Nations to develop a Regional Partnership Agreement which will identify opportunities for future economic and Caring for Country activities. This will also benefit the wider population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing on the Yorke Peninsula.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations, Indigenous Business Australia and Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program Employability Skills Program (Pukatja)	This project will deliver training to eight Anangu in Certificate I or II in Engineering. The participants who successfully complete the training will work with the Army on construction and infrastructure projects at Pukatja.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, TAFE SA and the Australian Army
Remote Housing Building and Maintenance Project	This is a training and employment project for housing initiatives on the APY Lands initially that will roll out to other Aboriginal Communities in SA in the future.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Department for Families and Communities (Housing SA)
Eyre Peninsula Heritage Trail	An Aboriginal cultural heritage trail stretching across Eyre Peninsula to the Head of the Bight will be created through the linking of a number of existing Aboriginal tourism enterprises.	Regional Development Australia and SA Department of Trade and Economic Development

Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Indigenous Australians Caring for Country	<p>The Indigenous Protected Areas element of the Caring for Country initiative brings together traditional Indigenous knowledge and modern science to protect environmental and Indigenous cultural values, with flow-on benefits for communities' income, health, cultural transmission and educational outcomes.</p> <p>The Working on Country element of the Caring for Country initiative, by providing funds to train and employ full-time and part-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and waters, helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to carry out biodiversity conservation, natural resource and heritage protection, and to participate in accredited training, industry partnerships and related career pathways.</p>	Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Working on Country additional positions	Funds casual, part-time or seasonal employment of 60 full time equivalent positions and 30 trainees to add value to existing Working on Country and Indigenous Protected Area projects.	Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
National Arts and Crafts Industry Support Program	Provides funds to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art centres and related arts support/advocacy organisations for artist development, operations, infrastructure, networking and marketing, in order to	Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

	build a more sustainable Indigenous visual arts industry.	
Maintenance of Indigenous Languages and Records (MILR)	Provides funds to support the reclamation, revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as living systems of knowledge, so stemming the dramatic erosion and loss of Australia's estimated 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and building a cohort of community language workers.	Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
National Indigenous Languages Policy titled 'Indigenous languages – a national approach' and Action Plan	The policy confirms that the Commonwealth Government views the condition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages as important and it identifies critical areas for action. The subsequent National Indigenous Languages Action Plan outlines how the Commonwealth Government will engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages sector and State/Territory governments to improve support to reclamation, revival and maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, including increasing the range of opportunities for language-related employment and business activities.	Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Transportation and Licensing Review Project	This project will engage a consultant to facilitate whole of government and other stakeholder working groups to discuss licensing issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

	people and how it affects them securing and sustaining long term employment.	
West Coast Aboriginal Lands Economic Strategies	The aim of the project is to provide information to the families in the region and to the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations regarding the capacity of the land and community to develop businesses. This project will utilise a considered approach to assessing, determining and supporting Aboriginal people with a desire to move into small business, including in horticulture, agriculture and livestock. This is stage one of a two-staged project. Stage One will take between three and six months and will assess land and personnel capabilities of up to 30 sites in the region stretching from Port Lincoln to border of Western Australia.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Bungala Employment Retention Strategy on the APY Lands	This project aims to implement, facilitate and manage an Employment Retention Strategy for Anangu moving into work on the APY Lands. The target group will be any Anangu who is resident in the APY Lands and employed in part time or full time employment. Highly structured mentoring will be offered primarily to Anangu who have moved into targeted Job Conversion, 'Government Service positions', since 1 July 2009.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Economic Development Officer	This project will enable a full time Indigenous Employment and Economic Development Officer to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to achieve economic independence by stimulating commercially viable business ventures and identifying employment opportunities from new and existing business ventures.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Aboriginal Lands Trust – Business Project	This project supports the Aboriginal Lands Trust of South Australia to develop a Business Plan for the economic development aspects of the Certificates of Title held on behalf of the Aboriginal people of South Australia. The Business Plan will provide advice and direction in relation to improved economic development planning and operations for the organisation including medium to long term employment outcomes.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Streamline referrals from Job Services Australia (JSA) Providers to Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) on the APY Lands	A protocol and job aid was developed to assist CDEP and JSA providers to facilitate swift engagement of eligible job seekers. The principles of the approach are reflected in operation adjustments to CDEP and JSA services from mid-May 2010.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Traineeships	Indigenous Remote Service Delivery Traineeships support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees in eligible schools. The traineeships combine practical work experience with structured training to give trainees a nationally recognised qualification and the work experience needed	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

	to access suitable work opportunities.	
Family Centred Employment Project (FCEP)	Collaboration with SA Government Department of the Premier and Cabinet to increase employment participation of people in jobless families through the Building Family Opportunities Program	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Jobs Creation from COAG National Partnership Community Development Projects (CDEP) activities in Australian Government Services - Education	As part of the National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation, real employment opportunities and career paths for Indigenous Australians have been created in schools and preschools for former CDEP participants. In South Australia 12 positions have been funded in Anangu schools, and in the remote locations of Oodnadatta, Penong, and Ceduna.	Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
Reformed CDEP	Reforms to the CDEP Program were introduced on 1 July 2009. The Reformed CDEP no longer operates in non-remote locations where the economy is well established. CDEP positions that have supported the delivery of government services will be converted into properly paid jobs with ongoing funding to ensure sustainability.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Indigenous Community Support Service	Part of the CDEP reform package, the program provides link-up and support services for Indigenous Australians. The program connects Indigenous people and their families with a range of services including caring for families, early childhood, education, training, employment, financial	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

	management, housing, health and legal services.	
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South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Stepping up the Pace: South Australia's Accelerated Aboriginal Employment Strategy	Package of program initiatives designed to upskill and create employment opportunities for Aboriginal jobseekers.	SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program	The Apprenticeship Program provides apprenticeship opportunities for Aboriginal young people.	SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
South Australia Works	The program matches Aboriginal people with local job opportunities where there are labour and skills shortages.	SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
Aboriginal Access Centre	The Centre operates through TAFE SA to support Aboriginal people into training and employment.	TAFE SA
Aboriginal Employment Program	The program maximises public sector employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.	SA Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology
The Building Families Opportunities Program	Aims to break the cycle of intergenerational joblessness by providing assistance to gain sustainable employment.	SA Department of Further Education, Employment Science and Technology and SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Young Indigenous Entrepreneurs Program	Training and mentoring program that provides a development pathway for young Aboriginal entrepreneurs.	SA Department of Trade and Economic Development
Aboriginal Foundation of South Australia Inc.	The South Australian Government contributed funding to the Foundation, which was established as an incorporated body to identify, secure and manage viable business opportunities on behalf of Aboriginal people in South Australia.	SA Department of Trade and Economic Development

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference that are in Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: HEALTHY HOMES

A healthy home is a fundamental precondition of a healthy population. Important contributors to the current unsatisfactory living conditions include inadequate water and sewerage systems, waste collection, electricity and housing infrastructure (design, stock and maintenance). Children need to live in accommodation with adequate infrastructure conducive to good hygiene and study and free of overcrowding.

Context

In Australia nearly a quarter of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over are living in overcrowded housing. Overcrowded houses are more difficult to maintain and keep clean and lead to increased likelihood of spread of infection and infectious diseases.

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in outcomes for healthy homes is framed by the following data snapshot.

- In South Australia 11.8 percent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households are overcrowded.²⁸ This means that over 20 percent of South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are living in overcrowded conditions, compared to less than five percent of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians.²⁹
- Death rates from diseases associated with poor environmental health are much higher for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians than for non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians.³⁰
- In South Australia, 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with populations of less than 50 people do not have a sewerage system connected to all permanent dwellings.³¹

Objectives

Objectives under the Healthy Homes Building Block are contained in:

- National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing;
- National Affordable Housing Agreement;
- National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness;
- National Partnership Agreement on Social Housing;
- National Partnership Agreement on Energy Efficiency;
- Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Schedule C: Social Housing; and
- Renewable Remote Power Generation Program.

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing initiatives;

²⁸ ABS (2008) *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People 2006* (ABS Cat. No. 4704.0)

²⁹ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra

³⁰ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Figure 9.2.4

³¹ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, Figure 9.26

- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australia; and
- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Employment of local Aboriginal people in Construction and Housing Management on remote communities	20 per cent target in the employment of local Aboriginal people working in the construction and upgrading of housing and also in housing management.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Department for Families and Communities

Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Household Organisation Management Expenses (HOME) Advice Program	Assists families who face difficulty in maintaining tenancies or home ownership due to personal or financial circumstances. The program's early intervention approach prevents families from using crisis accommodation services.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Centrelink
The Road Home – The Australian Government White Paper on Homelessness	The Road Home sets the strategic agenda for reducing homelessness to 2020.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Affordable housing	The supply of affordable housing is being increased in urban, regional and remote communities.	SA Department for Families and Communities

Housing construction jobs	Opportunities are being created for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the construction and maintenance of community housing.	SA Department for Families and Communities
Community water supply initiative	Sustainable long-term water supply sources are being identified and developed for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.	SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Jobs in housing service delivery	Long term job opportunities are being created, along with traineeships in housing administration and service delivery.	SA Department for Families and Communities
Integrated Homelessness Service Model (IHSM)	An IHSM is being developed to provide long-term reform to the homelessness service sector within South Australia. Benefits will include improved client access, increased capacity, connectiveness and support for agencies and greater responsibility and integration across government services – with 20 per cent being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.	SA Department for Families and Communities
Homelessness strategy	Provision of place based responses to ensure safe movement of Aboriginal people (including Anangu) between communities and the regional centres of Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta and Adelaide.	SA Department for Families and Communities

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference that are in at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: SAFE COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (men, women and children) need to be safe from violence, abuse and neglect. Fulfilling this need involves improving family and community safety through law and justice responses (including accessible and effective policing and an accessible justice system), victim support (including safe houses and counselling), child protection and also preventative approaches. Addressing related factors such as alcohol and substance abuse will be critical to improving community safety along with the improved health benefits to be obtained.

Context

In South Australia, a bilateral commitment to Closing the Gap in outcomes for safe communities is framed by the following data snapshot:

- 33.9 deaths per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are caused by alcohol related conditions while 4.4 deaths per 100,000 non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are alcohol related;³²
- 13.9 deaths per 100,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are caused by drug related conditions while 5.9 deaths per 100,000 non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander South Australians are drug related;³³
- 34.7 percent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles apprehended by police were diverted via a formal caution and transfer to family conference while 46.7 percent of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles were diverted in this manner;³⁴ and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles in South Australia are 2.8 times more likely than non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander juveniles to be apprehended by police at least once.³⁵

Objectives

Objectives under the Safe Communities Building Block are addressed through three national policy vehicles:

- National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework;
- National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children; and
- National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and community safety initiatives;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australian; and

³² SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, 10.24

³³ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, 10.33

³⁴ SCRGSP (2009), *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009*, Productivity Commission, Canberra, 10.40

³⁵ Office of Crime Statistics and Research (OCSAR) (2005) *Crime and Justice in South Australia – Juvenile Justice*, Adelaide (http://www.ocsar.sa.gov.au/publications_statistics.html)

- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020	A joint response by the Commonwealth and States and Territories to ensure that Australia's children and young people are safe and well.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Department of Education and Children's Services
National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework 2009-2015	A framework agreed by the Commonwealth and States and Territories aimed at tackling Indigenous disadvantage in law and justice.	Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and SA Attorney-General's Department
Standing Committee of Attorneys-General - Indigenous Justice Working Group	The Standing Committee of Attorneys-General develops policy on Indigenous Justice that contributes to Closing the Gap.	Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and SA Attorney-General's Department
Indigenous Community Safety Roundtable	Attorneys-General, Ministers for Police, Indigenous Affairs Ministers and others with expertise in the area agreeing priorities for Indigenous Community Safety.	Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, SA Attorney General's Department and SA Police
National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children	A national strategy is under development.	Led by the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, SA Justice Portfolio and SA Department for Families and Communities
Family Violence Partnership Program (FVPP)	The Sturt Street Supported Tenancy Accommodation Project provides transitional accommodation for	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous

	Aboriginal women and children experiencing family violence and/or homelessness. The FVPP is also funding Riverland and Remote Areas initiatives.	Affairs and SA Department for Families and Communities
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Australian Government initiatives:

Youth Connections – Specialised Services program	The Youth Connections – Specialised Services program is a South Australian specific initiative under the general Youth Connections program which focuses specifically on young people who are at imminent risk of engaging with, who are in or exiting the Juvenile Justice system and provides a holistic approach to servicing those young people to assist them to engage with education and/or community.	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations
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South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Nunga Courts	Nunga Courts are ensuring the cultural appropriateness of the SA court system.	SA Courts Administration Authority
Aboriginal Justice Officers	Improve the accessibility of the justice system for Aboriginal people.	SA Courts Administration Authority
Strategy to address repeat offending by youth	The <i>To Break the Cycle Report</i> provides a framework to address repeat offending by young people. It is an initiative of the Social Inclusion Unit with input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet and SA Department for Families and Communities
Aboriginal Power Cup	Contributes to the prevention of youth offending by using football to engage young people in education and develop teamwork, leadership and life skills.	SA Attorney-General's Department, SA Aboriginal Sports Training Academy and Port Adelaide Football Club
Calperum on the Land	A prevention and early intervention program for young people in the	SA Attorney-General's Department

	criminal justice system or at-risk of becoming involved. Participants undertake a range of programs including land care and pest management, substance misuse treatment, life skills development and social activities.	
The David Kennedy Approach – ‘Nendi’	An approach to crime prevention focussing on integrating police, government agencies, community and service providers to develop and implement solutions to local offending issues.	SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet and SA Department for Families and Communities
Panyappi (Young Brothers and Sisters)	An intensive mentoring support service for Aboriginal young people. The program aims to decrease young peoples contact with the juvenile justice system and promotes self-discovery and self-determination by young people participating in the program their family and wider community.	SA Department for Families and Communities
Kurlana Meyanna Karpandi (Supporting Youth)	The program is designed to recruit, train and support Aboriginal carers to provide placements for young people in the justice system.	SA Department for Families and Communities
Marni Wodli (Good House)	Provision of culturally appropriate accommodation options to ‘at risk’ Aboriginal young people aged between 15 and 18 years. Priority is given to young people on Youth Justice Orders or under the Guardianship of the Minister for Families and Communities.	SA Department for Families and Communities

<p>Strong Families, Safe Children</p>	<p>Families in contact with the statutory child protection and care systems are being supported to stabilise and build capacity in families to provide better care for children.</p> <p>Aboriginal children and their families are a focus area. Two Aboriginal specific service providers provide support to Aboriginal children and their families.</p>	<p>SA Department for Families and Communities</p>
<p>Kanggarendi Team</p>	<p>Aboriginal families are being supported through intensive case management services to build resilience and strengthen family capacity.</p>	<p>SA Department for Families and Communities</p>
<p>Port Augusta Aboriginal Families Team</p>	<p>Provision of intensive case working approaches with Aboriginal families ensuring families guide the direction in which service provision can best be provided to them.</p> <p>The Port Augusta Aboriginal Families Team has been created to target intervention to Aboriginal families who have multiple problems, and who have been involved with numerous human service agencies over a long period of time.</p>	<p>SA Department for Families and Communities</p>
<p>Taikurtinna Maltorendi (Families to remain together)</p>	<p>An Aboriginal whole of family case management/outreach home visiting service that aims to support families in a non-threatening, culturally accountable environment in order to improve the housing, educational, health and wellbeing outcomes for children at risk of becoming homeless. Targeted at families living in the north-west regions of Adelaide.</p>	<p>SA Department for Families and Communities</p>

Senior Social Workers in Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) Schools	School based initiative focused upon early intervention and prevention strategies. Provides child protection focused supports to ‘groups’ of people who play a role in providing child safe environments (i.e., Elders, women, men, young mum’s, youth). Link closely with Anangu schools to provide information, programs and practical opportunities for Anangu to create child safe environments for their Community.	SA Department for Families and Communities
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Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference that are in at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

BUILDING BLOCK: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Strong leadership is needed to champion and demonstrate ownership of reform. Effective governance arrangements in communities and organisations as well as strong engagement by governments at all levels are essential to long term sustainable outcomes. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people need to be engaged in the development of reforms that will impact on them. Improved access to capacity building in governance and leadership is needed in order for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to play a greater role in exercising their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Context

National and international literature on best practice social and community development programs unanimously conclude that program delivery is more effective when it is informed by, developed with, and implemented in partnership with the community. Improved capacity building in governance and leadership will support communities to engage as equal partners with the Governments.

Objectives

Objectives under the Governance and Leadership Building Block are contained in:

- National Partnership Agreement on Remote Service Delivery; and
- National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy.

Working Together

The Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Schedule to:

- Align existing South Australian and Commonwealth Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education initiatives;
- Align the reporting requirements associated with these activities;
- Engage in joint strategic policy development and planning processes for future activity in the South Australia; and
- Develop and share an evidence-base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Targets and baselines

Activities with outcomes that address this Building Block contribute to the six Closing the Gap targets. These targets and the baselines against which they will be measured are included in this Plan at Clause 6.

What we are doing now

These initiatives have been identified as priority activities for the Working Group. This list may be expanded in the future.

Joint initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
Coordinators-General for Remote Indigenous Services	A statutory position of a Coordinator-General for Remote Indigenous Services has been established in both Commonwealth and South	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet

	Australian Governments to strengthen government accountability in Remote Service Delivery priority communities.	
Corporate Governance Workshops	Aboriginal organisational and community governance is being improved across South Australia through the provision of governance training.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and the SA Office of Consumer and Business Affairs

Commonwealth Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	The Congress will play a key role in the Commonwealth Government's commitment to resetting the relationship with Indigenous peoples and developing genuine partnerships to Close the Gap on life expectancy and opportunities.	Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

South Australian Government initiatives:

Title	Description	Agency
South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council (SAAAC)	The SAAAC was established by the South Australian Government as a peak-level advisory body to government on Aboriginal affairs policy, program and service delivery matters.	SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Office of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement	The South Australian Government is funding the Commissioner's office to investigate systemic issues with the delivery of services to Aboriginal people.	SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Aboriginal youth leadership development	Young Aboriginal leaders are linked to youth leadership programs across South Australia.	SA Office for Youth

Governance and Monitoring

Governance and monitoring arrangements for this Building Block are outlined in the OBIP Working Group Terms of Reference which are at Clause 34 of this Plan.

Formal reporting against the National Partnership Agreements related to this Building Block can be accessed through the relevant Implementation Plans on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website (www.federalfinancialrelations.gov.au).

SCHEDULE D

URBAN AND REGIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY

On 2 July 2009, COAG agreed the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians (the Strategy), which forms Schedule B to the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, and states:

- The Strategy will be progressed in each jurisdiction as part of the Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan (OBIP) agreed between the Commonwealth and each State/Territory (either through a specific implementation schedule detailing actions to be taken for each key action area or through integrated efforts across all schedules under the OBIPs, depending on the circumstances and preferences of each jurisdiction).
- Governments will establish, primarily through OBIPs, appropriate mechanisms to coordinate policy and services in their jurisdiction which contribute to Closing the Gap targets.
- Building on review mechanisms under the OBIP, the effectiveness of this Urban and Regional Strategy will be reviewed after three years.
- Using the Strategy, all jurisdictions will report to COAG late in 2009 on their progress in utilising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific and mainstream National Partnership Agreements in the areas of health, housing, early childhood, education and employment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in urban and region areas and the progressive roll-out of the Strategy. This report will underpin each jurisdiction's commitment to a concerted and ongoing effort, as outlined and monitored through an OBIP agreed between each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

Context

The South Australian and Australian Governments recognise that achieving progress towards Closing the Gap targets requires significant gains in urban and regional locations. These gains will require focussed and tailored effort across health, housing, early childhood development, education and employment.

In 2006, 81.3 percent of all South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people resided in urban and regional areas³⁶. This is an increase of 3.4 percentage points since 2001³⁷. Data shows that the regional centres across Australia that are experiencing significant growth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations are also experiencing a net movement of non- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people out of these locations, contributing to a higher concentration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular locations.³⁸

³⁶ ABS (2006) *Experimental Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians June 2006* (ABS Cat. No. 3238.0.55.001)

³⁷ ABS (2003) *Population Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians 2001* (ABS Cat. No. 4713.0)

³⁸ Taylor, J. 2006, *Population and Diversity: Policy Implications of Emerging Indigenous Demographic Trends*, CAEPR Discussion Paper No. 283/2006

Significantly, recent analysis of the levels of socioeconomic disparity between the South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations confirms that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is not because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons are more likely to live in remote areas. Within suburbs or large regional towns, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians continue to fare relatively poorly in terms of employment, education, income and housing.³⁹

In December 2009, the Governments submitted a report to COAG on the progress of the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for all jurisdictions.

Areas for Priority Intervention

The South Australian and Australian Governments are committed to pursuing the National Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy for Indigenous Australians to address levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage in urban and regional South Australia. Within the spirit of the national Strategy, the Governments will focus their effort on:

- Driving coordination and integration of policy, programs and services.
- Leveraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific and mainstream National Partnership Agreements in Health, Housing and Homelessness, Early Childhood, Education and Economic Participation.
- Reforming service delivery systems to ensure government investments: deliver effective and accessible services that are taken up by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; deliver culturally competent services; maximise linkages between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific and mainstream services; and deliver service models that respond to high levels of mobility amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.
- Undertaking focused place-based work in a number of urban and regional priority locations.
- Strengthening the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities to: take up and benefit from services; and engage in and actively participate in all aspects of Australian society.
- Building effective accountability and sustainability in service delivery.

³⁹ Biddle, N. 'Same suburb, different worlds: Comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes in city suburbs and large regional towns', in *People and Place* (forthcoming). This document quotes from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2006) Population Characteristics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians June 2006

Working together

Through this schedule the Governments agree to:

1. Develop a South Australian Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy Action Plan setting out actions against the broader priority interventions (as outlined above) as well as responsibilities, milestones and performance measures;
2. Identify and select priority locations for joined up place-based work using a methodology of:
 - a. Identification of statistical local areas with: high Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations; high levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in disadvantage; and high levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a reliance on unemployment related income support.
 - b. Mapping of Government footprint in these locations including; services, investment, reform activities and infrastructure (both gaps and opportunities).
 - c. Comparative assessment of: capacity to benefit from innovation in whole of government coordination; capacity to leverage existing economic growth opportunities; and likely community capacity and support for partnering on the initiative with government.
 - d. Assessment of ability to measure Closing the Gap progress and specifically ability to disaggregate outcomes attributable to Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy placed based activities.
3. Community consultation to identify critical drivers in areas that are likely to effect change to South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage;
4. Targeted baseline mapping, planning and local implementation in selected priority place-based locations in partnership with the community;
5. Strengthened coordination and integration of service delivery through: joined-up governance, engagement and communication mechanisms for place-based locations; and appropriate investment of current resources to sufficiently address Closing the Gap commitments;
6. Focussed monitoring and oversight of agreed reporting arrangements instituted by agreement of the OBIP Working Group for the place-based locations;
7. Develop an appropriate performance measurement framework in partnership with the community to measure Closing the Gap progress within South Australia's urban and regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population;
8. Integrate closing the gap commitments in urban and regional South Australia in broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander reform governance, monitoring and reporting regimes;
9. Pursue broader Closing the Gap efforts in locations (local or regional) outside the joined up place-based locations, as part of their general business;
10. Contribute to future reporting as determined by COAG;
11. Consistent with relevant COAG agreements and decisions, finalise this schedule as soon as possible during 2010; and
12. Review the effectiveness of the Urban and Regional Strategy after three years and within the broader OBIP review mechanisms.

Milestones

- Sign off of the Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan
- Sign off of the South Australian Urban and Regional place-based initiative
- Commencement of OBIP monitoring committee meetings
- Development of an Action Plan including collation of target location data
- Development of initiatives against the following action areas:

Integration and Governance
A transparent and systematic approach to coordinating services to address Indigenous disadvantage to overcome a legacy of piecemeal and post hoc adjustments, to address the needs of Indigenous individuals and families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ngarrindjeri Regional Partnership Agreement

Effective Services
Undertake improvements in the way services are delivered to Indigenous people; Engagement of Indigenous people and working in partnership to address barriers to take-up of services; and Maximise linkages between Indigenous specific and mainstream services.

NP on Early Childhood Education Key Outcomes: Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Priority Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By 2013, every child will have access to a quality, early childhood education program for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year in the year before formal schooling; and• Early childhood education programs will be delivered by a 4 year university qualified early childhood teacher in a range of settings in a form that meets the needs of parents and in a manner that ensures cost does not present a barrier to access.• Agree and implement strategies and actions under the Indigenous (including remote communities) Universal Access Strategy to ensure access and participation in quality preschool education by Indigenous children in all geographic locations.
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NP on Indigenous Early Childhood Development Key Outcomes: Element One – Integration of Early Childhood Services through Children and Family Centres Element Two – Increased Access to Antenatal Care, Pre-pregnancy and Teenage Sexual and Reproductive Health Element Three – Increased Access to, and use of, Maternal and Child Health Services by Indigenous Families Priority Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin roll-out of Children and Family Centres;• Baseline mapping and an evaluation strategy;• Revision of Implementation Plans; and• Reporting.

NP on Literacy and Numeracy

The NP will also provide an additional \$40 million to strategic initiatives that support the reform. This includes a \$13 million investment in the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Key Outcomes:

Young people are meeting basic literacy and numeracy standards, and overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving (literacy and numeracy achievement of Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in national testing); and

Australian students excel by international standards (the proportion of students in the bottom and top levels of performance in international testing, e.g. Program for International Student Assessment and Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study).

Priority Areas:

- Effective and evidence-based teaching of literacy and numeracy;
- Strong school leadership and whole school engagement with literacy and numeracy; and
- Monitoring student and school literacy and numeracy performance to identify where support is needed.

NP on Low Socio-Economic Status School Communities

Key Outcomes: Addressing education disadvantage associated with low socio-economic status, including in Indigenous communities.

Priority Areas:

- Incentives to attract high-performing principals and teachers;
- Adoption of best practice performance management and staffing arrangements that articulate a clear role for principals;
- School operational arrangements which encourage innovation and flexibility
- Providing innovative and tailored learning opportunities;
- Strengthened school accountability; and
- External partnerships with parents, other schools, businesses and communities.

NP on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Building the Education Revolution**Key Outcomes:**

To provide new facilities and refurbishments in schools to meet the needs of 21st century students and teachers.

Priority Areas:

- Refurbishment of building;
- Construction of fixed shade structures, covered outdoor learning areas, upgrades to sportsgrounds and facilities, green upgrades (water tanks, insulation);
- Installation of information and communication technology (ICT) facilities and equipment for primary schools;
- Construction or renewing of large scale infrastructure for primary schools; and
- Construction or renewing of science laboratories and learning centres for secondary schools.

NP on Preventive Health**Key Outcomes:**

To address the rising prevalence of lifestyle related chronic diseases.

Priority Areas:

- Support Australians in reducing their risk of chronic disease;

- Work with food supply and food service sectors towards offering healthy choices; and
- Support behavioural change with public education.

NP on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform
Key Outcomes:
 To pursue reforms and improvements in the health and hospital sector – against the backdrop of increasing demand due to ageing population, rising chronic disease, advancing technology and pressures associated with workforce shortages.
Priority Areas:
 Reform and improve:

- Efficiency of public hospital services;
- Health workforce capability and supply;
- Volume and quality of sub-acute services; and
- Functioning of emergency departments.

NP on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes
Key Outcomes: This Agreement will expand primary health care and targeted prevention activities to reduce the burden of chronic disease on Indigenous Australians to help close the gap in life expectancy within a generation.
Priority Areas:

- Tackling smoking
- Healthy transition to adulthood
- Making Indigenous health everyone’s business
- Primary health care services that can deliver
- Fixing the gaps and improving the patient journey

NP on Homelessness
Key Outcomes:
 A Place To Call Home Program;
 Street to Home initiatives for chronically homeless people;
 Support for private and public tenants to help sustain their tenancies; and
 Assistance for people leaving state care to access and maintain stable, affordable housing.
Priority Areas:

- Reduce the number of homeless Australians by 7 percent by 2013; and
- Reduce the number of homeless Indigenous Australians by one third by 2013.

NP on Social Housing
Key Outcomes: Social Housing Growth Fund
Priority Areas:

- Improved housing opportunities for Indigenous people.

NP on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan – Social Housing Initiative
Key Outcomes:
 Refurbishment of existing and construction of new Social Housing.
Priority Areas:

- New and refurbished dwellings available to Indigenous people.

- Murray Bridge Youth Engagement Activities

Focus on Local Need/Place-based Approaches

A place-based approach to implement initiatives designed to combat disadvantage in urban and regional areas in a manner that is appropriate for each community; and Prioritise investment, where appropriate, in specific locations that have greatest impact on Closing the Gap.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing location based approaches that will have an initial focus in Northern Adelaide and Port Augusta
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Support Service
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities for Children Plus

Strengthening Indigenous Capacity, Engagement and Participation
Promoting and supporting a strong and positive view of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and culture; Strengthen individual, family and community wellbeing and capacity; Working in partnership with Indigenous organisations to support families and children affected by past policies of forced removal; and Develop responses to local need which are driven by both the community and government.
NP on Improving Teacher Quality Key Outcomes: Deliver system-wide reforms targeting critical points in the teacher ‘lifecycle’ to attract, train, place, develop and retain quality teachers and leaders in schools and classrooms; and Professional development and support for principals. Priority Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build professional pathways for Indigenous people and Indigenous Education Workers who wish to progress to teaching through the Indigenous Pathways reform; • Improve reward structures for teachers and leaders who work in disadvantaged Indigenous, rural/remote and hard-to-staff schools; • Improve in-school support for teachers and leaders, particularly in disadvantaged Indigenous, rural/remote and hard-to-staff schools; and • Facilitate Indigenous teachers’ and school leaders’ engagement with community members.
NP on Youth Attainment and Transition Key Outcomes: To develop a skilled and work ready Australian workforce by increasing the educational attainment and engagement of young Australians, including Aboriginal Australians. Priority Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased participation in education and training; • Successful transitions from school to further education, training or full-time employment; and • Increased attainment of young people aged 15-24 including Aboriginal youth.
NP on Productivity Places Key Outcomes: To increase the number of people with qualifications and the number of people with higher level qualifications.

Building effective Accountability and Sustainability
Take specific action to improve data quality consistent with Schedule F of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement; and Programs have regular and transparent monitoring, review and evaluation; build the evidence base and share good practice.

Under the **National Partnership Agreement on an Indigenous Clearinghouse**, the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments are responsible for engaging with the Clearinghouse and contribute relevant research and evaluations they have conducted to the Clearinghouse.

The Closing the Gap Clearinghouse provides policy makers and service providers with research and evaluation based material on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage

Timelines

- Development of Urban and Regional Service Delivery Strategy Action Plan
June 2010 – December 2010
- Implementation and monitoring of Action Plan
December 2010 – July 2012
- Evaluation of Action Plan
December 2010 – June 2013

Performance Measures aligned with COAG Outcomes and South Australian Strategic Plan Targets

Close the life expectancy gap within a generation:

- Rate of daily smokers;
- Average daily alcohol consumption and associated level of risk;
- Rates of alcohol consumption at long term medium to high risk levels;
- Levels of obesity by body mass index; and
- Level of physical activity.

Halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade:

- Levels of attendance in early years education.

Halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020:

- Rate of attendance in years 1 to 10, focussing on years 1, 5, 10;
- School retention rates to Year 10; and
- School retention rates to Year 12.

Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade:

- 3 month employment outcomes;
- Proportion of Indigenous 18 – 24 year olds in full time employment, education or training at, or above, Certificate III level study;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment in the public sector;

- Understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture; and
- Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on government boards and committees.

AGREED DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

On 2 July 2009, COAG agreed a number of actions to improve the performance indicator data required under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA). Agreed actions and jurisdictional responsibilities form Schedule F to the NIRA, which states:

- In the period up to 30 June 2013, the Commonwealth and States and Territories will undertake the following actions to improve the performance indicator data required under this Agreement.
- A schedule to each jurisdiction's Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plan will clearly articulate the activities that jurisdiction will undertake, in the period up to 30 June 2013, against each action for which that jurisdiction is responsible. Plans will need to include concrete, objectively verifiable activities.

For more information see NIRA Schedule F: Agreed data quality improvements.

Context

A key feature of COAG's Indigenous reform agenda is enhanced reporting against specified indicators, many of which will be disaggregated by Indigenous status. Improvements to data quality are critical if COAG is to closely examine progress towards Closing the Gap. To achieve these improvements the South Australian and Commonwealth Governments, under the NIRA, have agreed to actions to improve the performance indicator data required.

This schedule will be finalised in 2010 taking into consideration the COAG Reform Council's report on the NIRA due for release in 2010.

Areas for Priority Intervention

The Governments have agreed that to support Closing the Gap measurement and reporting, effort will be targeted in areas of priority intervention including:

- Implementing improvements to Census Indigenous enumeration procedures to improve the quality of the Census count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians;
- Expanding the scope of the Census Post Enumeration Survey to include very remote areas and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
- Analysing the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification in key data sets and undertaking a baseline report and ongoing five yearly studies to monitor identification levels over time;
- Adopting the standard ABS Indigenous status questions and recording categories on data collection forms and information systems for key data sets across all jurisdictions;
- Improving procedures for collecting Indigenous status information in health and education data by training staff in key data collection positions about how and why to ask the Indigenous status question and to raise awareness about its importance;

- Developing and implementing initiatives to raise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community's awareness about the importance of identifying as Indigenous when accessing services and to therefore raise the propensity for identification;
- Linking Census records with death registration records to assess under-identification of Indigenous mortality for use in the compilation of Indigenous life expectancy estimates;
- Developing national best practice guidelines for data linkage and examining current and planned data linkage work relevant to Indigenous identification;
- Developing an enhanced Perinatal National Minimum Data Set collection to capture data in relation to smoking during pregnancy, child and maternal health and the Indigenous status of the baby;
- Reviewing jurisdictional practices for collecting pathology information and developing a business case for the implementation of a nationally consistent pathology data collection, including Indigenous status; and
- Developing national Key Performance Indicators for Indigenous specific primary health care services. A coordinated data collection is also planned.

Working Together

The Commonwealth and South Australian Governments are committed to working in partnership through this Plan to:

- Contribute to the coordination of Closing the Gap measurement, monitoring and reporting activities under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, other National Agreements and National Partnerships;
- Develop an agreed methodology to monitor progress in Closing the Gap in South Australia; and
- Develop and share an evidence base through contributing relevant research and evaluation to the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse.

Governance and Monitoring

The OBIP Working Group will monitor and oversee matters of priority and progress relating to the OBIP and Building Blocks. The Terms of Reference for the OBIP Working Group are attached to this Plan at Clause 34.