

# National Agreement on Closing the Gap

South Australia's Annual Report 2021–2022



# Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> people as the state's First Peoples and nations and recognise Aboriginal people as Traditional Owners and occupants of lands and waters in South Australia.

We recognise:

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

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

<sup>1</sup> In South Australia, the term Aboriginal is adopted to refer to people who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

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## Minister's foreword

The Government of South Australia is committed to working in partnership to close the gap and improve the lives of Aboriginal people in SA. Together with the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON), we're pleased to provide the State's first Annual Report under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement).

I grew up in country SA, mainly in Mount Gambier among the Boandik people and Ngarrindjeri people. As a proud Aboriginal man, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and South Australia's first Aboriginal Attorney-General, I am passionate about ensuring that Aboriginal people in SA share in the opportunities and benefits this State offers.

This report highlights progress made on SA's Implementation Plan on Closing the Gap over 2021–22, and reports on how we are tracking against the targets agreed to in the National Agreement, using the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap data dashboard.

It has been a challenging year, with actions commenced under the Implementation Plan while navigating the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on South Australians and the delivery of government services.

As SA and the world continue to emerge into 'COVID-normal', I am committed to building on the gains of the past year to transform services and enhance opportunities for Aboriginal people. We are still in the relatively early stages of our 10-year journey to work in partnership to close the gap, and achieve real, long-term reform.

This Government was elected in March 2022 with a commitment to implement a state-based version of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty and Truth. Over the next four years, we will invest more than \$2 billion to restart the Treaty Process, and properly and respectfully consult with Aboriginal people on a genuine First Nations Voice to Parliament, before I bring legislation to Parliament.

We will continue to grow and strengthen our partnership with SAACCON and, together, we will deliver on the four priority reform areas and 17 socio-economic outcomes outlined in the National Agreement.

**Hon Kyam Maher MLC**

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

## SAACCON foreword

The South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) is a network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in South Australia and has been established to provide advice, recommendations and guidance based on the interests of ACCOs and Aboriginal peoples of South Australia.

SAACCON is currently made up of:

- Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council
- Aboriginal Family Support Services
- Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
- Aboriginal Sobriety Group
- Family Violence Legal Services Aboriginal Corporation
- First Nations of South Australia Aboriginal Corporation
- Incompro
- Kura Yerlo Incorporated
- Kornar Winmil Yunti Aboriginal Corporation
- Mobile Language Team
- Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities
- Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council
- Nunga Mi:Minar Incorporated
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia
- Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service
- Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Corporation
- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service


- South Australian Aboriginal Education Training Consultative Council
- South Australian Native Title Services
- South Australian Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation
- Tauondi Aboriginal College

SAACCON welcomes the new approach to partnership between governments and Aboriginal people under Closing the Gap. It is an approach that has been echoed in almost all reviews and strategies over the past few decades, that were specifically aimed at addressing disadvantage across all socio-economic sectors affecting our people throughout the country. Reports were not unique in their solutions to address disadvantage, rather, they were consistent in their call for Aboriginal people to be involved in decisions that affect their lives.

The Closing the Gap Priority Reforms require governments to change the way they do business when working or delivering a service to Aboriginal people. This is no easy feat. It will require strong leadership and a belief that what we are trying to achieve is the right thing to do. It requires mutual trust and courage in the face of opposition. To maintain the status quo will prolong for decades more any real success in achieving outcomes and will be to the detriment of Aboriginal people. We have been directly and indirectly affected by adverse policies since colonisation. At times there have been inquiries, reviews and reports into government policies and practices that led to Aboriginal people being marginalised.

There have also been reports attempting to address that marginalisation. For example, the Committee of Review of Aboriginal Employment and Training Programs (Miller Report) (1985) was intended to address critical issues that prevent Aboriginal people from achieving broad equity with non-Aboriginal people in reaching positive educational outcomes. The National Aboriginal Health Strategy (1989) would set out a comprehensive program to improve the health of Aboriginal people. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) (1991) was formed to investigate the deaths in custody of Aboriginal people held in state and territory gaols between 1 January 1980 and 31 May 1989 and resulted in 339 recommendations. The *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) was a response to opposition from mining companies and pastoralists to the High Court's historic Mabo decision (1992). A National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families (1997) listened to the traumatic stories of those children taken away to become assimilated into mainstream society and to be trained as domestics and farm hands.

The impact of government policies and practices that targeted Aboriginal people had negatively permeated its way across all sectors, such as education, justice, health, language and culture, housing, employment, and income.



Where are we now when we consider the position of Aboriginal people of today? The Productivity Commission's 2020 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report states there have been improvements in areas such as early child development, economic participation and aspects of health and education.

Yet, Aboriginal people remain the most disadvantaged people within Australian society. Thirty-one years after the RCIADIC, Aboriginal people in South Australia make up 2% of the general population but 19% of the prison population (Australian Law Reform Commission, 2018). On a national scale, Aboriginal people are imprisoned at a rate of 2222.7 per 100,000 in comparison to 164.2 per 100,000 for non-Aboriginal people. Equally unacceptable is the rate of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care across Australia, i.e. 57.6 per 1000 compared to 5.0 per 1000 for non-Aboriginal children. The high, disproportionate rates of incarceration and out-of-home care for Aboriginal people must be addressed. The current situation is simply indefensible.

This first Annual Report highlights progress on the SA Implementation Plan, which was developed jointly by the South Australian Government and SAACCON – coming together in such a way for the first time.

We acknowledge Attachment A – Implementation Status Update on South Australia's Implementation Plan. SAACCON agrees with the SA Government that most of the work that has been conducted to date, has been building relationships. We have engaged with SA government on various matters that have set the process for partnerships and/or co-design on several of the activities within South Australia's Implementation Plan. These engagements have been fruitful and SAACCON are confident these will result in positive outcomes. We also acknowledge that there is a lot more work to be done, and we will continue to work with the government to achieve equitable outcomes for the Aboriginal people and communities of South Australia.

SAACCON is pleased that the new approach with government is starting to have success in ensuring that the new partnership approach is working. For example, SAACCON were asked to participate in and nominate members for the Advisory Commission into the Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal Peoples in South Australia.

SAACCON have received additional funding to employ 4 Policy Officers to address Early Childhood Development, Health and Disability, Housing (to establish a SA Aboriginal Community Housing Association) and also a Policy Officer to help develop the Place Based Partnership project in the Western Suburbs of Adelaide.

SAACCON are in the process of becoming an incorporated body once the Draft Constitution is put to members for final comments. This process is expected to be finalised by the end of 2022.



COVID-19 restrictions prevented SAACCON from informing South Australian Aboriginal communities of their role as a state-wide representative body who represent Aboriginal people through their local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in state-wide decision making. With the loosening of these restrictions, SAACCON will be able to undertake this work over the next 12 months and with a view to increasing its membership base.

The SAACCON Secretariat acknowledges the immense support it has received over the past 12 months from the South Australian Government and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector. With the assistance of the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee the Secretariat will have new premises by the end of 2022, to house its growing staff base from 2 to 7 in 12 months. The South Australian Government's Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation directorate has also been steadfast in their support throughout the partnership workshops over the past 6 months. SAACCON acknowledges the significant support it received from Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation as the SAACCON Secretariat. SAACCON also acknowledges the support provided by the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in auspicing SAACCON as we began to set this body up and the South Australian Native Title Services for providing us with accommodation in which to conduct our work.

This and future Annual Reports will track the 4 Priority Reforms and 17 socio-economic targets captured in the National Agreement, and we look forward to working with the South Australian Government to achieve the aims of Closing the Gap.

### **Scott Wilson**

Lead Convenor

South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Networks

## Executive summary

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) arises from a commitment from all Australian governments and Aboriginal people to work together to overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal people, and achieve life outcomes equal to all Australians.

It fulfils the commitments made in the historic Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap, which commenced in March 2019 and signalled a new way of working to close the gap.

The South Australian Government signed the National Agreement in July 2020, along with the Australian Government, all state and territory governments, the Australian Local Government Association and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations.

SA's inaugural Implementation Plan for the National Agreement was signed by Government and SAACCON on 29 July 2021. The Implementation Plan is a living document that outlines the steps and actions we will take to achieve the Priority Reforms and Socio-Economic Outcomes of the National Agreement.

The National Agreement is centred around partnership and shared accountability. This report demonstrates concerted effort and a commitment to transformational change across government – recognising the importance of working collaboratively with Aboriginal people – as opposed to government and related bureaucracy working in isolation.

The South Australian Government has focussed on establishing structures that support the reforms set out the National Agreement. We acknowledge that progress in 2021-22 has been limited. However, the approach in SA has been considered, iterative and genuine, acknowledging where past efforts have fallen short, learning from mistakes, and building trust.

We are confident that our efforts have laid solid foundations for the genuine partnership encapsulated in Priority Reform 1. A key action delivered under the Implementation Plan is the newly signed Partnership Agreement between the South Australian Government and SAACCON entered into on 10 November 2022 and establishing appropriate governance arrangements.

The Government and SAACCON continue to work closely to develop and negotiate further actions to achieve the outcomes in the National Agreement. These agreed actions will be incorporated in a refresh of SA's Implementation Plan in 2023. Our shared expectation is that all of the above will lead to considerably accelerated progress over the next 12 months.

As required by Clause 118 of the National Agreement, this Annual Report details SA's progress on the National Agreement and our Implementation Plan. It draws on the Productivity Commission's most recent Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report (July 2022) and reports on SA's efforts in 2021–22 across the 4 Priority Reform areas and 17 socio-economic outcomes and targets.

Attachment A details the progress status of all actions included in SA's Implementation Plan. Of the 254 actions:

- 36 have been completed
- 203 are in progress (172 on track and 31 delayed)
- 12 have not yet commenced (1 has been delayed, and 11 are not yet due to have commenced)
- 3 are no longer being progressed.

The status of actions reflects that 2021–22 was focussed on building the partnership between SAACCON and the South Australian Government.

The South Australian Government acknowledges the far reaching, intergenerational impacts of colonisation and dispossession which explicitly excluded Aboriginal people and resulted in entrenched, systemic and structural racism and disadvantage. Despite the past and present impacts of colonisation, Aboriginal people, families and communities remain strong and resilient and continue to sustain the world's oldest living cultures.

## Data overview

South Australia is committed to achieving the outcomes and targets of the National Agreement, in full and genuine partnership with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations.

This report summarises and provides commentary on the Productivity Commission's most recent [Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report \(July 2022\)](#). At this stage, monitoring of the targets provides limited information on progress under the National Agreement toward achieving the 17 socio-economic outcomes. As more years of data become available, monitoring of the targets will provide greater insight into progress made as a result of actions taken under the National Agreement, and these assessments will be made with greater degrees of confidence.<sup>1</sup>

For the latest data, please refer to the Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Dashboard: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard>

As outlined earlier in this report, SA has been focussed on building the strong foundations needed to support long-lasting change. It will take some time to ensure that the right data is being captured and that it is as accessible as possible to all parties. Success in this will enable shared understanding of the holistic outcomes that should flow from our endeavours and new approach. Sound data will support accountability and guide future actions.

While current data shows some positive trends, such as a reduction in the rate of Aboriginal young people in detention, this has not been uniform. Indeed, in some instances movement has been in the wrong direction. This cannot continue; we must work harder to ensure only positive momentum.

## Priority Reforms

Measures and data for the 4 Priority Reforms are yet to be developed for all jurisdictions. Reporting on related activity is provided below.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information, please refer to pages 19-20 of the Productivity Commission's [Closing the Gap Annual Data Compilation Report \(July 2022\)](#): <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/annual-data-report/report/closing-the-gap-annual-data-Compilation-report-july2022.pdf>

## Socio-economic outcomes

Summary snapshots for the 17 socio-economic outcome areas are included below.

Assessments of progress are available at a national level for 9 targets, reflecting progress from the baseline. Of these, disaggregated data reflecting South Australia's progress is available for 7 targets.

Detailed performance information for each target, where available, is provided in the Socio-economic outcomes section of this report.

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress	Data notes
<b>Target 1:</b> Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	Not available for SA <sup>2</sup>	Improvement but not on track	This target draws on a 5-yearly dataset, with 2015-17 the most recent data available. No data was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 2:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improvement	Good improvement and on track	New data (2019) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 3:</b> By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improvement	Good improvement and on track	New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 4:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55%.	Improvement	Worsening	New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.

<sup>2</sup> Due to small numbers of Aboriginal deaths in SA, the ABS determines that it is not feasible to derive a separate reliable South Australian Aboriginal deaths identification rate. For more information, please refer to <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/life-tables-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/2015-2017>



Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress	Data notes
<b>Target 5:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Data not available	Data not available	Targets 5 – 9 draw on the 5-yearly Census. No data is available for these targets since the baseline (2016).
<b>Target 6:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Data not available	Data not available	It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23, enabling national and state progress reporting on these targets in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.
<b>Target 7:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Data not available	Data not available	
<b>Target 8:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62%.	Data not available	Data not available	
<b>Target 9:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Data not available	Data not available	
<b>Target 10:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults held in incarceration by at least 15%.	Worsening	Worsening	
<b>Target 11:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	Good improvement and on track	New data (2020-21) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 12:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (0–17 years old) in out-of-home care by 45%.	Worsening	Worsening	New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.

Socio-economic targets	SA progress	National progress	Data notes
<b>Target 13:</b> By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	Data not available	Data not available	This target draws on a periodic survey, with no data available since the baseline (2018-19). The next data release date is unknown.
<b>Target 14:</b> Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.	Not available for SA <sup>3</sup>	Worsening	New data (2020) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 15a:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Good improvement and on track	New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 15b:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	No change	Improvement but not on track	New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.
<b>Target 16:</b> By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	Data not available	Data not available	This target draws on a periodic survey, with no data available since the baseline (2018-19). The next data release date is unknown.
<b>Target 17:</b> By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	Data not available	Data not available	This target draws on a periodic survey, with no data available since the baseline (2014-15). The next data release date is unknown.

<sup>3</sup> South Australian disaggregated data is not available for Target 14, as single year estimates are subject to volatility due to small numbers of Aboriginal deaths in each jurisdiction. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area14>

## South Australia's implementation plan

### Priority Reforms

The Priority Reforms within the National Agreement represent an unprecedented shift in the way governments work, by encompassing shared decision-making on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to improve life outcomes of Aboriginal people.

The Priority Reforms arose from the partnership between governments and the Coalition of Peaks. They respond to the voices and aspirations of Aboriginal people and were overwhelmingly supported during the nation-wide engagement with Aboriginal communities undertaken by the Coalition of Peaks in 2019.

There are 4 Priority Reforms, each with an outcome and a target:

- Formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- Building the community-controlled sector
- Transforming government organisations
- Shared access to data and information at a regional level.

The South Australian Government is committed to changing the way government works with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations to accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal people in SA. This will require a whole-of-government approach to deliver.

The key actions and progress against the Priority Reforms in 2021–22 are reported below. The South Australian Government and SAACCON each acknowledge that implementing the Priority Reforms will necessitate large-scale, transformative change and this journey is just beginning.

## Priority Reform 1: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

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

The South Australian Government is committed to a fundamentally new way of developing and implementing policies and programs that impact on the lives of Aboriginal people, in partnership with Aboriginal people, communities and organisations.

This commitment acknowledges that when Aboriginal people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of services, better life outcomes are achieved.

### Partnership actions and National Agreement commitments

#### South Australian Government and SAACCON Partnership Agreement

The Partnership Agreement between the South Australian Government and SAACCON, entered into on 10 November 2022, expresses the agreed formal partnership arrangements for SA's implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The Partnership Agreement is informed and guided by the National Agreement, and is predicated upon culturally safe and responsive agreement making, aligned to the foundational principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which provide for:

- self-determination
- participation in decision-making
- free prior and informed consent and good faith
- respect for and protection of culture

- equality and non-discrimination.

The objectives of the Partnership Agreement are to:

- a) enhance outcomes for Aboriginal peoples as a result of the implementation of the National Agreement in South Australia by ensuring their full involvement in its implementation.
- b) share ownership of, and responsibility for, the ongoing implementation of the National Agreement in South Australia and monitoring of efforts to close the gap in outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous South Australians in line with each Party's responsibilities.
- c) advance Aboriginal involvement, engagement and autonomy through equitable participation, shared authority and decision-making in relation to implementation of the National Agreement in South Australia.

The Partnership Agreement establishes the Closing the Gap Partnership Committee as the central governance mechanism for Closing the Gap in SA. The Partnership Committee will include equal representation from SAACCON and South Australian Government to ensure a fair partnership and shared decision-making by consensus.

The Partnership Committee will be co-chaired by the Chief Executive, Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and the Lead Convenor of SAACCON.

The Partnership Committee will be responsible for:

- developing and implementing a shared work plan
- monitoring progress against SA's Implementation Plan and the Partnership Agreement
- monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms by government agencies
- addressing risks to embedding the Priority Reform by reporting them to Senior Leadership Committee and the Coalition of Peaks
- considering the outcomes from the Productivity Commission and Aboriginal-led reviews within 2 months of their public release
- considering feedback from Joint Council within 2 months of receipt
- consolidating and authorising future Annual Reports on SA's Implementation Plan
- engaging with local government



- working to ensure a shared understanding across the South Australian Government of SAACCON's authority, expertise, lived experience and position as an equal partner.

The South Australian Government and SAACCON are now jointly developing and negotiating a series of actions to address each of the 4 Priority Reforms and 17 socio-economic outcomes and targets in the National Agreement. The negotiations have been facilitated by joint workshops attended by relevant SAACCON members and government department representatives. It is anticipated that the agreed joint actions will inform the work plan of the partnership committee to deliver on Closing the Gap, and will be incorporated into a refresh of South Australia's Implementation Plan in 2023.

### **Partnerships stocktake – National Agreement Clauses 36 and 37**

The South Australian Government is reviewing partnerships between the state government and Aboriginal people and organisations. The initial stocktake identified 140 partnerships in South Australia. These partnerships will be assessed to determine whether they meet the Strong Partnership Elements set out in the National Agreement, and where changes need to be made to strengthen the partnerships. As required by the National Agreement, SA will present on the stocktake to Joint Council by the end of 2022 and provide a whole-of-government report on the review and strengthening of partnerships by the end of 2023.

### **Policy Partnerships – Justice**

The Justice Policy Partnership (JPP) brings together representatives from the Coalition of Peaks, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts, and Australian, state and territory governments to take a joined-up approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice policy. It is the first of 5 policy partnerships to be established under Priority Reform 1 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The JPP has members representing Australian, state and territory governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members. SA is now represented by the Attorney-General's Department.

The JPP met 4 times in 2021–22. SA contributed to actions in this year's work plan, including the review of policing partnerships and providing information on governance arrangements across the justice and human services sector. The JPP is continuing work to agree on policy priorities to inform the development of a 3-year strategic plan.

A separate annual report will be released by the JPP outlining its progress.

## **Place-based Partnership – Western suburbs of Adelaide**

Under the National Agreement, Place-based Partnerships (PBP) are defined as partnerships based on a specific region, between government and Aboriginal representatives, and others by agreement, from those specific areas.

The South Australian Government worked in partnership with SAACCON to consider regional and metropolitan locations for a PBP. The South Australian office of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) was also engaged in discussions and provided relevant data.

Following assessment against nationally agreed criteria, SAACCON endorsed the western suburbs of Adelaide for SA's PBP. Joint Council endorsed the nomination in December 2021.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield has been engaged in early discussions as the relevant local government authority, and SAACCON has engaged directly with the Council's Aboriginal Advisory Panel. Next steps include establishing a Joint Steering Group to guide the project and identifying existing government service delivery in the location, including existing data collection and sharing arrangements, and partnership arrangements, between government and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs).

## **Key SA Actions**

### **Puti on Kurna Yerta Camp**

Puti on Kurna Yerta (PKY), or 'Bush in the City', was established in early 2021 in the Adelaide parklands in response to concerns about the safety and wellbeing of visitors from remote Aboriginal communities. The Department of Human Services (DHS) engaged Kurna Yerta Corporation and Iwiri Aboriginal Corporation through formal service agreements to provide cultural leadership on service delivery approaches and practices. The 3 organisations met daily in the lead up to PKY and throughout its duration for eldership meetings and cultural consultation. This co-designed and co-led model was an example of true collaboration in establishing a program with understanding at its heart.

### **Child Protection partnership with Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council**

A formal partnership between the Department for Child Protection (DCP), the NPY Women's Council and equivalent departments in Western Australia and the Northern Territory has been agreed to drive improved child protection outcomes for Aboriginal children and families in the cross-border region.

The partnership provides for the development and implementation of a tailored and integrated approach to child protection work in the cross-border region (including APY and NPY Lands) and affirms the shared commitment to a child protection system in Central Australia that better meets the needs of those it serves by embedding Aboriginal governance and privileging Aboriginal voices and knowledge.

### **COVID-19 Accommodation Centres**

The Ceduna (Emu Farm) and Port Augusta (Press Road) COVID-19 Accommodation Centres (ACS) played a pivotal role in supporting Aboriginal communities in APY Lands, Far North and Far West Coast of SA to manage COVID-19 outbreaks. The ACS were delivered through genuine partnerships with Aboriginal Health leaders from local Aboriginal Community Councils, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW), and Local Health Networks. The 2 sites accommodated a total of 491 guests from January to May 2022.

The ACS provided a safe, inclusive, welcoming and culturally appropriate place for community members to complete their isolation, protecting their home communities from further COVID-19 transmission. The ACS were family centred, with the ability to accommodate family groups together within a communal living environment.

### **Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) Aboriginal Priority Care Committee**

CALHN has established an Aboriginal Priority Care Committee as the mechanism to monitor the organisation's implementation of key policies, frameworks and guidelines. The process involves shared decision-making, with Aboriginal voices guiding future direction and priorities.

### **SA Housing Authority Aboriginal Advisory Committee**

In May 2019, the SA Housing Trust (SAHT) Board established the Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) as an Aboriginal focused and led committee to advise and inform the Board on challenges and priorities across the housing system.

The AAC supports a range of strategic priorities for the SAHT Board and acts as conduit for direct engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders. The AAC continues to have a significant role in supporting government policy development and strategy reform, providing invaluable specialist advice and insight about the housing needs and barriers experienced by Aboriginal people residing in SA.

During 2021–22, the AAC refreshed the terms of reference to enable a new model of membership to include representatives from Local Decision-Making Framework partnerships (see below), and remuneration to members.

### **SA Housing Authority Local Decision-Making Frameworks**

The SA Housing Authority (SAHA) has commenced engagement with 3 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, selected via an expression of interest process, to establish Partnership Agreements and Local Decision-Making Frameworks with respective communities. Each agreement will formally set out the approach for SAHA and Aboriginal communities to work together, with the aim of developing strategies and practices to deliver housing services and create local economic development opportunities.

### **Remote & Vulnerable Zone Emergency Management Committee (ZEMC)**

The ZEMC, chaired by SA Police, consists of several government and non-government organisations working together to provide a coordinated response to COVID-19 outbreaks, focusing on Aboriginal communities. The ZEMC adopts a community-led approach with Aboriginal people significantly represented on the committee and heavily involved in strategy and decision-making. This ensures Aboriginal communities are provided the best opportunity to self-manage COVID-related issues and acquire the assistance they need.

### **Advisory Commission on Aboriginal Incarceration Rates**

The South Australian Government has committed to delivering an Advisory Commission tasked with inquiring into the overrepresentation of Aboriginal peoples in custody at all points of the criminal justice system and lowering the incarceration rates of Aboriginal people in SA.

The Advisory Commission, comprising leading figures from Aboriginal communities and experts in the field of criminal justice, will meet to consider and provide advice on key issues such as:

- drivers of reoffending
- Aboriginal peoples' interactions with the criminal justice system
- options to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people on remand
- culturally appropriate and responsive custody options.


Drawing on the considerable body of work that already exists, including the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the Australian Law Reform Commission's Pathways to Justice Report, the Advisory Commission will provide recommendations for reform within the South Australian context of the criminal justice system to improve policy, practices, processes, legal frameworks and institutions that disproportionately affect Aboriginal peoples and perpetuate the cycle of incarceration.

The Advisory Commission will provide its advice to Government in January 2023.


#### **Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform 1**

- The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is working towards establishing a place-based approach with local Anangu to rehabilitate the former Mintabie township.
- The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) continues to support the delivery of SA's co-management program under the *National Parks Wildlife Act 1972*. Co-management in SA is about bringing together traditional Aboriginal beliefs and contemporary Western perspectives on the importance of looking after land. Once established, a co-management board replaces the Director of National Parks and Wildlife as the management authority for a park. In July 2022, a co-management agreement was signed with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation for the formal co-management of 3 Adelaide National Parks, bringing the total number of co-management agreements in SA to 13 agreements covering 37 parks.
- The Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) maintains continual partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA), the peak body supporting the larger network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) across SA. An established funding agreement for the peak body was extended during 2021–22 for a further 3-year period. Under the agreement, SA Health and AHCSA work together to ensure ACCHOs are the authoritative voice of their respective communities in terms of healthcare needs.
- The Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) engaged with Aboriginal patients and families, ACCHOs and Stakeholders to develop their Aboriginal Health Framework and Action Plan 2022–2026.



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- The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology science program engaged the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, First People of the River Murray and Mallee Regions and Mannum Aboriginal Community Association as part of a Monitoring Evaluation and Research Program funded by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.
  - To progress the SA Housing Authority's commitments under the Buthera Agreement, the Authority has established a working group of which the Narungga Nations Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) CEO is a central member. The partnership with NNAC has led to the development of an Action Plan to reflect not only public commitments but NNAC housing priorities and aspirations, and realise emerging opportunities within a changing landscape.

## Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

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

The South Australian Government and SAACCON are committed to building a strong and sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled sector to deliver services and programs, and partner with government to achieve the targets, outcomes and reforms in Closing the Gap.

We know that Aboriginal community-controlled organisations deliver better outcomes for Aboriginal peoples. They achieve better results by providing a culturally appropriate and safe service, employ more Aboriginal people, and often better meet the needs of their clients compared to mainstream services. They are also an act of self-determination and empowerment for Aboriginal peoples, protecting Aboriginal identity and cultures for the long term.

### Partnership actions and National Agreement commitments

#### National Sector Strengthening Plans

During the reporting period, South Australia actively participated in the development of 4 Sector Strengthening Plans (SSP) through the National Partnership Working Group. Implementation of the SSPs will be reported on in the 2022–23 Annual Report.

#### Health

The Health SSP was developed through consultation across the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector and other Aboriginal health organisations, and was endorsed by Joint Council in December 2021. The long-term objective of the Health SSP is to build a strong community-controlled sector reflecting the 4 sector strengthening elements outlined in the National Agreement.

#### Early Childhood Care and Development

The Early Childhood Care and Development SSP has a particular focus on building the community-controlled sectors and addresses:

- early childhood education and care and integrated supports for children and families to support child development
- child protection and family support services that focus on the needs of children and families experiencing vulnerability and/or who are in contact with child protection systems.

The Early Childhood Care and Development SSP was informed by extensive consultation with ACCOs across Australia and was endorsed by Joint Council in December 2021. The SSP has 36 areas of action and aims to achieve increased service delivery, coverage, capacity, quality and resources for early childhood care and development ACCOs.

#### Disability

The Disability SSP was endorsed by Joint Council in August 2022. Its overall objectives are to strengthen the community-controlled disability sector, both within the discrete disability service system and across all service systems, as well as improving outcomes with and for Aboriginal people with disability.

#### Housing

The Housing SSP was developed in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled housing organisations (ATSICCHOs) sector and was endorsed by Joint Council in August 2022. The purpose of the Housing SSP is to ensure that all ATSICCHOs are in a position of strength and can provide a viable, culturally appropriate community housing sector that meets the housing needs of tenants, families and communities while providing assurance for government and stakeholders.

Prioritising the growth of the Aboriginal community-controlled housing sector is a key reform area under the South Australia Aboriginal Housing Strategy (2021–2031). The South Australian Government is committed to building partnerships and delivering pilots between the mainstream housing sector and the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to inform and deliver localised and customised service models to build ATSICCHOs.

#### **Indigenous Expenditure Review and funding to ACCOs and other Aboriginal organisations – National Agreement Clauses 113 and 118d**

Planning has commenced to identify and review current South Australian Government spending on programs and services delivered to Aboriginal people by government agencies, non-government organisations, and ACCOs. ACCOs will be engaged in this process, which will illuminate opportunities to apply funds more effectively to achieve Closing the Gap outcomes. The findings of the process, and actions taken to reprioritise funding to ACCOs and other Aboriginal organisations, will be included in future annual reports.

## Key SA Actions

### Building the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector

The South Australian Government has committed \$3.3 million to help strengthen and build the South Australian Aboriginal community-controlled sector to deliver additional services. The Strengthening the Aboriginal Community-Controlled Sector Steering Committee (SACCSSC) has been established to provide strategic advice and guidance in developing a proposal and guidelines for a Growth Fund that focuses on 2 income streams:

1. Funding for capacity building with a view of sustainability and expanding services.
2. Infrastructure development.

In a demonstration of the new way of working in partnership, SACCSSC is co-chaired by Government and SAACCON, and its broader membership is drawn from both parties. The group has agreed its terms of reference and is finalising guidelines for the Growth Fund.

### Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee Supporting Growth in ACCOs Working Group

The Supporting Growth in ACCOs Working Group undertook a survey of South Australian ACCOs in 2022 to map the sector and identify success factors. A workplan has been developed that identifies 7 priority actions to lay the foundations and create momentum for progressing the growth of ACCOs in SA, and to help government and ACCOs address barriers to this progress.

1. Developing a whole-of-government strategy to improve the way government works with ACCOs.
2. Establishing an advisory and brokerage service for ACCOs.
3. Creating a public sector strategy to formalise opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal public sector employees to contribute to the capacity building of ACCOs.
4. Establishing an ACCOs growth fund with 2 funding streams: capacity building and infrastructure.
5. Scoping viable pathways for ACCOs to gain access to premises and options to generate capital.

6. Developing accessible information in language for ACCO and community members on the responsibilities and obligations of ACCO officeholders and members.
7. Supporting existing key initiatives.

These actions were informed by consultation with ACCOs, SAACCON and Aboriginal leaders and community members more broadly. In its next phase, the Working Group will undertake comprehensive scoping and consultation on strategies for implementing these actions.

### **Child Protection**

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) has a strong focus on strengthening the ACCO sector, recognising that Aboriginal people and organisations are best placed to design and deliver services that support Aboriginal children and families.

The approach is underpinned by an Aboriginal Procurement Policy that sets out annual targets for procurement from ACCOs and an updated Aboriginal Workforce Strategy (to be formally launched early 2023). As evidence of the impact of these policies, DCP invested 8% of its total procurement spend in ACCOs in 2021–22 (\$31,206,285) and achieved 5% Aboriginal employment.

Over the term of the SA's Implementation Plan, DCP and ACCOs together have made significant strides supporting Aboriginal led service delivery, in particular Family Group Conferencing, Kinship Care supports and reunification services (see socio-economic outcome 12).

### **Family Preservation System Reform**

As part of the work under the family preservation system reform, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has quarantined 30% of intensive family services funding dedicated to ACCO providers. Examples of impact include:

- ACCOs are funded as the sole providers of the Culturally Responsive Trauma Responsive training for all intensive family service practitioners (Yaitya Mingkamingka Purruapiinthi – Indigenous Trauma Healing).
- Aboriginal Family Support Services were funded to pilot and evaluate their culturally informed practice tool, designed to measure safety and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal children and families.
- DHS and the Department for Education are collaborating to build the capacity of the ACCO sector to deliver intensive family services targeted to improve school engagement. The YERTA pilot service, provided by Kornar Winmil Yunti (KWY), will commence in 2022–23.





All major DHS programs being recommissioned are quarantining funding for ACCOs. Engagement with Aboriginal providers and communities has and will continue to guide these processes.

### **Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform 2**

- The 10-year Buthera Agreement between the South Australian Government and the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation (NNAC) is providing capacity-building support for NNAC to drive development, economic enterprise and collaborative engagement with government agencies on Guuranda (Yorke Peninsula). A new 3-year funding agreement with NNAC for their continued implementation of the Buthera Agreement was signed in September 2021.
- Through funding and capability building, Skills SA supports a number of ACCOs delivering foundation skills to adults and vocational education and training (VET) across SA on a contracted basis through the Subsidised Training List, Training Priority Projects and Adult Community Education.
- The Department for Education has committed to extended funding agreements with ACCOs, supporting consultation and engagement with Aboriginal children, young people and families.
- JamFactory regularly works with ACCOs to facilitate professional development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and to assist with production of creative works for retail and gallery markets, and employs a part-time First Nations Engagement Coordinator. In 2021–22, JamFactory supported a number of Aboriginal Art Centres (all of them ACCOs) through the provision of skills-based workshops, collaborative product development, and income through the sale of works.

## Priority Reform 3: Transforming government organisations

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

The South Australian Government has committed to a consistent approach and sustained effort and investment to tackle systemic racism and deliver culturally safe and responsive services. Under the National Agreement, government agencies are to implement 6 transformation elements:

- Identify and eliminate racism
- Embed and practice meaningful cultural safety
- Deliver services in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, communities and people (see Priority Reform 1)
- Increase accountability through transparent funding allocations
- Support Aboriginal cultures
- Improve engagement with Aboriginal people.

### Partnership actions and National Agreement commitments

#### Aboriginal employment in the public sector

The South Australian Government is working to increase the employment of Aboriginal people in the South Australian Public Sector. The Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment (OCPSE) is delivering a range of initiatives that support agencies in the recruitment, retention and development of Aboriginal employees.

- The SA Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Register was established to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to be considered for all vacancies across the SA Public Sector before they are advertised. There are currently 1,440 active Aboriginal clients on the register.

- The Leadership Academy provides leadership development opportunities for Aboriginal employees.
- In 2018–2020, under the State Government’s Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan, 100 Aboriginal people were placed into public sector traineeships, offering ongoing employment upon successful completion. A second program is currently being delivered under the State Government’s Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan 2021–22 (see socio-economic outcome 8).

As of June 2021, there were 2,317 Aboriginal employees in the SA Public Sector, which represents 2.11% of the total public sector workforce. During the reporting period, the number of Aboriginal employees increased by 1.13%, compared to an overall employee increase of 2.14% in the public sector. To achieve a 3% Aboriginal employment target, an additional 975 Aboriginal people will need to be employed, bringing the total Aboriginal workforce to 3,292.

OCPSE has recently established and recruited to a new Director Aboriginal Workforce Partnerships role to oversee and drive Aboriginal workforce initiatives and policies.

## **Key SA Actions**

### **Whole of Government Anti-Racism Strategy**

The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – Building Capacity in Vulnerable Families Working Group has been progressing projects in the areas of cultural training for notifiers, social and emotional wellbeing, and a whole-of-government Anti-Racism Strategy. This strategy will include fundamental pillars for tackling racism, including education and training, Human Resource systems, communications, leadership, investigation of complaints, and research, evaluation and monitoring. It is currently in the consultation stage and expected to be finalised by early 2023.

### **Reconciliation Action Plans**

South Australian Government agencies strategically plan and implement meaningful action to advance reconciliation through the development and implementation of Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs). RAPs are practical plans of action built on relationships, respect and opportunities. The RAP initiative was established by Reconciliation Australia in 2006, with finalised RAPs registered with the not-for-profit organisation. The South Australian Government is developing a whole-of-government Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

## **South Australian Government Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan 2021–2022**

The 2021–22 Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan contains 41 actions that will be delivered during this 2-year period. The activities are being led by government agencies working closely with Aboriginal people, with the focus areas being:

- employment and business growth
- improving the quality of government services
- designing and implementing measures that will strengthen the capability of Aboriginal community organisations.

The Action Plan ceases at the end of the 2022 calendar year, with the final round of reporting expected to be undertaken in the first quarter of 2023. As part of the reporting process, progress on all actions will be reviewed and an assessment made to determine whether actions will be incorporated in the next iteration of SA's Implementation Plan for the National Agreement.

### **Anti-Racism and Unconscious Bias training program**

The Department for Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) and the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) participated in a pilot Anti-Racism and Unconscious Bias training program delivered through Reconciliation SA with the Act Now Theatre Company. Multiple sessions were held with 300 staff from across all divisions and levels participating in the full-day awareness training program. Feedback from the workshop is being used to inform how the departments will address racism and cultural safety in the workplace.

DIIS has also engaged a local Aboriginal consultancy business to undertake a cultural audit of the organisation and provide recommendations on how to improve engaging, employing and retaining Aboriginal staff, as well as look at how policies and programs can be changed to ensure increased participation.

### **Aboriginal Services Directorate**

The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) is committed to improving the opportunities and services available to Aboriginal people in SA. The Aboriginal Services Directorate (ASD) was established to service the needs of the department's Aboriginal stakeholders, as well as monitor the department's implementation of recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. The Executive Director, ASD reports directly to the Chief Executive. The ASD works across DCS (at strategic, policy and operational levels) in partnership with Aboriginal community organisations and other government departments to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, targeted services to Aboriginal prisoners and offenders.

## **Cross-Cultural Competency Framework**

Level 1: Part 2 of the Department for Environment and Water's Cross-Cultural Competency Framework is delivered in partnership with cultural consulting company KSJ Consulting Service. The training aims to educate all staff on racism with an aim to identify and eliminate racism within the department. Along with this training, the department has a draft Cultural Safety Procedure awaiting approval, which will embed and practice meaningful cultural safety.

## **Child and Family Support System**

The Department of Human Services' implementation of the Child and Family Support System (CFSS) is providing family preservation services that enable children to stay connected to family, community and culture. Through this reform, the following initiatives are improving accountability and responsiveness to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

- Strengthening Aboriginal leadership and partnering, through new positions across Safer Families Services
- Co-designing an Aboriginal Cultural Practice framework
- Developing policy and practice guidance that embed cultural safety and trauma responsiveness for the sector
- Supporting Aboriginal family voices to inform the development of several initiatives within CFSS reform through the CFSS Lived Experience Network.

The department has also created an executive-level position, Director Aboriginal Practice and Partnerships, to provide a lead, transformative role across all aspects of the department's work.

## **Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform 3**

- The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) delivers a comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Program to all staff that aims to develop staff cultural awareness and build the cultural competency of the agency. Topics in the training include:
  - Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommendations
  - impacts of colonisation
  - history of Aboriginal people in SA
  - cultural obligations



- kinship
  - communication
  - connection to Country
  - diversity within Aboriginal Australia
  - Aboriginal Services Directorate services and programs
  - managing traditional Aboriginal people in a justice environment.
- The Department for Human Service's Aboriginal Cultural Footprint is a framework that provides a continuous learning journey that allows the participant to build their own cultural capability, with the goal of building a workforce that is culturally safe and responsive when delivering services to the Aboriginal community. The Footprint was officially launched with the department's new Reconciliation Plan in April 2022 and aligns with the DHS Aboriginal Workforce Strategy 2021–2023.
  - The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) requires all new staff to undertake cultural awareness training, with 369 employees completing the online modules in 2021-22. The department also runs face-to-face programs that are currently being piloted with executive staff and key business units in AGD. AGD is currently engaging an ACCO, the Tjindu Foundation, to deliver this important training.
  - The South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC), the state government's screen agency, has developed and implemented a First Nations Screen Strategy and First Nations Cultural Protocols Guide for the Screen Industry. It is guided by a First Nations Advisory Group, comprising First Nations leaders across business, the arts and screen sectors that guides, encourages, and provides direction on SAFC First Nations screen initiatives.
  - The Department for Education's Culturally Responsive Framework was co-designed in 2021 and will be launched in 2022. More than 450 employees from across the workforce contributed to co-design, and 153 community members from 8 communities across the State also took part in the consultations. The department's Aboriginal Education Strategy (2019–2029) and Aboriginal Workforce Plan (2021–2031) are centred on 4 themes:
    - developing cultural awareness, understanding and respect in our workplaces
    - enabling Aboriginal employees to build lifelong careers
    - supporting Aboriginal employees to be leaders in the workplace

- working together with Aboriginal employees to implement this plan.
- The Women's and Children's Health Network's Zero Tolerance to Racism Campaign and Enduring Strategy was launched in February 2021, and an Action Plan was subsequently endorsed by the Aboriginal Health Steering Committee. The Youth and Women's Safety and Wellbeing Division has established an Enhancing Aboriginal Cultural Respect Working Group to support all staff to progress the goals in the Network's Aboriginal reform agenda.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) is building culturally informed and aware workplaces and worksites, with 48% of staff having completed training through 'Four Step Cultural Footprint Training' under the guidance of local Aboriginal trainers and facilitators.
- SA Police (SAPOL) has employed a senior Aboriginal community member to assist and inform the development of 'Connections', SAPOL's new Cultural Capability Development Program. The 4-step program will be delivered over the coming years and is designed to ensure SAPOL's learning is reflective, practical, and ongoing.
- The Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) Aboriginal Employment and Retention Strategy supports CALHN to improve cultural sensitivity and cultural competency. The strategy supports CALHN to build, support and retain an Aboriginal workforce by establishing relevant policies, providing coaching and mentoring, and networking and connection opportunities for Aboriginal staff. The strategy was developed through shared decision-making supported by Aboriginal consumers, external stakeholders, and partnerships with Aboriginal leadership program initiatives in the tertiary sector.
- The Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN) is implementing a number of reforms to transform its organisation, including establishing a new executive position of Executive Director Aboriginal Health. SALHN is also rolling out 'ask the question' training to give staff the skills and knowledge in how to ask patients whether they are Aboriginal, acknowledging that the under-identification of Aboriginal people in mainstream health services is considered a fundamental barrier to achieving health equality.
- The Department for Trade and Investment (DTI) has a highly skilled workforce and is striving to become an employer of choice for Aboriginal people. The First Nations Recruitment, Retention and Development Strategy was developed with assistance from cultural consulting company KSJ Consulting Service. This strategy was launched during the 2022 NAIDOC week.

## Priority Reform 4: Shared access to data and information at a regional level

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

Shared access to location specific data and information will assist Aboriginal communities and organisations to support the achievement of the first 3 Priority Reforms through:

- Priority Reform 1: Participating as equal partners with government, with equal access to all processes and information to support shared decision-making.
- Priority Reform 2: Driving their own development by making evidence-based decisions on the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs for their communities in order to develop local solutions for local issues.
- Priority Reform 3: Measuring the transformation of government organisations operating in their region to be more responsive and accountable for Closing the Gap.

### Partnership actions and National Agreement commitments

The Office for Data Analytics (ODA) is progressing the development of a partnership with SAACCON to lead the community engagement required to inform the nominated Western Suburbs of Adelaide data project and to establish upcoming data sharing agreements.

Some of the actions undertaken this year include:

- meetings between Government and SAACCON to broadly discuss the next steps regarding implementation of Priority Reform 4 and establishment of a data sub-committee
- progression of a draft data development plan

- research of critical Indigenous data sovereignty success factors through review of community data projects throughout Australia and overseas to inform the development of best practice in SA
- engagement with experts from other jurisdictions to inform thinking about successful community data projects and indigenous data sovereignty
- commenced the development of a draft Indigenous data sovereignty and governance framework
- incorporation of Indigenous data sovereignty principles and actions within the draft Data Strategy for SA.

## **Key SA Actions**

### **Data governance program**

The SA Housing Authority (SAHA) has established a data governance program to identify key strategies and initiatives to improve data maturity. With greater data confidence, the SA Housing Authority will be better placed to consider appropriate information sharing agreements and partnerships to improve regional planning and customer and community outcomes. Through this program, SAHA has committed to working with SAACCON to determine the data and format needed to support and inform decision-making. This work will include:

- identifying data linkage initiatives that improve customer outcomes and program design
- increasing access and availability of simplified and easy to understand data
- continuing support of co-designed integrated services with government and non-government partners.

### **Data sharing, reporting and inclusive practice**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) works alongside ACCOs and other agencies to build stronger data reporting, sharing and culturally inclusive practice tools for better outcomes for Aboriginal people in SA.

DHS is working with ACCOs to develop and implement data collection tools to measure needs (risk and protective factors) and the impact/outcomes of services. One example includes the Family Snapshot tool which was implemented to capture family risk and protective factors at service commencement, and again at service closure. This tool provides enhanced capacity to provide ACCOs, and other organisations, with data on the impact they are having on child and family outcomes.

#### Other SA actions to progress Priority Reform 4

- A partnership between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Far West Community Partnership (FWCP) has enabled access to government data from key state departments in the Far West Region. The data is directly related to services in the Ceduna region that improve the safety and wellbeing of transient Aboriginal community members who present due to alcohol and drug use. This regional data project will provide the FWCP with access to locally relevant data and information to monitor their priorities and drive their community-led change agenda.
- The SA Housing Authority's Tika Tirka Student Accommodation Service has a customised data collection and outcomes framework, shared with Aboriginal Community Housing Limited, to improve co-design, data collection and shared data access. The system builds Aboriginal service provider capacity to collect and analyse data and evaluate project outcomes against Closing the Gap and the South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy. The Interim Evaluation Report is also shared with the Aboriginal service provider to support capability growth. Data sharing is achieved via the contractual agreement which embeds customised reportable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- The SA Housing Authority's Aboriginal Interest Statement (AIS) has been developed in partnership with the Authority's Aboriginal Advisory Committee. Supporting shared access to data and information is addressed in the AIS, including an Agency Guide and data collection template.
- In response to COVID-19 in 2021–22, SA Police's Far North Local Service Area established regular tri-State meetings with ACCOs, communities and interstate police services throughout the Central Western Desert region to facilitate improved collection, access and sharing of information and data that acknowledged the cultural connection of Anangu Peoples across rigid state borders. The meetings supported information and knowledge sharing with Aboriginal organisations and communities with respect to the extent of known COVID-19 outbreaks, distribution of PPE, logistics and information about the health pandemic response specific to their communities.





## **Socio-economic outcomes**

The South Australian Government is committed to addressing the socio-economic targets in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, in partnership with SAACCON.

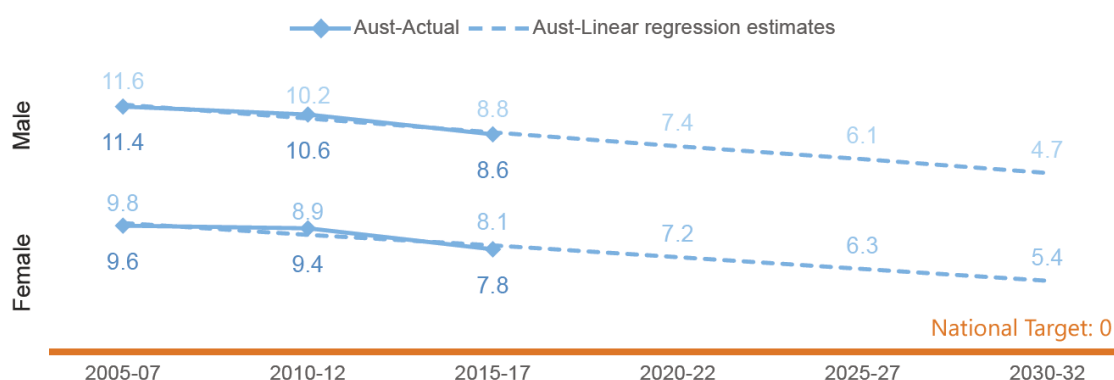
This section of the Annual Report provides updates on actions and progress towards each outcome over 2021–22. Where updated data has been made available on the Productivity Commission’s data dashboard, analysis on progress and trends is also provided.

## Outcome 1: Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives

### Target data

Socio-economic outcomes	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	Not available for SA	Improvement but not on track

### Difference in estimated life expectancy by gender, Australia



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians dataset for this target.<sup>4</sup> The most up-to-date data for this target is 2015-17 (released in November 2018). No new data was released during the reporting period.

Nationally, based on progress from the baseline (2005–07), the target shows improvement but is not on track to be met for males or females.

South Australian disaggregated data is not available for this target. Due to small numbers of Aboriginal deaths in South Australia, the ABS determines that it is not feasible to derive a separate reliable South Australian Aboriginal deaths identification rate.<sup>5</sup>

Indicator data shows that in SA in 2020–21, 216.7 per 1,000 Aboriginal people (just over 1 in 5) had Aboriginal-specific health checks or assessments. This rate is higher

<sup>4</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area1>

<sup>5</sup> For more information, please refer: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples/life-tables-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-australians/2015-2017>

than the 2016–17 baseline year (190.3 per 1,000 people), suggesting rates of access or utilisation of health services are trending upwards.

## **SA Actions**

Cancer is the second most common cause of death among Aboriginal peoples in Australia, following cardiovascular disease. Aboriginal people diagnosed with cancer are usually younger, have more advanced and more lethal types of cancers than non-Aboriginal people, and are significantly less likely to survive 5 years after their initial cancer diagnosis.

In SA, One Stop Screening Shops have been established, offering multiple cancer screenings on the same day and at the same location, in an effort to reduce the incidence of cancer in Aboriginal communities.

One Stop Screening Shops targeting women have been held in Port Adelaide and Elizabeth, partnering with Watto Purrinna Aboriginal Health Service (Wonggangga Turtpandi and Muna Paiendi sites) and Naracoorte, Millicent and Mount Gambier, partnering with the Pangula Mannamurna Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

Men's One Stop Screening Shops have been held in Pika Wiya Yadu Health Service (Ceduna), Port Lincoln, Nunyara, Tarpari (Port Pirie), Berri, Point Pearce and Port Adelaide.

The One Stop Screening Shop project is being implemented in partnership between Wellbeing SA and Aboriginal community-controlled and Aboriginal primary care services.

## **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- The Aboriginal Cultural Reflection Tool and supporting documents were developed as a self-reflection audit tool. The aim of the audit is to reflect on the cultural safety of programs and services, identify actions to support the cultural learning of staff and services, and develop localised action plans to make improvements to services delivered to Aboriginal patients and families.
- The Kumangka Padninthi (Kurna language for 'walking together') Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Units are located within the Lyell McEwin and Modbury Hospitals and comprise Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners who provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in the hospital setting, with the aim to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers who present to the emergency department and leave without being seen and inpatients who discharge against medical advice.

- Metropolitan Youth Health leads specialist Aboriginal-led Hearing and Immunisation programs across all community based MyHealth sites, schools and non-government outreach clinics and via the Metropolitan Youth Health in-reach program into youth justice settings.
- Efforts by the South Australian Government and its key partners over the past several years have led to substantial gains in trachoma control across SA, with the prevalence of active trachoma among children screened aged 1–14 years in at-risk communities decreasing from 19% in 2010 to 1.1 % in 2021. Regarding the prevalence of trachoma in children aged 5–9 years old screened was 1.9% in 2021. Also, the number of Aboriginal communities classified as being at higher risk of trachoma have decreased in SA from 72 in 2010 to 15 communities in 2021. The figures show that SA is on track to eliminate blinding trachoma as a public health problem.
- The Aboriginal Cultural Reflection Tool and supporting documents were developed as a self-reflection audit tool. The aim of the audit is to reflect on the cultural safety of programs and services, identify actions to support the cultural learning of staff and services, and develop localised action plans to make improvements to services delivered to Aboriginal patients and families.

## Key initiatives

### Kanggawodli



Kanggawodli provides a culturally safe temporary accommodation service available to Aboriginal people travelling more than 100km to Adelaide from rural, remote and interstate locations for hospital-based specialist care. Whilst staying in the accommodation service, visiting patients and their carers also have access to comprehensive primary health care services at Kanggawodli.

Kanggawodli is currently hosting a joint initiative between the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) and the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN) in trialling a community-based model of renal dialysis care. From October 2022 the program will have 3 chairs available, providing dialysis services in a culturally safe and easily accessible location. Results have shown significant health improvements following from improved compliance with renal dialysis and treatment.

***Northern Adelaide Local Health Network***

## Aboriginal STI and Blood Borne Virus Action Plan



The South Australian Aboriginal Sexually Transmissible Infection and Blood Borne Virus Action Plan 2020–2024 provides a strategic framework for the South Australian government to work in partnership with clinicians, community organisations and other health services to reduce the significant sexually transmissible infection (STI) and blood borne virus (BBV) related health disparities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians. Key activities progressed under the Action Plan in 2021–22 include:

- progress to strengthen Aboriginal-led governance of the statewide response to this public health issue
- delivery of the ‘Respect Me + You’ targeted syphilis health promotion campaign in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council of SA (AHCSA) and SHINE SA, and of a broader awareness raising campaign by SA Health
- additional resourcing to enhance the capacity of the existing AHCSA sexual health and BBV program to coordinate and support member services with scale up of STI and BBV control efforts
- sustained investment in the Communicable Disease Control Branch (CDCB) including an Aboriginal STI Partner Notification Officer position to ensure rapid, culturally respectful contact tracing and strong coordination of care for all new diagnoses of infectious syphilis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- workforce development to promote integration between clinical services in syphilis outbreak affected regions and specialist sexual health services, and to build capacity for guideline-based screening (including antenatal screening), diagnosis and management of infectious syphilis and other STI in outbreak affected regions.

*Department for Health and Wellbeing*

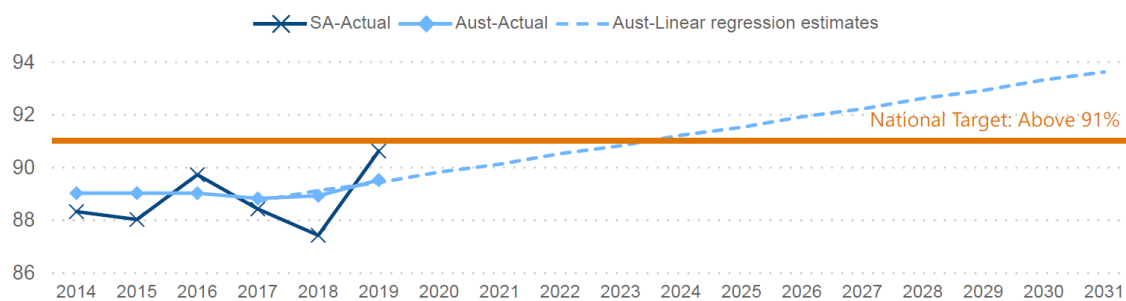


## Outcome 2: Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcomes	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Improvement	Good improvement and on track

Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies with a healthy birthweight\*\*



TARGET	Actual percentage, 2019	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	90.6	89.5
	Non-Indigenous children	94.1	93.9
Assessment of progress*, baseline (2017) to 2019		➔	✓

\* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.  
 \*\* Targets are only available nationally.

The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's annual National Perinatal Data Collection for this target.<sup>6</sup> New data (2019) was released for this target during the reporting period.

<sup>6</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area2>

Nationally in 2019, 89.5% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born were of a healthy birthweight. In SA, the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight has increased over time and the 2019 data shows the State is also on track with 90.6% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island babies with a healthy birthweight.

## SA Actions

Factors that could contribute to the changes in healthy birthweight over time include lower smoking rates and higher attendance at antenatal visits. SA indicator data shows that the proportion of Aboriginal women who reported that they smoked at the first antenatal visit has decreased from 42.7% in 2018 to 40.5% in 2019. Additionally, 3.5% of Aboriginal women reported that they quit smoking in pregnancy prior to their first antenatal visit. In 2019, 72.9% of Aboriginal women attended at least 7 antenatal visits during their pregnancy (up from 69.5% in 2018).

### Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- In May 2022, the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) Aboriginal Birthing Program commenced participation in smoking in pregnancy carbon monoxide monitoring research being undertaken by the University of Adelaide.
- In June 2022, planning commenced for an Aboriginal Family Birthing Program for the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network (YNLHN). Planning will include community co-design and development of the program, a culturally safe workplace, and employment of Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care practitioners.
- The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) funds Metropolitan Youth Health to deliver the Supporting Parents and Children's Emotions (SPACE) program. The SPACE program provides therapeutic counselling, group work, psychosocial education, and case management to young people to better understand and manage the impacts of domestic and family violence on their children. Services are provided to young people experiencing and/or perpetrating DFV. During the reporting period, 31% of the program's new clients were Aboriginal. The program employs 1.8 FTE social workers including an Aboriginal social worker.
- The commencement of the POPN (Pregnancy Online Platform NALHN) project has enabled early interaction with women prior to their first antenatal appointment. This helps women to know that they need to have the routine early antenatal screening tests via their GP prior to coming to NALHN for a triage appointment, thus encouraging their access to healthcare early. In addition, POPN has provided women with pregnancy-related health information in a more timely manner.

- NALHN is involved in the Corka Bubs project working with Aboriginal pregnant mothers and their support persons and services to develop and provide access to a culturally responsive care package that addresses the harmful effects of alcohol, cannabis and other stressors in pregnancy. The care package will be provided in 2 Aboriginal antenatal clinics in 2 hospitals in Adelaide – the Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Adelaide, and the Lyell McEwin Hospital in Elizabeth.

## Key initiatives

### Ngangkita Ngartu



Aboriginal families having their baby at the Women's and Children's Hospital have access to SA first ever purpose-built unit for the Ngangkita Ngartu (Aboriginal Family Birthing Program).

The facility provides a culturally appropriate space that allows Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff to provide dedicated care in a multidisciplinary team environment. Approximately 250 Aboriginal babies are born at WCH each year and, over the past 12 years, this program has had a profound and positive impact on Aboriginal families and communities.

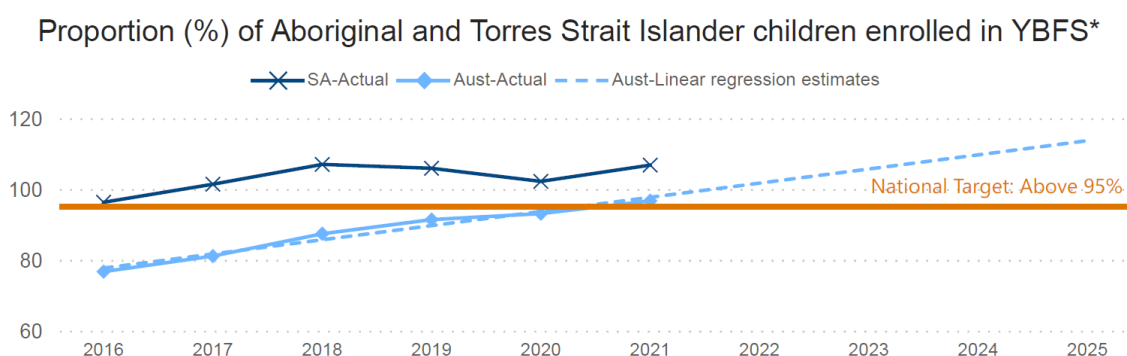
The objectives to be achieved with the Ngangkita Ngartu program is to create meaningful gains in Aboriginal health and wellbeing and to embed Grandmother’s Law and the principles of Birthing on Country (Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Birthing Outcomes Project, 2006) as foundations of the Ngangkita Ngartu model of care. Having a specific program for Aboriginal women, babies and families embedded in core business to provide cultural and clinical care in partnership aims to meet a range of cultural and clinical care opportunities including active contribution to the Healthy Birthweight strategy.

***Women’s and Children’s Local Health Network***

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) early childhood education to 95%.	Improvement	Good improvement and on track




TARGET	Actual percentage, 2021	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	106.8	96.7
Non-Indigenous children	89.2	86.7	
Assessment of progress*, baseline (2016) to 2021		➔	✓

\* Targets are only available nationally.

The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' annual Preschool Education Australia dataset for this target.<sup>7</sup> New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.

<sup>7</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area3>



Nationally in 2021, 96.7% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program. This is an increase from 76.7% in the 2016 (the baseline year). The target is on track to be met.

South Australia shows improvement from the base year and remains on target. In SA in 2021, the dataset shows that 106.8% of Aboriginal children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program.

This is clearly imperfect data. Identifying children in the Year Before Formal Schooling is difficult, and this measure is based on 2 different collections, taken at 2 different time points. The denominator uses the estimated resident population of Aboriginal children in certain age ranges. This estimation has a material degree of error, by virtue of the relatively small sizes of the cohorts and movement of families. The numerator is based on enrolments in the current collection window of the 2-week snapshot. As a result, the denominator and the numerator may not align and can produce results over 100%.

### **SA Actions**

In March 2022, the South Australian Government committed to a Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), to examine how the ECEC sector can deliver better outcomes for all children, including Aboriginal children. The terms of reference for the Royal Commission require that the inquiry consider the views and experiences of parents and caregivers from diverse backgrounds. It is expected that the Royal Commission will pay particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal families, including holding forums specifically to hear the views of Aboriginal parents and caregivers.

### **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- Promoting the entitlement of children in care and children who have previously been in care to access preschool from 3 years of age, including ongoing support with Early Childhood Leaders and site leaders.
- Promoting and increasing preschool participation of 3- and 4-year-old children in care, including Aboriginal children, by working with the Department for Child Protection (DCP) to identify children in care who are not participating in a preschool program and actively linking carers and case workers to departmental early years services.
- Investigating options to develop specific data sets and dashboards that identify individual preschool enrolment and attendance of Aboriginal children in comparison to the statewide performance – highlighting the need to re-evaluate existing strategies and explore new approaches to effectively engage with Aboriginal children and families.



- Commencing a new role of Early Years Engagement Officer to support initiatives in the APY Lands and strengthen teaching and learning for Aboriginal children in department preschools.
- Completing Aboriginal Environmental Screening Audit and Reconciliation Action Plans to guide pedagogical practices and develop welcoming and inclusive learning environments.

## Key initiatives

### Connected Beginnings

The Department for Education is collaborating with the Australian Government and other state agencies to inform the expansion of the Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR) program. CCCFR aims to increase the number of children from vulnerable or disadvantaged communities, including Aboriginal children, accessing quality early childhood education and care. The program provides minor infrastructure funding of existing childcare services with an Aboriginal focus.


The department is working with Australian Government agencies to expand the Connected Beginnings program, with an additional site at the Kurna Plains Children's Centre. The focus on Connected Beginnings is ensuring that services, such as early childhood, maternal and child health, family support, preschools, councils and government agencies work together to provide Aboriginal children and families with support and timely access to services.

*Department for Education*

### High quality services

A contract between the Australian Government's Department of Education and the South Australian Education Standards Board has been executed to undertake work with 11 Community Child Care Fund Restricted (CCCFR) early childhood education and care services. This includes:

- providing advice and support to build capacity and capability to improve the quality of service provision and the health, safety and wellbeing of children in line with the *Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (SA)*

- 
- developing resources and tools in line with the National Quality Standards to monitor and assess service quality and compliance
  - monitoring services' quality and safety compliance
  - conducting stakeholder consultation in relation to proposed legislative amendments to bring these services into scope of the *Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (SA)*.

A project plan, team and governance arrangements to oversee the project have been established. A joint SA/NT CCCFR regulatory project steering group has been established to support consistency in the monitoring and assessment of services.

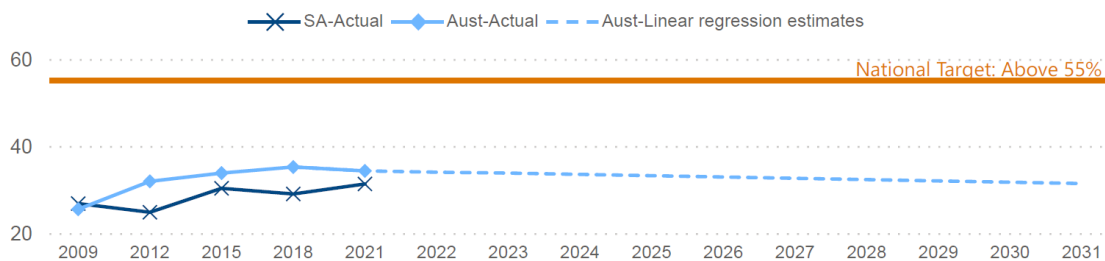
***Department for Education***

## Outcome 4: Aboriginal children thrive in their early years

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all 5 domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%.	Improvement	Worsening

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)\*\*



TARGET	Actual percentage, 2021	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	31.3	34.3
Non-Indigenous people	54.9	56.2	
Assessment of progress*, baseline (2009) to 2021		➔	➔

\* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.  
 \*\* Targets are only available nationally.

The Productivity Commission draws on the 3-yearly Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) for this target.<sup>8</sup> New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.

Nationally in 2021, 34.3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 AEDC domains.

<sup>8</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area4>

This is a decrease from 35.2% in 2018 (the baseline year). The target is not on track to be met nationally.

In South Australia in 2021, 31.3%, of Aboriginal children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all 5 AEDC domains, an increase from 29.0% in 2018. While the proportion of Aboriginal children on track has increased over time, significantly greater increases will be required to meet the target by 2031.

## SA Actions

The Early Learning Strategy 2021–2031: All young children thriving and learning was launched in 2021. The goals of the Early Learning Strategy are:

- strong partnerships across government and non-government sectors to increase the proportion of children developmentally 'on track', regardless of background or location, with additional specific support provided to Aboriginal children and children in complex situations
- well-supported parents highly engaged with their children, so children can learn and reach their potential
- high quality education preschool programs underpinned by excellence in teaching and learning.

The launch of the Early Learning Strategy was accompanied by an initial \$50.1 million investment over the first 4 years to:

- expand the reach, frequency and number of child development checks including a new touch point at 12 months and 3 years
- give parents easy access to tips and resources to support their child's development
- provide teachers with new resources to build on the high-quality learning and development in every public preschool
- provide strategic vision and direction across the early years system through the new Office for the Early Years in the Department for Education.

## Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- The new Children's Centre Outcomes Framework was launched on 30 June 2022. The framework was developed in consultation with children's centre leaders, the Children's Centre Advisory Group, relevant corporate personnel including Aboriginal education and early childhood leaders and key partners, Child and Family Health Service and the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- A statewide universal newborn hearing screening program for 30 birthing hospitals across SA, both public and private.
- Watto Purrana conducts the Out of Home Care service in conjunction with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network (NALHN) Child Protection Service (CPS) and the Women's and Children's Health Network (WCHN) CPS seeing Aboriginal children under child protection services in a culturally responsive environment. The NALHN CPS paediatrician reviews occur at the Maringga Turtpandi site 3 times per month. The WCHN CPS reviews occur at the Wonggangga Turtpandi site monthly. Attendance at both clinics is above 95%, a significant increase from when they were based in the respective hospitals.

## Key initiatives

### The Office for the Early Years



The new Office for the Early Years was established in the Department for Education to provide a single point of leadership across the public sector to improve the proportion of children developmentally on track when starting school, and to work with key agencies and organisations to ensure that the child screening development system is expanded.

The Office will provide guidance to the early years system across government and non-government providers working in early years to deliver key elements of the Early Learning Strategy.

The Office will also lead several key actions, focusing on:

- the expansion of the child development screening system
- strengthening existing early childhood services priorities, including responsive local programs and services supporting community priorities
- providing strong support for families, as they are a child's first teacher



- reducing barriers and increasing participation in early childhood education and care services.

*Department for Education*

## Environmental Health Centre Partnership – Port Pirie



The Yorke and Northern Local Health Network (YNLHN) Environmental Health Centre (EHC) provides an early intervention approach to support families living in Port Pirie to reduce the lead exposure of ‘at risk’ young children, and thus lower the blood lead levels of the population of children in Port Pirie. Intensive support is provided to families with young children, who are at most risk from lead exposure.

A blood lead monitoring service is provided in centres, in home and offsite services located at Child Care Centres and Tarpari Wellbeing Centre.

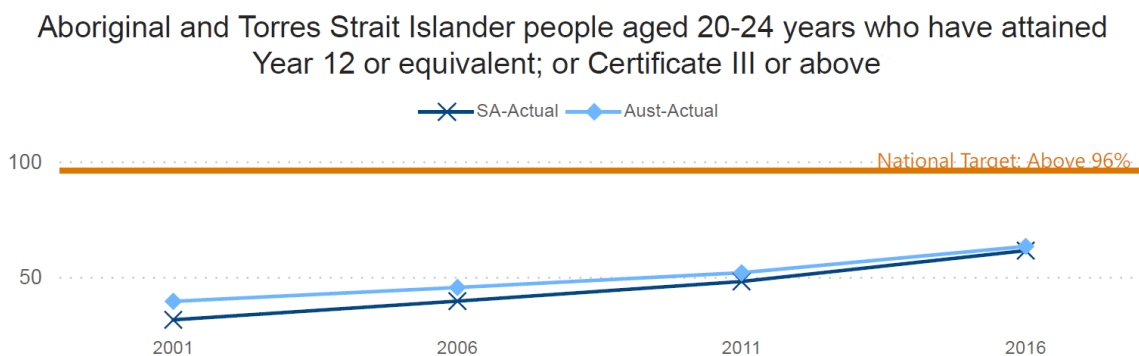
Family Health and Development assessments are provided by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Allied Health clinicians (social workers, occupational therapists and registered nurses) and support families to identify strategies to mitigate lead exposure pathways and reduce elevated blood lead levels of children. The assessments provide a comprehensive and holistic approach to early intervention which considers other priorities which impact blood lead levels and the uniqueness of every family, such as social determinants of health.

*Yorke and Northern Local Health Network*

## Outcome 5: Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (age 20–24) attaining year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96%.	Data not available	Data not available



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Census for this target.<sup>9</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2016. It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23 and national and state progress can be reported in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.

### SA Actions

The first 3 years of the Aboriginal Education Strategy 2019–2029 implementation included the delivery of 16 key initiatives. A mid-implementation strategy review was undertaken and reported in mid-2021 by an external provider. The mid-implementation review found that:

- the Aboriginal Education Strategy initiatives have demonstrated high expectations for Aboriginal children and young people and have promoted a strength-based approach centred on accelerating learning

<sup>9</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area5>

- the Department for Education has implemented best practice protocols for working with local Aboriginal communities to integrate Aboriginal knowledge into the school curriculum and demonstrated respect for Aboriginal knowledge and knowledge holders.

#### **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- The Department for Education has a partnership with Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Education Committee (PYEC) to achieve outcomes for Anangu schools and students, including through formalising an ongoing collaboration agreement. The partners met face-to-face twice in 2021 to strengthen the partnership and identify areas of strategic alignment and practical approaches for inclusion in the collaboration agreement.
- The Attorney-General's Department (AGD) and the Department for Education provide funding for the Santos Aboriginal Power Cup, which is delivered in partnership with the South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA). The Power Cup is an education-based strategy that uses Australian Rules Football to engage Aboriginal secondary school students in their education. In 2021, more than 500 students across 65 schools participated.
- The Clontarf Foundation pilot program focuses on sport and pastoral support, encouraging behavioural change through raising self-esteem and assisting students to complete school and obtain employment. Boys aged 12 and older who are disengaged from school have limited family support, and are at risk of entering the youth justice system are eligible. Through 2021–22, the program improved in key performance areas, including increases in enrolments, the attendance rates of participants, participants with 80% or greater attendance, increased number of participants who achieved their SACE, and an increase of alumni engaged in work/study (65% up from 60% in 2020–21).
- The Aboriginal Program Assistance Scheme provides funding to schools to employ tutors to work with identified Aboriginal students in literacy and numeracy.

## Key initiatives

### Enter for Success strategy



The Enter for Success strategy supports the inclusion, attendance, participation and retention of Aboriginal students at school. It gives Aboriginal students the opportunity to enrol and be accepted into any government school they nominate the year before starting school. The strategy applies to children eligible to start reception in 2023 and Year 6 students starting secondary school in 2023.

*Department for Education*

### SAASTA



The South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA) provides Aboriginal high school students that are studying the South Australian Certificate of Education with a unique sporting and educational program.

The key outcomes for this program have been an increase in student enrolment numbers for the 2022 specialist academies (basketball, soccer, netball, and STEM).

Key achievements in 2021–22 include:

- 91.7% of year 12s enrolled in a SAASTA program completed their SACE in 2021.
- a growth in enrolments from 504 in 2021 to 562 in 2022.

SAASTA has seen an increase in the number of schools undertaking the Connect program which has resulted in an increase in enrolments. This has also been supported by the inclusion of year 7s to high school. The Connect program introduces students to the SAASTA program in preparation for years 10–12.

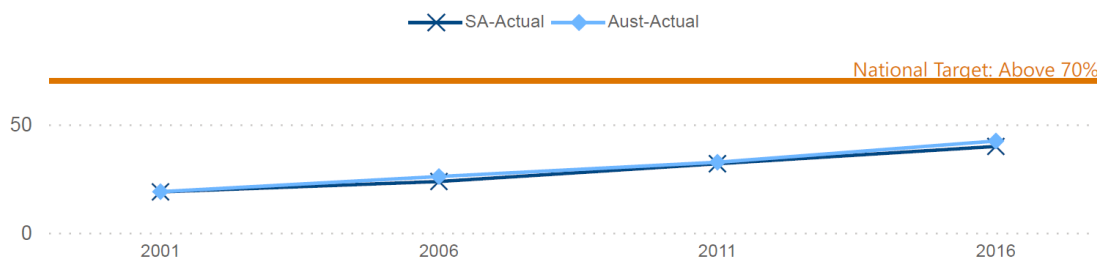
*Department for Education*

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70%.	Data not available	Data not available

Proportion (%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-34 years who have completed a tertiary qualifications



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Census for this target.<sup>10</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2016. It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23 and national and state progress can be reported in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.

Disaggregated South Australian supporting indicator data is available for this target:

- In SA in 2020, 296 Aboriginal people commenced a domestic bachelor degree at university. This has been steadily trending upwards over time, with the number more than doubling over the past 12 years (from 140 students in 2008).
- Of the Aboriginal students who commenced a bachelor degree in SA in 2019, 22.9% did not return to study the following year (and had not completed their degree). Following an increase in the first-year attrition rate in 2017, the rate has since decreased annually and is now below the 2016 baseline of 26.7%.

<sup>10</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area6>



## SA Actions

In South Australia, the number of Aboriginal apprentice and trainee commencements increased in the year ending 31 December 2021 by 50.1% from the previous year (from 430 to 645). This was the largest increase of all states and territories. Nationally the increase was 28.4%.

The number of Aboriginal apprentices and trainees in-training in SA increased in the year ending 31 December 2021 by 28.1% from the previous year (from 690 to 885). This again was the largest increase of all states and territories. Nationally the increase was 16.3%.<sup>11</sup>

### Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- During 2021–22, 15 training and skills projects valued at nearly \$1.7m were supported to provide training for up to 500 Aboriginal students. Projects were delivered through partnering organisations (registered training organisations, support services, and employers).
- Through Learner Support Services (LSS), Skills SA provides individual case management support to students experiencing complex barriers to training. LSS offers a broad range of supports to address issues potentially or currently impacting a student's capacity to successfully complete training. Aboriginal students accessing LSS can choose support from an Aboriginal (Tauondi) or non-Aboriginal LSS provider. In 2021–22, 85 students accessing LSS identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or 8.6% of all users. This represents a slight percentage increase from 71 students in 2020–21, or 8.3% of all users, in line with the increase in access across all students.
- In March 2022, the South Australian Government committed to delivering 400 university scholarships over the next four years to help with the costs of starting a teaching degree. The scholarships will be targeted at four specific cohorts, one of which is Aboriginal students. The \$5000 scholarships are designed to attract a diverse and strong teaching cohort to the profession.

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<sup>11</sup> National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) National Apprentice and Trainee Collection – March quarter 2022. For further information, please refer: <https://www.ncver.edu.au/research-and-statistics/publications/all-publications/apprentices-and-trainees-2022-march-quarter>

## Key initiatives

### Aboriginal Access Centre



TAFE SA's Aboriginal Access Centre provides support for Aboriginal students and offers a variety of programs through many TAFE SA sites, including regional and remote locations.

In 2021–22, TAFE SA received funding to deliver specific non-commercial training and related services to Aboriginal people, including support for Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Land VET delivery and a range of qualifications and skills sets through the Aboriginal Access Centre.

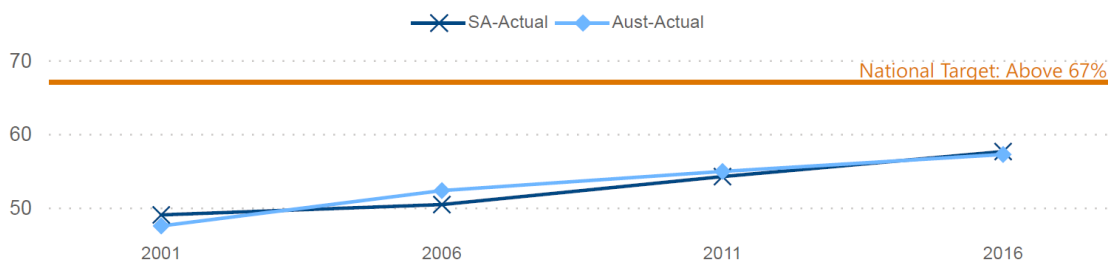
**TAFE SA**

## Outcome 7: Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67%.	Data not available	Data not available

Proportion (%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 15-24 years engaged in employment, education or training



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Census for this target.<sup>12</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2016. It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23 and national and state progress can be reported in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.

### SA Actions

South Australia is progressing initiatives to increase the proportion of Aboriginal young people who are engaged in employment, education or training.

Examples of initiatives include:

- In May 2022, more than 400 Aboriginal students from across SA gathered to build career pathways at the first Aboriginal Career Exploration (ACE) Expo. The expo is part of the wider ACE program, a partnership between the Department for Education's South Australian Aboriginal Secondary Training Academy (SAASTA – see socio-economic outcome 5) and the Workabout Centre (see below).

<sup>12</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area7>

- The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) is committed to employing 15 new Aboriginal Rangers in national parks across SA, aimed at increasing Aboriginal management of the State's natural environment. This will include the recruitment of 5 rangers in 2022 and involves the department building relationships with Adelaide-based universities.
- An Aboriginal Cadetship Program is being proposed to engage university students in their third or fourth year of study in employment within Community Corrections (Department for Correctional Services). The program will provide on-the-job experience to Aboriginal students and provide career pathways into the department on completion of their studies.
- The Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW) offers an Aboriginal Health Scholarship Program in partnership with Australian Rotary Health. The program aims to increase the number of professionally qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the SA health sector. In 2021–22, 9 recipients graduated in their chosen course; and 14 new recipients were inducted into the program.

## Key initiatives

### Workabout Centre



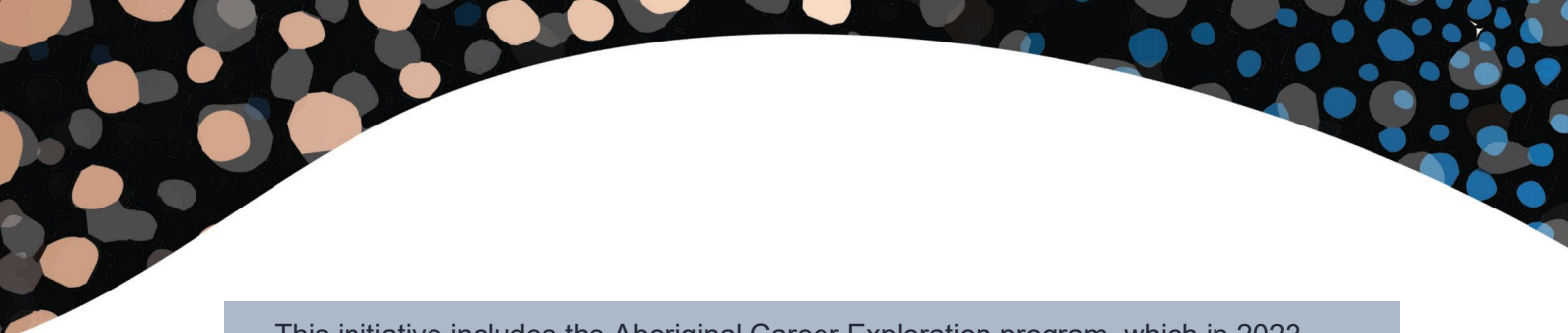
The Workabout Centre offers a range of programs and services to support Aboriginal students enrolled in public high schools to make a successful transition from school to work, higher education or further training. It also helps students to find school-based employment and stay at school to complete their Year 12 and South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Workabout Centre programs are available in a number of metropolitan and regional locations, including Port Lincoln and Port Augusta. More than 100 students who achieved their SACE in 2021 had received a service from the Workabout Centre that year, demonstrating the value of the programs to students.

*“At school I started hating it to be honest, I was getting in trouble, all things like that, and then I joined SAASTA at the start of year 10 and I found out about the [Aboriginal Career Exploration] program and it just made me enjoy school again. I made so many new friendships.”*

*- Bailey (previous Workabout Centre participant)*

The programs engage Aboriginal young people in educational and employment pathways and build relationships between education providers, industry, Aboriginal communities and other organisations. Students' individual training plans focus on how they will 'play the job game', access training and ultimately achieve their goals.



This initiative includes the Aboriginal Career Exploration program, which in 2022 was delivered to over 200 Aboriginal students in Year 10 from across the state. This entails workshops and hands on career exploration activities.

*Department for Education*

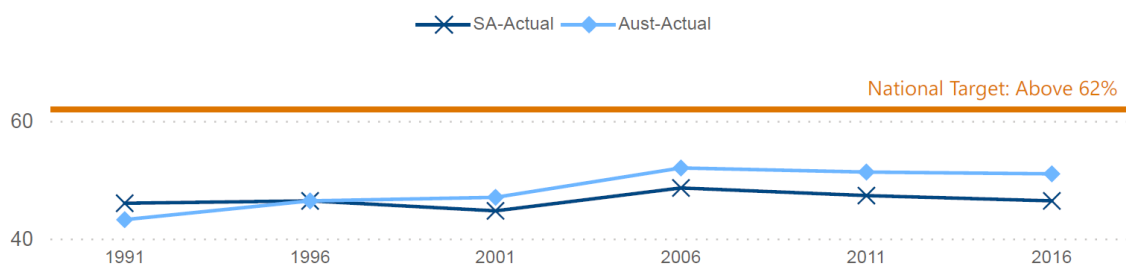


## Outcome 8: Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25–64 who are employed to 62 per cent.	Data not available	Data not available

Proportion (%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 25-64 years who are employed



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Census for this target.<sup>13</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2016. It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23 and national and state progress can be reported in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.

### SA Actions

A range of programs and initiatives are underway in SA to support the economic participation of Aboriginal people and increase the proportion of Aboriginal people in employment.

At a whole-of-government level, the South Australian Industry Participation Policy aims to improve the level of Aboriginal people's participation in employment and economic opportunities arising out of the State Government's expenditure. As part of this, the Office of the Industry Advocate reviewed more than 500 acquisition plans during 2021–22, which resulted in Tailored Industry Participation Plans for more than 120 procurements valued over \$550,000. All of these featured supply chain or workforce requirements to ensure improved opportunity for Aboriginal economic participation.

<sup>13</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area8>

## Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Strategy for South Australia was publicly released in February 2022. Development of the strategy has been Aboriginal-led and informed by engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, arts organisations and communities, and across the broader SA arts sector. A set of Guiding Cultural Values – Honouring, Leading, Listening and Learning, and Connecting – have guided and underpinned development of the strategy, and will drive its implementation. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Advisory Panel will be established to advise on the direction of the strategy and its implementation, and to support and guide Arts SA on Aboriginal arts and cultural practice in the State.
- The Australian and South Australian governments have committed up to \$200 million funding (\$85 million and \$115 million respectively) for the design and construction of Tarrkarri – the Centre for First Nations Cultures. The Tarrkarri project was formally launched and construction commenced on 14 December 2021. The project launch included announcement of the centre’s name, Tarrkarri – Kaurna for ‘the future’, and a cultural ground-breaking ceremony attended by senior Kaurna custodians, leaders, Elders and stakeholders. The South Australian Government is committed to delivering a world-class Centre for First Nations Cultures that will be of international significance and appropriately honour and celebrate the oldest continuous culture on earth. An independent panel will be appointed to review the project to ensure that it meets these objectives. Construction will be paused while this review is undertaken.
- The South Australian Government has supported the Far North Aboriginal Economic Collective (FNAEC) since its establishment in 2019. In 2021-22, a partnership between the Office of the Industry Advocate and Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR) has seen two AAR officers based in Port Augusta take on an expanded role of Aboriginal Economic Participation, supporting FNAEC objectives by providing a central point of contact for government agencies planning expenditure in the region and to contractors wanting to work with Aboriginal owned businesses operating in the region.
- The Department for Correctional Services (DCS) hosted its first Aboriginal Traineeship Program, which completed in 2021. Seven trainees participated in the 18-month program in various administrative roles and received mentoring and support while completing a Certificate III Business Administration.
- The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – Economic Participation Working Group was established to make the South Australian Government a culturally safe employer of choice for Aboriginal people in SA and provide greater procurement outcomes for Aboriginal-owned businesses. Achievements in 2021–22 included:

- increasing Aboriginal public sector workforce growth, retention and career advancement, including increasing Aboriginal staff in senior leadership roles
  - ensuring consistency of culturally appropriate workforce policies, initiatives and strategies across agencies
  - implementing an holistic practice and view of Aboriginal economic participation for tenders, procurement, supply chain, contracts and employment
  - providing line of sight of data across agencies, including tenders, contract value, spend, employment targets
  - increasing agency accountability and outcomes focused goals to increase Aboriginal economic participation through procurement, supply chain, contracts and employment
  - funding a Project Coordinator within the Office of the Industry Advocate to support Aboriginal businesses to navigate the vast support and services available in building capability.
- The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) is increasing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people by advertising all external vacancies on Aboriginal employment jobs boards and engaging with Aboriginal-owned recruitment companies. The department will shortly engage an Aboriginal-owned company to conduct a review of recruitment practices and employment opportunities for the department to increase Aboriginal employees.
  - The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has provided education and assistance to Aboriginal businesses regarding its prequalification process, to increase the numbers of Aboriginal businesses that are prequalified to perform building works on behalf of the State Government.
  - The Aboriginal Employment Industry Cluster Program is an employer-led initiative supported by the Office of the Industry Advocate. The program increases employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in SA, with an emphasis on skills development. It focuses on sustainable employment outcomes across a handful of specified industry sectors, with over 150 business members actively looking to employ or upskill Aboriginal staff. Between November 2021 and September 2022, the program resulted in the employment of 11 Aboriginal people and the provision of pre-employment support to 55 people.

- The South Australian Public Sector Aboriginal Employment Register was established to provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people to be considered for all vacancies across the South Australian Public Sector before they are advertised. Aboriginal job seekers sign on online declaration agreeing to allow South Australian Government agencies to access their resume, contact details and employment aspiration information for the purposes of recruitment. The register currently has 1,486 active Aboriginal clients.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) supported Aboriginal business by investing \$8.3 million directly into Aboriginal owned and operated businesses through procurement and infrastructure projects. The department also manages the Municipal Services in Aboriginal Communities Program (MUNS Program). Services include road maintenance, waste management, landscaping and general maintenance. Wherever possible, funding is provided directly to communities and homelands to ensure local participation and employment. Where funding is not provided directly to communities, priority is given to contracts with Aboriginal owned and operated companies.
- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) supported the building and construction industry through facilitating partnerships between non-Indigenous companies and local Aboriginal Communities, with memorandums of understanding being developed between local Kurna Community and Lendlease for the Northern Connector Project, resulting in jobs and investment in Aboriginal businesses.
- The SA Housing Authority (SAHA) designed an Aboriginal Industry Participation Tender toolkit to improve Aboriginal economic participation, cultural understanding and engagement with industry stakeholders to improve government procurement, Aboriginal supply chains and employment outcomes.

## Key initiatives

### Aboriginal Traineeship Program

The South Australian Public Sector Aboriginal Traineeship Program will place 100 Aboriginal trainees in the public sector by 30 June 2023.

The program, which is delivered in partnership with Taoundi Aboriginal College, combines pre-employment, the delivery of a Certificate III qualification, on-the-job training and a dedicated mentor for Aboriginal trainee participants.

To date, more than 55 clients have completed the pre-employment program and 41 Aboriginal job seekers have been placed into traineeships in the South Australian public sector. Each trainee is supported with a dedicated mentor who is a public sector employee and has undertaken an Indigenous Mentoring Course.

*Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment*

### The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub

The Australian and South Australian governments have jointly established The Circle – First Nations Entrepreneur Hub (The Circle). The National Indigenous Australians Agency has committed \$3 million over four financial years (to 2022–23) to deliver an Aboriginal Entrepreneur Hub as part of the Adelaide City Deal. The Circle is delivered by the South Australian Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

Officially launched on 27 August 2021, The Circle is physically located at Lot Fourteen and provides a range of business development support services to Aboriginal business members, both directly through in-house case management, and indirectly by referrals to a network of support services. The Circle provides a single point of entry to connect industry and Government to a capable, confident and thriving Aboriginal business sector in SA. There is a strong demand from industry to connect and engage with a capable network of Aboriginal businesses to meet their supply chain and business needs.

Since launching, The Circle has received a steady rate of membership applications (approximately 8 per month). As at end of June 2022, The Circle had approximately 120 members out of approximately 300 First Nations businesses in SA.



The Circle will deliver a First Nations Business showcase event in October 2022, during Indigenous Business Month, to create a direct opportunity for Aboriginal businesses to exhibit their products and services and raise awareness and encourage uptake through procurement opportunities.

*Department of the Premier and Cabinet*

## First Nations Export Mentoring Initiative



The First Nations Export Mentoring Initiative launched in December 2021 to connect Aboriginal businesses with a mentor from the Department for Trade and Investment (DTI). These relationships aim to strengthen the future capacity for growth of Aboriginal businesses and support their journey into exporting.

Since the program launched, 6 Aboriginal businesses have participated in one-on-one mentoring sessions. Mentors selected for the program have industry-based experience or experience leading export strategies within businesses. They undergo cultural awareness workshops and are committed to support the Aboriginal businesses they are mentoring.

Mentors support businesses in a variety of ways, with real-world results.

- A mentor provided advice and direction to support a participant's business with market entry into Korea in partnership with the department's overseas office.
- A mentor assisted a start-up business with marketing, positioning and promoting their products to achieve domestic sales growth opportunities. This business now has an active opportunity with a large national retail chain.

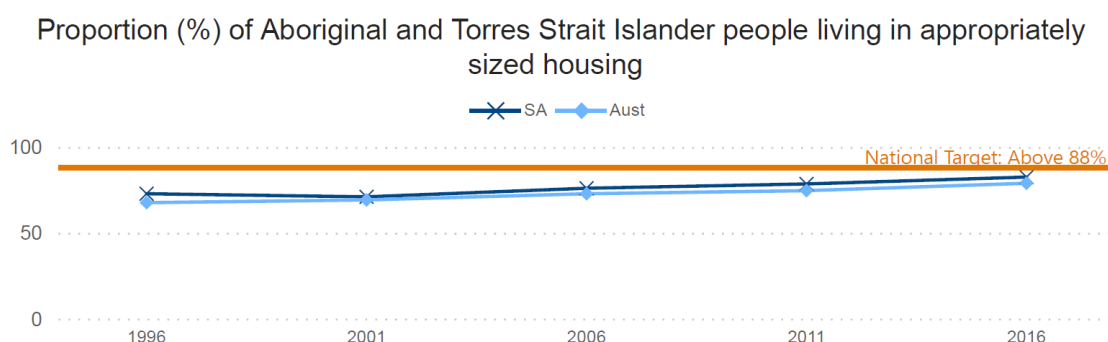
This initiative was made possible through a partnership with Aboriginal-owned consultancy business Corporate Connect.AB (CCAB). CCAB engaged with 27 Aboriginal businesses to identify how the Department for Trade and Investment could best support growth plans and work with Aboriginal businesses.

*Department for Trade and Investment*

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Data not available	Data not available



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' 5-yearly Census for this target.<sup>14</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2016. It is anticipated that 2021 Census data will become available in 2022–23 and national and state progress can be reported in the next Closing the Gap Annual Report.

### SA Actions

The South Australian Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021–2031 is a 10-year plan to improve housing outcome for Aboriginal people in SA. It has a common vision that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to safe, secure and affordable homes and that this is achieved through shared decision-making and culturally informed services, to maintain Aboriginal people's personal and cultural wellbeing.

The strategy was developed in close consultation with Aboriginal people and considers the full housing continuum, from crisis services and social housing through to affordable housing options and home ownership.

The strategy provides a long-term vision to improve Aboriginal housing in SA and includes 17 actions under 6 pillars that will:

<sup>14</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area9>

- put Aboriginal voices at the centre of decision-making
- change the way government does business
- create more jobs for Aboriginal people and businesses
- make more safe places to stay when and where they are needed
- provide better access to housing
- enable pathways for buying a house that are accessible and ethical.

The South Australia Housing Authority (SAHA) has commenced work with 3 ACCOs to develop individualised local decision-making frameworks for Aboriginal communities to engage and partner with SAHA.

#### **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- \$1.32 million was granted to Oak Valley Aboriginal Corporation to fund the construction of 2 houses in the Oak Valley community to help reduce overcrowding.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between SAHA and Indigenous Business Australia (IBA) to work in partnership to deliver affordable home ownership opportunities to Aboriginal people in regional locations.
- The roll-out of smart meters across the APY Lands, Yalata and Oak Valley has enabled access to high quality data regarding household electricity use. This allows the retailer and contractors MoneyMob Talkabout to provide targeted assistance and education to community members as well as detailed information about how they are using power.
- A stocktake of water security for self-supplied remote communities has been undertaken to inform the development of a standard for a basic level of safe and reliable portable water.
- The Department of Human Services (DHS) established the Aboriginal Cultural Team in February 2021. The Team has worked with 18 Aboriginal residents living with disability and supported by the DHS Supported Independent Living services throughout 2021–22, and living in individual dwellings or group homes with a maximum of 4 residents. The Team supports DHS to increase recruitment and training of Aboriginal Disability Support Officers and connects them to clients from the same Country/community, supports clients to access cultural activities and participate in their communities, and coordinates whole of service NAIDOC and Reconciliation activities across the entire service.

## Key initiatives

### Puti on Kurna Yerta



Puti on Kurna Yerta (Bush in the City) was established in the city's southern parklands as a temporary, multi-agency service hub to keep vulnerable visitors to Adelaide safe and facilitate a return to Country for those who wish to return home. As a culturally inclusive, safe space, the Hub saw relevant agencies working in collaboration with staff and interpreters from Iwiri Aboriginal Corporation, the Kurna Nation Aboriginal Corporation, and other appropriate Aboriginal organisations.

During the life of the Hub, some people chose to return to Country, while others were supported to find safe respite or longer-term accommodation.

*Department of Human Services*

### Tirka Tirka



Tirka Tirka is an accommodation service for Aboriginal students from remote and outer regional communities studying in Adelaide. Tirka Tirka is built and operates on Kurna land, and deep respect for this is reflected in dedication of the building name in Kurna language, meaning to sit/stay and learn.

The 20-bed apartment style facility in the Adelaide CBD accommodates post-secondary students from remote and regional locations engaged in further education and training.

In 2021–22:

- 17 Aboriginal tertiary students from regional and remote communities were occupants
- 6 students transferred to private rental
- 63% satisfaction rate with property management services of Aboriginal residents surveyed
- 70% satisfaction rate with cultural safety of customised accommodation of the Aboriginal residents surveyed.

*SA Housing Authority*

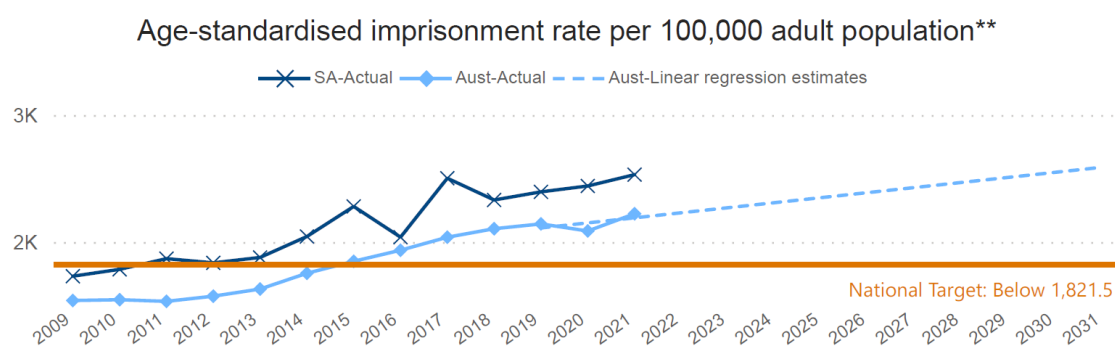




## Outcome 10: Aboriginal adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

### Target Data

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



TARGET	Actual rate per 100,000 population, 2021	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	2,531.1	2,222.7
Non-Indigenous people	197.0	164.2	
Assessment of progress*, baseline (2019) to 2021		←	←

\* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.  
 \*\* Targets are only available nationally.

The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' annual Prisoners in Australia dataset for this target.<sup>15</sup> New data (2021) was released for this target during the reporting period.

The incarceration rate of Aboriginal adults has increased since the baseline year (2019) both in South Australia and nationally. South Australia is currently not on track to meet this target. Between 2020 and 2021, the rate of incarceration for Aboriginal

<sup>15</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area10>

adults in South Australia increased from 2,441.7 to 2,531.1 per 100,000 people. The rate reported for 2021 is the highest rate of overrepresentation ever recorded in South Australia. Encouragingly, between 2020 and 2021 there was a 20% reduction observed in the rate for 18–24-year-old Aboriginal people in custody, from 1,731.2 to 1,394.9 per 100,000.

The drivers of incarceration are complex. While significant work is underway in SA to reduce the incarceration rate of Aboriginal adults, it will take time to translate into improvements in this target.

### **SA Actions**

The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – Addressing the Overrepresentation of Aboriginal South Australians in the Criminal Justice System Working Group has been tasked with developing and delivering a work plan of projects which will contribute towards achieving the Closing the Gap target and Outcome 10.

Highlights for the Working Group in 2021–22 include:

- Consultation with community and stakeholders to identify current release from custody practices and potential areas for improvement. A literature review is currently being finalised which will highlight best practice models for successfully reintegrating offenders into the community.
- Resources committed to engage an Aboriginal consultancy to undertake an evaluation of cultural programs in SA. An Aboriginal-owned consultancy company has been engaged and has commenced the evaluation project.
- BetterStart (Adelaide University) were engaged to conduct a review for population-level data analytics to provide insight into contact with the justice system and trends.

### **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- The development and release of the Department for Correctional Services' Aboriginal Strategic Framework and accompanying Action Plans to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people held in incarceration, and to better meet the needs of Aboriginal offenders in contact with the corrections system.
- South Australia's Road Safety Strategy to 2031 includes a focus on specific Aboriginal road safety initiatives, developed jointly with Aboriginal communities aimed at reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in road crashes which result in lives lost or serious injury. The strategy will also have a focus on research, community engagement and collaboration to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal road users incarcerated due to road traffic offences.

- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport's On the Right Track driver licensing program delivers licence training and assessment in the Maralinga Tjarutja and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. The program is expanding to deliver services in the Flinders Ranges, Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Ceduna.

## Key initiatives

### Advisory Commission



The Government has established an Advisory Commission into the Incarceration Rates of Aboriginal Peoples in South Australia. The Advisory Commission includes local, interstate and international representatives with experience and expertise in the criminal justice system.

The Advisory Commission will inquire into lowering the incarceration rates of Aboriginal people in SA and overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody at all points of the criminal justice system. The Advisory Commission will consider drivers of reoffending, interactions with the criminal justice system, options to reduce overrepresentation of Aboriginal people on remand and culturally appropriate and culturally responsive custody options.

The Commission will deliver a report to Government in early 2023.

*Attorney-General's Department*

### Approved Treatment Program



Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit (FERU) facilitates a non-financial arrangement that provides clients the option to resolve outstanding fines debt by completing an Approved Treatment Program (ATP).

ATPs are limited to drug and alcohol treatment programs and focus on positive outcomes for clients by reducing fines debt while working as an incentive for clients to maintain engagement in their drug and alcohol program.

There are currently 22 approved ATP providers delivering services across South Australia, many of which work closely with the Aboriginal community. Currently, 6 of the 22 ATP providers are ACCOs:

- Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council

- Aboriginal Sobriety Group
- KWY
- Nunkuwarrin Yunti of SA
- Pangula Mannamurna Inc
- Umoona Tjutagku Health Service.

This ensures the ATP is accessible to Aboriginal clients living in both metropolitan and regional areas as well as in Aboriginal communities.

***Department of Treasury and Finance***

## Lemongrass Place – Port Augusta Prison



The Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation has been contracted by the Department for Correctional Services (DCS) to deliver a Community Transition and Learning Centre (CTLC) in Port Augusta Prison, allowing Aboriginal male offenders from regional and remote areas to:

- address the reasons for their offending behaviour while building the skills and experience to transition successfully back to community
- desist from crime
- live productive lives.

The centre, officially renamed Lemongrass Place, commenced operations in January 2022 and will run as a pilot for 18 months while an ongoing evaluation is undertaken by Ninti One Limited (an Aboriginal professional services organisation). The pilot is delivered in partnership with the National Indigenous Australian Agency.

Up to 120 participants will reside in Lemongrass Place throughout the 18-month pilot with up to 20 participants at any given time. Participants will stay for approximately 3 months. The primary objective of Lemongrass Place is to enhance rehabilitation in the community by providing a residential capacity building cultural and learning experience tailored to the specific needs of suitable Aboriginal offenders from regional and remote SA communities.

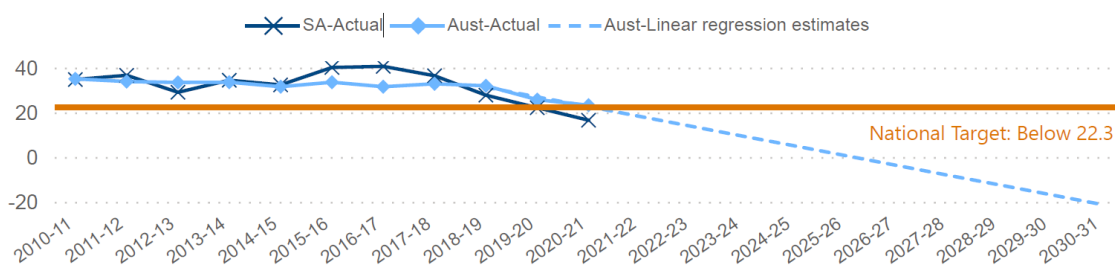
***Department for Correctional Services***

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%.	Improving	Good improvement and on track

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention, rate per 10,000 population\*\*



TARGET	Actual rate per 10,000 population, 2020-21	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	16.5	23.2
	Non-Indigenous people	0.7	1.3
	Assessment of progress*, baseline (2018-19) to 2020-21	➔	✓
	* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.		
	** Targets are only available nationally.		

The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s annual Youth Justice National Minimum Dataset for this target.<sup>16</sup> New data (2020–21) was released for this target during the reporting period.

The detention rate of Aboriginal young people has decreased since the baseline year (2018–19) both in SA and nationally, and Australia is on track to meet this target.

<sup>16</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area11>



Within SA, the rate of Aboriginal young people in detention over the reporting period of 2020–21 is 29% lower than the national average. This reporting period has also shown that, for the first time since the established baseline, SA has met the national target of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people being held in detention, with linear regression estimates trending towards significantly reduced numbers being held in detention over the projected reporting periods.

Since the baseline, SA has reduced (overall) numbers of Aboriginal people involved in police proceedings, with the number of young people having been proceeded against by police reducing by 22% since 2018–2019.

### **SA Actions**

The Young People Connected, Communities Protected: Youth Justice State Plan 2020–2023 has a strong focus on addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the youth justice system.

There are 40 projects identified under 6 service design themes, which set the strategic priorities for 2020–2023. The vision of the plan is to provide young people in the youth justice system, and their families, with connected supports, programs and services.

Kurlana Tapa Cultural Trail and Connection Space is an initiative under the Youth Justice State Plan. The Cultural Trail and Connection Space contributes to the shared value of ensuring the voices of Aboriginal communities inform and promote strong connection to family, communities, culture, country and language. On 23 February 2021, an Aboriginal cultural trail and cultural connection space, designed in consultation with Elders and children and young people, was officially opened at the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.

The Elders visiting program for Kurlana Tapa aims to explore a community-based equivalent. Programs are being developed in partnership with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Aboriginal Community Reference Group and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations and the development of this program is continuing.

## Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- The Yarning Circle activity was established for Aboriginal males at the Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre and planning is underway to extend this activity to Aboriginal females. Two Yarning Circles are run per week – one by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and one by Kurlana Tapa cultural staff. These sessions involve a campfire which creates calm and culturally safe opportunities to talk with young people, and the sharing of kangaroo tail as a culturally appropriate food.
- The *Youth Justice Administration Act 2016* (SA) requires that there is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Principle. The Principle ensures that the individual cultural identity of Aboriginal young people is recognised and that their beliefs are supported, respected and valued. DHS is working to meaningfully embed the Principle into all areas of practice at Kurlana Tapa.
- DHS has established a Cultural Community of Practice co-chaired by a senior Aboriginal and a senior non-Aboriginal staff member. This committee meets 8 times per year and provides advice across Youth Justice and other areas of service delivery and works to increase cultural competency and safety.
- Youth Justice aims to facilitate contact and cultural support between Aboriginal community leaders, Elders and Aboriginal Youth Justice clients and employs Senior Aboriginal Cultural Consultants for this purpose. Cultural advice and, where necessary, direct care and support for Aboriginal children and young people is available 24/7 in Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre.

## Key initiatives

### Marni Wodli Child Diversion Program



The Marni Wodli Child Diversion program pilot provides an alternative to incarceration, for children aged 10–13 years who are suspected of criminal activity.

The pilot started in December 2021 and seeks to respond to the known issue that, on some occasions, bail authorities refuse an application for release on bail on the grounds that no suitable bail address can be approved or identified.

The CDP pilot uses a suburban property to provide these children with secure (non-custodial) short-term accommodation while specialist staff undertake intensive family scoping and support assessment, to connect the child and their family with appropriate supports.

*Department of Human Services*

## Kurlana Tapa Cultural Trail and Connection Space



The Kurlana Tapa Cultural Trail and Connection Space is an initiative under the Young People Connected, Communities Protects: Youth Justice State Plan 2020–2023.

The space provides an environment that contributes to the physical, psychological, spiritual and emotional wellbeing of children and young people at Kurlana Tapa. It provides a culturally safe space for community members and services providers to engage with Aboriginal children and young people in promoting their cultural development.

It also provides a space for learning for staff and non-Aboriginal children and young people, to promote culturally responsive services.

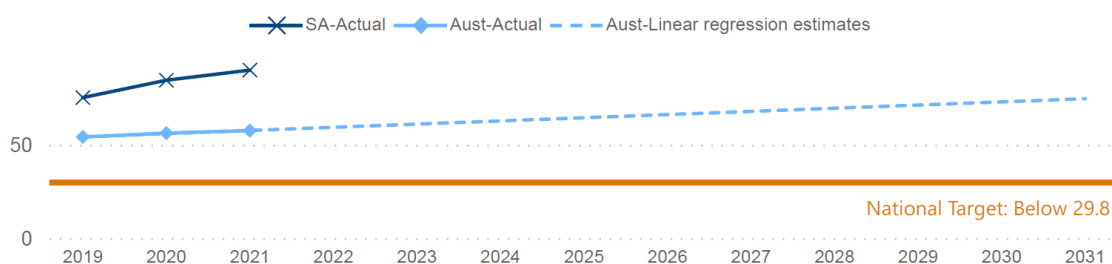
***Department of Human Services***

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

### Target Data

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care rate per 1,000 children\*\*



TARGET	Actual rate per 1,000 children, 2021	SA	Aust
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	90.0	7.7
	Non-Indigenous children	7.7	5.0
	Assessment of progress*, baseline (2019) to 2021	←	←

\* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.  
 \*\* Targets are only available nationally.

The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s annual Child Protection National Minimum Dataset for this target.<sup>17</sup> New data (2021) was released for this target during the reporting period.

<sup>17</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area12>

The rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal children has increased since the baseline year (2019) both in South Australia and nationally. Acknowledging that these figures are unacceptable, it is well recognised that overrepresentation is a national challenge and the solution requires a sustained, focused and strategic response, and a commitment across governments and portfolios to active efforts and to transformational change.

## **SA Actions**

A significant body of work is underway in SA to reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in the child protection system.

At a national level, SA worked with state, territory and the Commonwealth governments in partnership with SNAICC and the Aboriginal Leadership Group to develop *Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021–31*, which was released in December 2021.

*Safe and Supported* focuses on 4 priority groups, one of which is Aboriginal children and young people experiencing disadvantage or who are vulnerable. The national framework will be implemented through two 5-year Actions Plans that will include an Aboriginal-specific Action Plan. The development of the Action Plans is being co-led by South Australia and the Commonwealth in partnership with Aboriginal partners and provides the agreed framework for action to Closing the Gap. The Action Plans will be released in December 2022.

Recognising the need for a deliberate and strategic framework, as part of the commitment to the Plan, and in partnership with SAACCON, the South Australian Government has committed to progressing amendments to the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* to embed the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle to the standard of active efforts, and to enable self-determination and the exercise of legislative authority by Aboriginal entities. A full legislative review has commenced and includes dedicated consultations with SAACCON and Aboriginal stakeholders including ACCOs. A report on the review of the legislation will be tabled in Parliament in early 2023 with a view to consult on a draft amendment bill later that year.

### **Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target**

- As part of its deliberate ACCO investment strategy, the Department for Child Protection (DCP) has engaged ACCOs to deliver family group conferencing services, kinship care support services and reunification services. The department has also embedded a Family-led Decision Making for Aboriginal Families Framework.



- The Department of Human Services (DHS) implementation of the Child and Family Support System reform has included Child and Family Safety Networks (CFSNs), which were established in 2020 as a mechanism of collaboration and partnership in 10 regional locations of SA. In 2021–22, an additional 6 CFSNs were commenced throughout the metropolitan areas, resulting in 16 CFSNs across SA. Agency partners include government, non-government and ACCOs. CFSNs enable strong partnerships at a local level, ensuring that families are informed as soon as possible of the multi-agency response, to capture the families voice and decision-making, and to strengthen self-determination.
- Within SA Health, the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula High Risk Infant (HRI) multi-agency team works in collaboration to review, monitor and plan for identified HRIs to increase the family strengths and protective factors, increase family preservation and divert HRIs and their families away from statutory child protection services. The group provides coordinated, inter-agency and inter-disciplinary communication and problem-solving responses.
- The Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – Building Capacity in Vulnerable Families Working Group has been progressing projects in the areas of early intervention, cultural training for notifiers, social and emotional wellbeing, Domestic and Family Violence and an Anti-Racism Strategy. The working group has also established an Aboriginal Early Intervention Community of Practice to provide a network for Aboriginal practitioners and managers who provide social and emotional wellbeing services in the area of early intervention. 50% of the Working Group are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The Southern Adelaide Local Health Network (SALHN), in partnership with Flinders University, has received a funding grant to undertake a project titled: “Child Protection Services in Health: Fostering community led solutions to minimise trauma and change trajectories of pregnant Aboriginal women, their children and their families.” The research project, led by Aboriginal people, will look at South Australian data, how health and social services are delivered and work with community to make sure that services treat trauma, support families and are appropriate.

## Key initiatives

### Design of the South Australian Peak Body for Aboriginal Children and Young People



The Department for Child Protection engaged SNAICC to work closely with Aboriginal communities to consult and report on a preferred model for a peak body for Aboriginal children and young people that:

- privileges the voices and agency of children and young people, and maintains a clear focus on protecting and promoting safety and wellbeing
- partners with government to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the child protection system, including in care
- builds the capacity of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to provide services to Aboriginal children, young people and families.

This work represents the department's commitment to embedding Aboriginal governance and leadership to reduce overrepresentation, recognising that this will be critical to the achievement of the target over the long term.

The final report has now been received by Government and planning for implementation in consultation with Aboriginal partners is progressing.

*Department for Child Protection*

### Child and Family Support System



The Roadmap for Reforming the Child and Family Support System 2021–23 sets the forward agenda of partnership with Aboriginal communities, government and sectors to affect broad and holistic changes to systems and practice in the Child and Family Support System (CFSS). The Roadmap outlines 4 priority areas for reform:

- pathways
- service integrity
- service investments
- building evidence.

A key component to this reform is establishing data infrastructure and processes to enhance understanding of the needs of vulnerable children and families at a population level, and the impact and outcomes of the CFSS.

Underpinning all elements of the CFSS reform is a healing approach, particularly for Aboriginal families. This is a way for everyone working in the sector to be both culturally and trauma-responsive to provide support to families with multiple and complex needs and also significant cultural strengths.

The healing approach and the actions under each of the priority areas for reform have been developed by people with lived experience, people with cultural authority, researchers, workers and leaders in government and non-government services.

*Department of Human Services*

## Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People



In October 2021, a bill to establish the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP) under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* passed the South Australian Parliament and commenced operation. The inaugural Commissioner, Ms April Lawrie, was reappointed as the CACYP for a further 3-year term from 4 December 2021.

The CACYP has commenced an inquiry into the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in SA.

From July 2021 to date, the CACYP:

- finalised the Aboriginal Youth Voices Report and Aboriginal Community Engagement Report 2021
- undertook 10 engagement forums across SA involving Aboriginal community members
- 15 direct consultation and engagement meetings with the Commissioner by various government and non-government stakeholders and officials
- undertook 7 public speaking engagements and 6 forum panels advocating for solutions through systemic change in Aboriginal policy development

- provided systems advocacy and assistance to individual families across the state:
  - 22 Aboriginal cases – Department for Child Protection
  - 3 Aboriginal student matters – Department for Education
  - 3 Aboriginal Youth Justice cases – Department of Human Services.

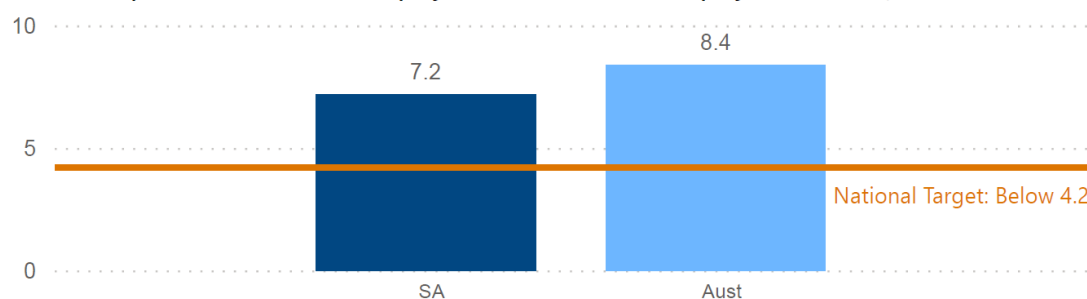
***Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People***

## Outcome 13: Aboriginal families and households are safe

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero.	Data not available	Data not available

Proportion (%) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females 15+ years old who experienced domestic physical or threatened physical harm, 2018-19



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) periodic National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey for this target.<sup>18</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2018–19. The ABS advises that the next data release date is unknown.

### SA Actions

A range of programs and initiatives are underway in South Australia to reduce all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children. At a whole-of-government level, the Aboriginal Affairs Executive Committee – Building Capacity in Vulnerable Families Working Group (see socio-economic outcome 12) has been progressing a project to better link services together to provide stronger and more beneficial support to those experiencing domestic and family violence.

The group are in the process of obtaining data from the Department for Child Protection and engaging key stakeholders (including ACCOs), and investigating what services are available to establish an Aboriginal Domestic and Family Violence Alliance for metropolitan, regional and remote areas.

<sup>18</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area13>



## Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- SA Police is in the process of establishing a multi-agency facility at Umuwa to better address child abuse and domestic violence on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. Key partners are initially the Department for Child Protection and SA Health's Child Protection Services. Handover of the building to agencies is scheduled for December 2022, and in the first 12 months of operation the focus will be on:
  - improving the safety of children, families and communities by strengthening and enhancing agency responses through more connected information sharing, planning and intervention processes
  - increased community consultation to inform culturally appropriate interventions.
- The Family Safety Framework (FSF) is the South Australian Government's coordinated service response to domestic, family, and sexual violence. The FSF provides government and non-government agencies a mechanism to ensure that services for families most at risk of violence are provided in a more structured and systematic way. The framework is actioned through multi-agency Family Safety Meetings (FSM) which occur every 2 weeks across 17 regions to develop coordinated responses for people experiencing a high risk of harm. There are 12 Aboriginal non-government organisations represented across 9 of the 17 FSM regions. Increased representation is planned, with an aim to have a minimum of one Aboriginal non-government service representative on each of the 17 meetings.
- Other initiatives focused on Aboriginal families included working with Kornar Winnil Yunti (KWY) to establish the Aboriginal women's safety hub at Port Augusta and developing a culturally appropriate Women's Safety Contact Program (being trialled by KWY).

## Family Violence COVID-19 Responses



Through the National Partnership on COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses, South Australia has established a range of important initiatives that span the continuum from primary prevention and early intervention to services and support that assist women and children through crisis.

Targeted initiatives include:

- Developing the *Marni-Padni – Pukulpay anama* (Safe Journeys) initiative to support Aboriginal women and children who have experienced, or are at risk of, domestic and family violence to return to Country, or to move into safe accommodation. Women can return to Country, including in the NT and WA.
- Introducing Individual Safety and Support Packages (domestic violence brokerage) to provide support to women through specialist domestic and Aboriginal family violence services, including funding provided to NPY Women's Council and Nunga Mi:Minar.
- Expanding Aboriginal men's behaviour change programs through KWY including provision of the My Journey Domestic Violence Intervention program for one year in Port Lincoln.
- Employing a young men/young father's worker to increase capacity to provide timely responses to requests for specialist counselling in response to the impact of COVID-19 and a rise in contacts from young men who are at risk of using violence or coercive control in their relationship.
- Developing a trauma responsive therapeutic support model designed to support Aboriginal children and adolescent clients experiencing domestic and family violence, by the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute.

***Department of Human Services***

## Ceduna Services Collaboration



The Ceduna Service Collaboration (CSC) is a co-design initiative established in 2014 with the Department of Human Services (DHS) as the lead agency. CSC aims to improve the safety and wellbeing of transient Aboriginal community members who present to services in the Ceduna township and surrounds due to alcohol and drug use. Achievements over 2021–22 include:

- The Far West Community Partnership (FWCP) has trained over 400 agency staff, community members, parents and students/young people in restorative practices.

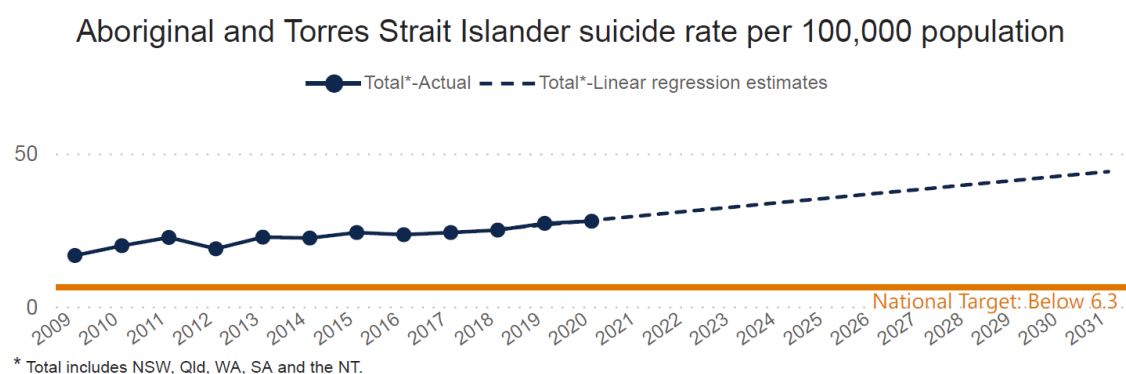
- Since 2021, DHS has been supporting the transition of CSC to sit under the FWCP. The FWCP is governed by the Far West Coast Aboriginal Leaders Group and is working to build the capacity of the local community to directly engage in future decision-making at a service system level.
- DHS continues to provide support in funding the Service and Partnerships Lead (within the FWCP) to coordinate services and assist in the support and growth of community led initiatives under the partnership.

***Department of Human Services***

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people towards zero.	Data not available	Worsening



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' annual Causes of Death dataset for this target. New data (2020) was released for this target during the reporting period.

Nationally, progress on this target is deteriorating.

Annual South Australian disaggregated data is not available for this target, as single year estimates are subject to volatility due to small numbers of Aboriginal deaths in each jurisdiction.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> The ABS provides 5-year aggregates as point-in-time comparisons for jurisdictions and across age groups and remoteness areas. For more information, please refer: <https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area14>

## SA Actions

South Australia progressed important work to prevent suicide during the reporting period, including the assent of the *Suicide Prevention Act 2021* (SA). The Act, which is the first of its kind in an Australian jurisdiction, establishes a Suicide Prevention Council as a statutory body to advise and report to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Ms Nadia Clancy MP, the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention, has been appointed as the presiding member of the Suicide Prevention Council. The Act legislates that membership of the Council includes the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and at least one member with experience in a leadership position in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

The Act legislates that there is to be a State Suicide Prevention Plan which must include a separate part that makes specific provision in relation to suicide prevention as it affects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This part, the South Australian Aboriginal Suicide Prevention and Wellbeing Plan, has been completed and signed off by the Aboriginal Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Committee for inclusion in South Australia's overarching plan (currently in development).

### Other work undertaken to achieve this Closing the Gap target

- 10 Connecting with People Suicide Prevention trainings and 5 Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid trainings were delivered across SA (including Ceduna, Port Augusta, the Riverland and metropolitan Adelaide) to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health organisations and NGOs. This work continues to be core business for the Aboriginal Mental Health team in the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist to improve and upskill Aboriginal knowledge and understanding to support communities and families regarding mental health and suicide prevention.
- Since December 2021, the Department of Human Services has engaged 7 organisations as Aboriginal Community Partners to deliver the Community Connections (CC) Program to Aboriginal people across SA. Together these organisations, including a consortium of 5 ACCHOs, provide a range of culturally appropriate, flexible services designed to strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples through a focus on connection to culture, community, social networks, health/social services and building a sense of belonging. By the end of October 2022, the CC Program is expected to be fully implemented by Aboriginal Community Partners in all regions.



- The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service's (CAMHS) APY Lands Service has recently been reviewed and is in the process of expanding to also include an Integrated Model of Care involving other services from the Women's and Children's Health Network. CAMHS is currently providing a mental health service that is predominantly tele-health, with the referral pathway being through Nganampa Health Council. Fortnightly visits to the APY Lands are currently occurring and involve staff from CAMHS, the Child and Family Health Service and the Youth and Women's Safety Wellbeing Division. CAMHS is strengthening relationships and expanding referral pathways.
- The Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network (FUNLHN) has a current agreement with Pika Wiya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (PWHS) to provide Primary Health Care and Mental Health Services to Aboriginal communities within their footprint (Port Augusta to Roxby Downs and the communities of the Flinders Ranges). KPI's have been set that all Aboriginal people will have timely access to mental health support provided by PWHS and have a current Mental Health Care Plan reviewed every 3 months, as well as timely follow-up with all clients discharged from the emergency department or Acute Medical Unit.
- The Northern Adelaide Local Health Network's Cultural Healing Team is involved in a range of activities aimed at building cultural awareness and competency including in-reach into acute inpatient settings, reducing the number of code black events and distress. This includes intensive community support, which reduces emergency department presentations and supports recovery and community participation.

### Key initiatives

#### South Australian Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre



The SA Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre will aim to enable all Aboriginal people in South Australia to have their mental health needs met through a culturally based and appropriate mental health service delivery.

The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist (OCP) in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Council SA (AHCSA) are co-chairs of the newly formed Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre Taskforce, which is guiding the establishment of the Centre.

The vision is based on the successful Western Australian Statewide Aboriginal Mental Health Service (SAMHS) model. The Centre will be designed to significantly improve Aboriginal mental health and suicide prevention outcomes through a cultural, social, emotional and wellbeing-based approach with access to cultural knowledge and healing. This is in partnership with care and treatment under existing service activity such as broader social and emotional wellbeing services and mainstream mental health services.

Connected to the Centre, the SA Aboriginal Nunga Youth Council will advocate for the rights and representation of Aboriginal young people living in SA and provide a youth voice for mental health and suicide prevention.

*Department for Health and Wellbeing*

## Aboriginal Cultural Wellbeing Programs at Kurlana Tapa



Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service's (CAMHS) Forensic Services has been designed to provide a collaborative multidisciplinary and holistic service to address the mental health of Aboriginal youth aged between 10–18 years of age who have engaged in criminal behaviour and are detained in the Kurlana Tapa (Adelaide Youth Training Centre).

Four Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Workers provide clients, carers, the multidisciplinary team and stakeholders with highly valued cultural consultancy.

Staff work with Aboriginal youth on their cultural identity with a view to developing resiliency. A number of the clients who engage in this service have little insight into their cultural identity and at times are ashamed to identify due to their perceived social view and status. This program has been able to demonstrate the strength of Aboriginal culture and provide positive Aboriginal role models and community figures to these clients who now have a strong self-worth and cultural identity.

Aboriginal staff run two highly valued group programs in addition to individual work:

- **Respect Sista Girls 2:** A program for young women. Participants use their cultural strengths to make positive changes in their lives, empowering them to make better choices and to reconnect with their cultural identity, family, land, language, values and spiritual beliefs.

- **Journey to Respect:** A group program run in Kurlana Tapa targeting Aboriginal young males aged 14–18 years who are currently charged with violent offences. The initiative aims to reduce the incidence of violence, focusing on attitudes and behaviour related to family relationships and masculinity. Importantly, it seeks to facilitate participants' movement from relationships based on power and control, towards relationships based on respect. It heavily emphasises cultural connection.

*Women's and Children's Health Network*

## Services to Aboriginal Youth Program



The Services to Aboriginal Youth Program (STAY) aims to provide early intervention services to assist young Aboriginal people to achieve goals, strengthen their cultural and community connection and build long term resilience. Twelve organisations are funded to provide the service, all located in regional areas of South Australia.

The STAY programs positively engage with many other Aboriginal and local services to provide the health and social support to meet their participants' needs. Participants are encouraged to attend cultural events to strengthen their connection with community.

Many STAY programs work with local schools to support healthy relationships between students and schools, the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council and children and youth identified as at-risk by South Australia Police and the Department for Child Protection.

Over 2021–22 the program provided services to 474 young Aboriginal people aged 10–19 years. Outcome measures indicate that 40% of assessed participants improved their skills to set and achieve complex goals and 81% indicated that they had increased positive cultural connections and support networks post service.

*Department of Human Services*

## South Australia Museum Collection Store



The South Australian Government committed \$3.3 million to delivery of the Australia Store Program to ensure that items of immeasurable cultural significance are better protected and cared for. The South Australian Museum is the custodian of up to 30,000 items, including the world's most comprehensive collection of Aboriginal cultural material.

The Australia Store Program was completed in August 2022 and provides improved storage conditions for the Australia Store collection through a purpose-built, fit-for-purpose storage system. Items have also now been barcoded to improve accessibility and tracking of items within the collection.

The program has also delivered a viewing room to provide a space for members of Aboriginal communities to safely and respectfully view ancestral remains.

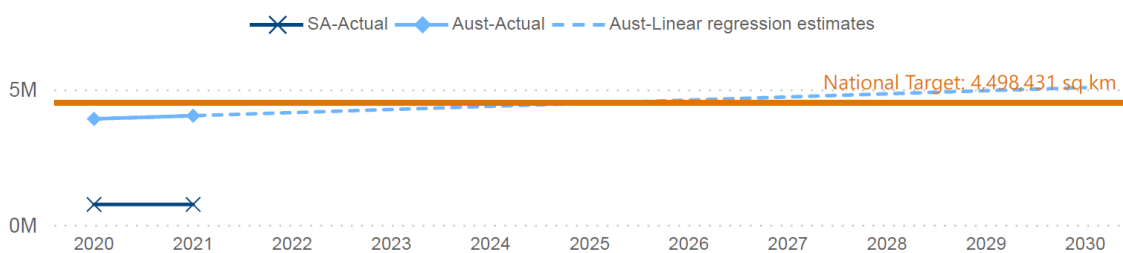
*Department of the Premier and Cabinet*

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

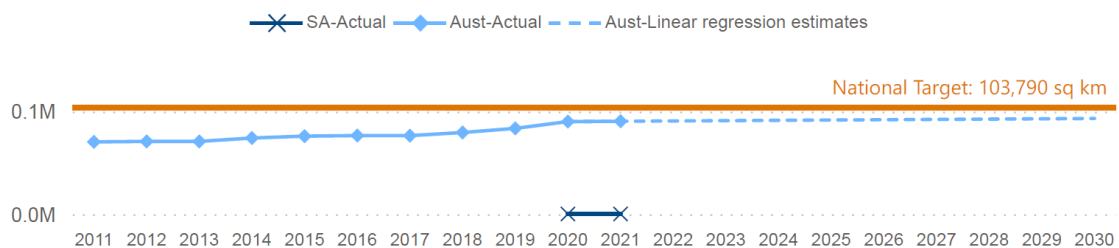
### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target 15a:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.	Improving	Good improvement and on track
<b>Target 15b:</b> By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	No change	Improvement but not on track





Area of Land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests at 30 June



Area of Sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests at 30 June





TARGET	Actual area (sq km), 2021	SA	Aust
	Land area	753,304	4,027,232
	Sea area	373	90,555
Assessment of progress*, baseline (2020) to 2021			
	Land area		
	Sea area		
* These assessments of progress should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.			
** Targets are only available nationally.			

The Productivity Commission draws on the National Native Title Tribunal’s annual Native Title Determinations Outcomes dataset for this target.<sup>20</sup> New data (2021) was released during the reporting period.

Nationally, between 2020 (baseline) and 2021 the area of Australia’s land mass subject to Aboriginal people’s legal rights or interests increased by 115,553 square kilometres. The target is currently on track to be met. South Australia shows improvement from the base year. Between 2020 and 2021 the area of SA’s land mass subject to Aboriginal people’s legal rights or interests increased by 3.8% (from 725,905 to 753,304 square kilometres).

Nationally and in SA, between 2020 and 2021 there was no meaningful increase in the area of sea country subject to Aboriginal people’s legal rights or interests.

### SA Actions

South Australia is progressing work to ensure Aboriginal people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters.

Examples of work undertaken during the reporting period include:

- SA is supporting the Committee on Aboriginal Water Interests in their work to develop policy pathways to recognise and give effect to the water interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as part of the refresh of the National Water Initiative. SA has supported the extension of the Committee’s terms – as well as SA’s financial contribution for the committee – until the end of 2024.

<sup>20</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area15>

- The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) has developed a First Nations Engagement Guideline, endorsed by the First Nations SA Congress. The Guideline will help to guide staff and create greater consistency in the establishment of Aboriginal engagement and partnerships.
- The Department for Environment and Water is continuing to work closely with the Adnyamathanha people to progress the Flinders Ranges World Heritage nomination. The Flinders Ranges World Heritage Community Reference Group met twice on Country in 2021–22. The group includes Adnyamathanha representatives from the community and Adnyamathanha representatives formally nominated by the Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park co-management board and the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges co-management board.
- As part of the Healthy Coorong Healthy Basin project, agreements between the Department for Environment and Water and Ngarrindjeri and First Nations of the South East were executed at the beginning of 2020. Throughout 2021–22 these agreements were updated with additional schedules to reflect a broadening of the partnerships as the program has evolved and moved towards implementing potential infrastructure. The Ngarrindjeri Research Project was funded and completed, allowing Ngarrindjeri to actively take a leadership role to speak on behalf of Yarluwar Ruwe (Lands and Waters) and the ongoing management of the Coorong.
- In July 2021, the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Inland Waters and Catchment Ecology science program partnered with Calperum Station to run a workshop titled Indigenous Ecology in Action, targeting indigenous high school students. During the workshop students gained an appreciation of cultural values and connection to river ecology through the presence and storytelling of Uncle Barney, and through cultural walks guided by 2 Aboriginal rangers.

## Key initiatives

### National Parks Co-management Arrangements



The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) continues to support the delivery of South Australia’s co-management program under the *National Parks Wildlife Act 1972*. Co-management in SA is about bringing together traditional Aboriginal beliefs and contemporary Western perspectives on the importance of looking after land. The concept recognises that Aboriginal and conservation challenges and initiatives cannot be addressed in isolation, and that healthy country and healthy communities go hand-in-hand.

Co-management acknowledges the rights and capacity of Aboriginal communities to manage cultural and natural values on traditional lands and educates the wider community about 'healthy country' and brings them along on a journey of mutual respect and understanding. A co-management board replaces the Director of National Parks and Wildlife as the management authority for a park.

In July 2022, a co-management agreement was signed with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, bringing the total number of co-management agreements in SA to 13 agreements covering 37 parks. The historic agreement provides a formal platform for co-management of the Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park -Winaityinaityi Pangkara, Aldinga Conservation Park and Torrens Island Conservation Park.

Co-management agreement negotiations are progressing with Wapma Thura Nukunu over the Wapma Thura – Southern Flinders Ranges National Park.

*Department for Environment and Water*

## Water planning and management



As water allocation plans are reviewed and amended, South Australia's Landscape Boards are engaging Aboriginal communities in their regions to ensure that the objectives of Aboriginal peoples' are better reflected in the plans and there are greater provisions for cultural water. This builds on the learnings and strong engagement that occurred during the development of South Australia's 3 water resource plans for the Basin Plan.

Progress over the reporting period included:

- The Northern and Yorke Landscape Board working closely with the Nukunu peoples in developing the draft Baroota Water Allocation Plan in the mid-north of South Australia.
- Cultural Water Consumptive Pools being established in the Far North Water Allocation Plan and the Adelaide Plains Water Allocation Plan.

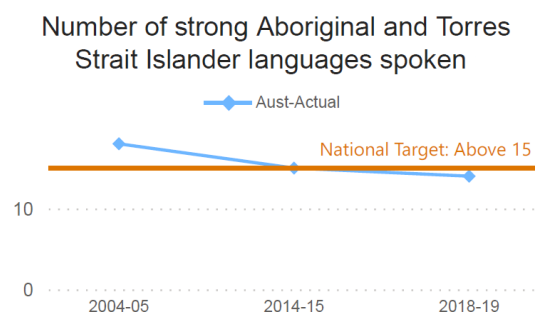
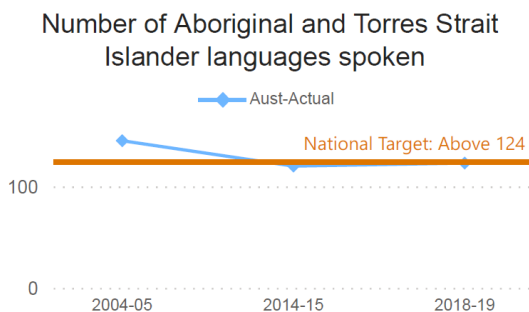
- The First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation and Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation being engaged through the reviews of the Peake, Roby and Sherlock, and Mallee Water Allocation Plans. Options for allocating water to Aboriginal communities in groundwater management zones that are not fully allocated will be investigated during the amendment of these water allocation plans which are scheduled to commence this year.
- Ngadjuri, Permangk and Kurna peoples being engaged through the development of the draft Barossa Water Security Statement. The actions in the draft strategy reflect a commitment to integrating Aboriginal peoples' wisdom into the management of land, water and biodiversity in the Barossa and ensuring direct involvement and representation in regional decision-making.

*Department for Environment and Water*

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.	Data not available	Data not available



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' periodic National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) for this target.<sup>21</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2018–19. NILS are conducted at irregular intervals and the next data release date is unknown.

### SA Actions

The Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service (ALIS) commenced in December 2021, within the Interpreting and Translating Centre in the Department of Human Services. ALIS aims to improve access and delivery of services to Aboriginal people by supporting Aboriginal language speakers to undertake training, gain qualifications and be employed as interpreters.

ALIS employs Aboriginal interpreters from across the state, speaking 8 Aboriginal languages:

- Arrernte

<sup>21</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area16>



- Pintubi/Luritja
- Pitjantjatjara
- Yankunytjatjara
- Warlpiri
- Alyawarre
- Anmatyerre.

The service offers interpreting face-to-face in the Adelaide metropolitan area and Port Augusta, and by phone across SA.

ALIS assists Aboriginal people experiencing language barriers in a range of different settings, including when dealing with police or child protection, in court, in health centres and hospitals, and with Centrelink.

In 2021-22, ALIS completed 205 interpreting assignments. Approximately 58% of all work was delivered within the Courts Administration Authority and 22% within the SA Health Network. The remaining 20% was spread across other government and non-government organisations.

## Key initiatives

### Strengthening Aboriginal languages and literacy



South Australian government schools offer students the opportunity to learn a language from reception to at least year 8. Schools can choose from several Australian Curriculum languages, including South Australian Aboriginal languages such as Kaurna, Ngarrindjeri, Adnyamathanha, Nharangga, Bunganditj, Pitjantjatjara, and Yankunytjatjara, amongst others.

The Department for Education is developing new curriculum documents to support teachers to develop learning programs to deliver the Australian Curriculum in their classroom. For Aboriginal languages, this means supplying language content for the Framework for Aboriginal Languages and Torres Strait Islander Languages.

During 2021–22:

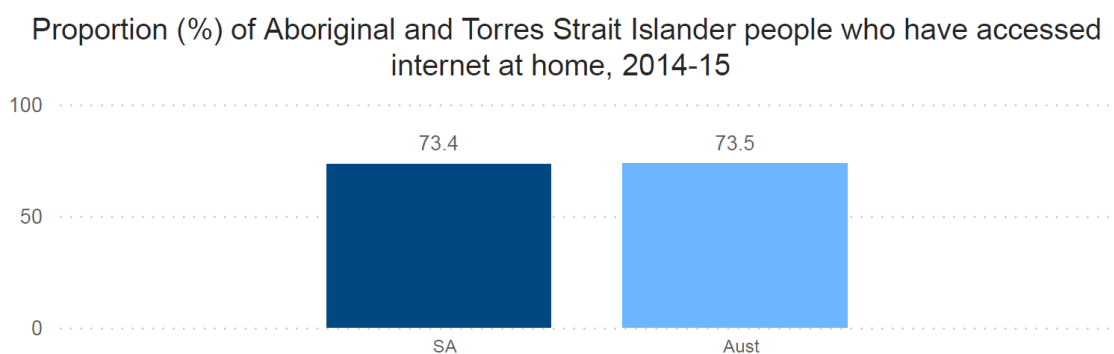
- The final draft of Kurna language R–6 scope and sequence curriculum documents were developed in consultation with a teacher reference group, Kurna language owners and an academic partner. The process to establish a formal agreement with Kurna Warra Karrpanthi regarding the scope and sequence has commenced. The Kurna scope and sequence is the first in Australia developed for an Aboriginal language.
- The Department for Education undertook coordination of Aboriginal Languages Program Initiative and First Language Maintenance and Development grant processes and distribution of grants to sites for 2022.
- The Department for Education commenced recruitment of a curriculum writer for Nharranga language R–6 scope and sequence.
- The first phase of a project to align the Aboriginal languages grant programs to best achieve the vision of the Aboriginal Education Strategy has commenced.

*Department for Education*

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

### Target Data

Socio-economic outcome	SA	Australia
<b>Target:</b> By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion.	Data not available	Data not available



The Productivity Commission draws on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' periodic National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSIS) for this target.<sup>22</sup> No data for this target is available since the baseline year of 2014–15. The next NATSIS collection and data release date is unknown.

There is no comparable data on home access to the internet for non-Indigenous people. This means that estimating a trajectory to achieve parity is not currently possible.

### SA Actions

South Australia is progressing work to ensure Aboriginal people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives. The Office for Data Analytics is progressing the development of a partnership with SAACCON to establish upcoming data sharing agreements and deliver on the bodies of work outlined under Priority Reform 4.

<sup>22</sup> For more information, please refer:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/socioeconomic/outcome-area17>

Examples of work undertaken during the reporting period include:

- The Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) has implemented a notification process to native title groups and Aboriginal land holding bodies on the grant of a mineral exploration licence. The department is progressing with the design and implementation of the new Mining and Exploration Regulation System, which will allow for expanded public access online to designated aspects of the Mining Register when complete. Fees for downloads of information on exploration and mining licences have been removed, and while awaiting the development of the new system, enquiries for access to information held by the department will be managed on an as-needs basis.
- The Department for Education's Schools with Internet Fibre Technologies (SWIFT) initiative has delivered high-speed internet services to every regional public school, preschool, and children's centre in SA. Key achievements in 2021–22 include:
  - Kenmore Park Anangu School: Agreement was reached on a fibre solution during 2021 and Telstra has begun the project work to deliver this. It is expected that this work will be completed by December 2022.
  - Fibre optic connectivity is underway for Maree Aboriginal School and Leigh Creek Area School, with completion estimated in August 2023. The Department for Education, in partnership with Telstra and the Commonwealth, has committed to deliver high-speed, reliable internet services to these remote schools.
- This connectivity infrastructure investment by the Department for Education and the Commonwealth Government will also enable Telstra to commission improved mobile communication facilities which will directly benefit the communities of Dalhousie Springs, Yunyarinyi, Nyapari, Murputja, Kalka, Kanpi and Watinuma who will receive dedicated mobile coverage for the first time.
- The Department for Education is also supporting regional schools, preschools and children's centres by uplifting their digital infrastructure and providing ongoing ICT support, ensuring that schools and preschools are able to adopt new technologies and platforms and increase the skills and knowledge of country-based students and teachers.

## Key initiatives

### SA.GOV.AU



The SA.GOV.AU website includes an overarching page for 'resources for Aboriginal people', which provides an alphabetical list of key topics and resources that may be beneficial to Aboriginal people.

As part of the government's one stop shop digitisation program, DPC is working with government agencies to provide a single-entry point for online services. As part of this program, Aboriginal people will be engaged to support the development of these online services.

The South Australian Government will continue to leverage SA.GOV.AU as the government single entry point, ensure it meets accessibility requirements and provides plain English content for access and ease of customers.

*Department of the Premier and Cabinet*

## Next steps

### Partnership

The South Australian Government and SAACCON are committed to a fundamentally new way of working and shared responsibility and decision-making. This commitment to meaningful and real partnership, formalised through the signing of the Partnership Agreement on 10 November 2022, marks the beginning of the journey to place Aboriginal people, voices and experiences at the centre of decision-making and transform how policies that impact on the lives of Aboriginal people are developed and implemented.

As set out in the Partnership Agreement, over the next 12 months the Partnership Committee will be established as the central governance mechanism for Closing the Gap in South Australia. The Partnership Committee will include equal representation from SAACCON and the South Australian Government to ensure a fair partnership and shared decision-making by consensus.

### Update of SA's Implementation Plan on Closing the Gap


The Government and SAACCON are now jointly developing and negotiating a series of actions to address each of the 4 Priority Reforms and 17 socio-economic outcomes and targets in the National Agreement. The negotiations have been facilitated by joint workshops attended by relevant SAACCON members and government department representatives. The agreed joint actions will inform the work plan for SA to deliver on Closing the Gap, and will enable a refresh of SA's Implementation Plan in 2023.

### First Nations Voice to Parliament in South Australia

The South Australian Government will establish a First Nations Voice to SA Parliament. The aim is to ensure Aboriginal people in SA can provide advice directly to decision-makers on the policies and projects that impact their lives. A Voice to Parliament is the first tenet of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Commissioner for First Nations Voice, Dale Agius, is leading this project.

Following months of engagement with Aboriginal communities across South Australia, the First Nations Voice Bill 2022 was released on 9 November 2022. Following a period of consultation, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs will bring legislation to the SA Parliament in 2023. This is an historic opportunity. A Voice to Parliament will give Aboriginal people the chance to be heard at the highest level of decision-making in our state. The establishment of a Voice is a major step forward in empowering Aboriginal communities in SA.





South Australia is committed to state-based implementation of the 3 tenets of the Uluru Statement from the Heart – Voice, Treaty, Truth – and is investing more than \$2 million to restart the Treaty Process.



**Government  
of South Australia**

