



ACCOUNTABILITY FUNDAMENTAL TO CLOSING THE GAP PARTNERSHIP

Coalition of Peaks Lead Convenor, Pat Turner AM, welcomed today's release by the Productivity Commission of its second tool for monitoring impacts of the historic National Agreement on Closing the Gap, reached a year ago between the Coalition of Peaks and all Australian Governments.

"Today's Annual Data Compilation Report joins the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap Dashboard (commencing last month) in providing building blocks for strong oversight and accountability under the National Agreement.

"The Coalition of Peaks, made up of community-controlled organisations, are accountable to their memberships and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities they serve. It is also essential that governments are accountable for their commitments under the National Agreement, which are geared to reaching targets on four Priority Reforms and an expanded set of socio-economic outcomes.

"Together, if we do this right, we will advance both self-determination and accelerate how gaps can be closed in the life circumstances of our People and other Australians.

"The Productivity Commission's report and Dashboard are fundamental to tracking progress and holding all Parties to account for their responsibilities. When things are going off-track, action must be taken to get back on course. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community expect nothing less.

"The Annual Data Compilation Report sets baselines to enable us to assess how the groundbreaking approach in the National Agreement will be fundamentally changing the way governments do business with and for our People. Partnership and shared decision-making are at the heart of that new paradigm.

"The Report doesn't show impacts from the National Agreement because the available data relate to periods before it became operational. It is still early days, with much of the National Agreement only beginning to be actioned. The Report does highlight the scale of the mountain to climb if our targets are to be reached. We look forward to having the Productivity Commission's future reports with the data necessary to both inform progress and point to where change and further investments are needed", Ms Turner said.

"There are several other accountability tools that give credence to the National Agreement.

"First, each Government is releasing an Implementation Plan, developed with the Coalition of Peaks in each jurisdiction, as well as an annual report on closing the gap progress. New South Wales and Victoria have already released their Implementation Plans and others will follow soon.

"The Coalition of Peaks look forward to the Commonwealth Government's Implementation Plan and annual Closing the Gap report from the Prime Minister. We want to see further investments of effort and resources to transform how the Morrison Government is working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and moving forward on our socio-economic targets", Ms Turner said.

"It is also important that, at each 3rd anniversary of the National Agreement, the Productivity Commission will undertake a broader review of progress, which will be complemented each fourth anniversary by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led review.

MEDIA RELEASE

29 July 2021



Coalition
of Peaks

“Ensuring accountability through regular independent reporting and reviews of progress is hardwired into the fundamentally new approach to closing the gap being progressed across Australia, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives at the table sharing decision-making with governments.

“The parties to the new Closing the Gap Partnership are learning a lot about what it takes to build trust and do business together. Of course, there are bumps and hurdles along the way. And, like any genuine partnership, survival into the longer-term depends on being accountable for what we commit to do and fixing things when any or all of us fall short.”

The **Productivity Commission** has developed a [Closing the Gap Information Repository](#) that includes a Dashboard and Annual Data Compilation Report:

- ❖ The Dashboard (released on 23 June 2021) provides the most up-to-date information available on the targets and indicators in the Agreement.
- ❖ The Annual Data Compilation Report provides a point-in-time snapshot of the Dashboard material.

Media contact: Tara Apps, Communications Manager - 0429 098 613 - taraapps@coalitionofpeaks.org.au

About the Coalition of Peaks

The Coalition of Peaks is a representative body of over fifty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak organisations and members. The Coalition of Peaks came together on their own as an act of self-determination to be formal partners with Australian governments on Closing the Gap.

Members are either national, state or territory wide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled peak bodies including certain independent statutory authorities. Their governing boards are elected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and / or organisations.

For more information on the Coalition of Peaks and to sign up for our mailing list, go to:
www.coalitionofpeaks.org.au