
Closing the Gap Annual Report 2023–2024



Artist statement

Title: Tunapri – To Understand

This artwork explores the intricate relationship between wildflowers and the connection with life. The wildflower, often seen as a symbol of resilience and beauty in nature, serves as a powerful metaphor for our connections to the earth, the air, and each other. Through this piece, I aim to highlight the importance of community and the reliance we have on one another for personal and collective growth.



In nature, wildflowers thrive in diverse environments, often emerging in unexpected places. This ability to flourish amid adversity speaks to the strength found in diversity and the beauty of collaboration. Each flower, unique in its form and colour, contributes to the overall tapestry of the ecosystem, just as individuals contribute to the richness of our communities. My intention is to evoke a sense of unity and harmony, reminding us that our differences are not barriers but essential threads woven into the fabric of life.

The vibrant colours and organic forms in 'Tunapri' reflect the vitality of wildflowers and their ability to inspire connection. It serves as a reminder that we are all part of a larger ecosystem, where our actions and interactions can foster growth and understanding.

Ultimately, 'Tunapri - To Understand' is an exploration of the bonds that tie us to our environment and to one another. It is an invitation to nurture these connections, recognising that through support and empathy, we can flourish together, much like the wildflowers that grace our landscapes.

About the artist

Emma Robertson

Trawlwoolway

Emma Robertson is a proud palawa woman, artist and cultural practitioner. She is passionate about the environment, sustainability, and utilising natural materials in or as inspiration in her artistic pursuits. Emma enjoys incorporating kelp, fibres, quills, and shells into her contemporary designs, artworks, and jewellery. By incorporating traditional palawa elements into her artworks, she hopes to foster a sense of identity and pride in her community.

Emma's love for nature is evident through her art, as she aims to capture the essence of her cultural heritage while embracing contemporary aesthetics. She

strives to create art that resonates with people worldwide and inspires them to connect with and protect Country.

Acknowledgement of Country

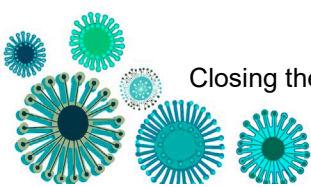
In recognition of the deep history and culture of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present custodians of this land. We acknowledge and pay respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders, past and present.

Content warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware this document may contain details of Aboriginal people who have passed.

Language statement

Tasmania's First Nations people are Aboriginal people. Accordingly, in this document the term 'Aboriginal people' is used in place of 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people'. This recognises Tasmanian Aboriginal people's original ownership and ongoing custodianship of Country. The term 'Aboriginal people' should be read as inclusive of all First Nations people in Tasmania, including Torres Strait Islander people.

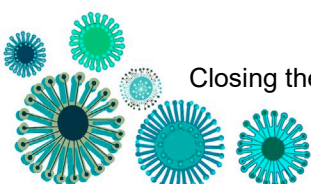


© Crown in the Right of the State of Tasmania 2025

Department of Premier and Cabinet

GPO Box 123, HOBART TAS 7001

Call: (03) 6232 7230 | Email: ap@dpac.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



Minister's statement

The Hon Bridget Archer MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

It is my honour to be the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in Tasmania. I am passionate and committed to furthering progress to close the gap in Tasmania and continuing to learn from and listen to Aboriginal people.

I am pleased to present this annual report on Tasmania's progress made over the 2023–2024 year in implementing the commitments made through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020.

This report provides opportunity to reflect on the ongoing progress and achievements made so far as we move towards real and lasting change.

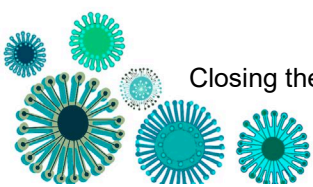
I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre as the Tasmanian member of the Coalition of Peaks and the Tasmanian Government's formal partner on Closing the Gap, and all Aboriginal community-controlled organisations for their work in guiding government and providing the support to Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

I also acknowledge the Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP as the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs during the 2023-24 reporting period, and her commitment to Closing the Gap.

It is pleasing to see the positive signs and movement in this report and the goodwill of government agencies and their support in progressing and improving many of the targets to close the gap in Tasmania. This is particularly important in the areas of training and employment, health and justice, and I note that there is still work to be done, but we are committed to this end.

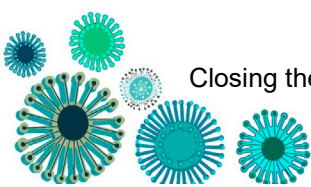
I recognise this reporting year sat between the implementation of the first Tasmanian Closing the Gap Plan and the next plan to close the gap in Tasmania, and that more targeted and strategic work to achieve the goals of the National Agreement is planned.

Through ongoing work with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and organisations, we will continue to listen and be guided by Tasmanian Aboriginal people in working towards the desired outcomes to close the gap in Tasmania. This comes through genuine partnership, to which the Tasmanian Government is committed.

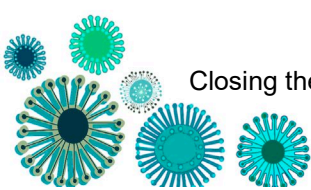


Contents

Artist statement.....	2
About the artist.....	2
Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
Content warning	3
Language statement.....	3
Minister's statement.....	5
Summary	8
Guide to this report	9
Data overview	10
Part 1 Socioeconomic outcomes and targets	11
Summary of Tasmania's progress	11
Jurisdictional actions	16
Health (Outcomes 1 and 2).....	16
Early Childhood Care and Development (Outcomes 3 and 4)	18
Education and Training (Outcomes 5 and 6).....	20
Training and employment (Outcomes 7 and 8)	22
Housing (Outcome 9).....	25
Justice (Outcomes 10 and 11)	26
Family Safety and Wellbeing (Outcomes 12, 13 and 14)	29
Land and Sea (Outcome 15).....	34
Language and Digital Inclusion (Outcomes 16 and 17)	36
Part 2 Priority Reforms	38
Priority Reform 1: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making	38
Outcome	38
Target.....	38
Progress.....	38
Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector	40
Outcome	40
Target.....	40
Progress.....	40



Priority Reform 3: Transforming government organisations	42
Outcome	42
Target	42
Progress.....	42
Priority Reform 4: Shared access to data and information at a regional level	45
Outcome	45
Target	45
Progress.....	45
Annual reporting requirements	46

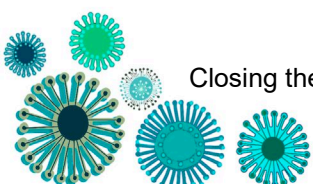


Summary

Since commencement of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020, the Tasmanian Government has worked with its Coalition of Peaks partner, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, to build the foundations required for an effective partnership for the life of the National Agreement. In line with the National Agreement, the Tasmanian Government works in partnership with the Tasmanian Coalition of Peaks partner and the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

Tasmania's actions on Closing the Gap continue to focus on the four priority reforms under the National Agreement. The priority reforms are intended to fundamentally change the way governments engage and work with Aboriginal organisations, families and people, and are central to the success of the National Agreement in achieving its objective of better life outcomes for Aboriginal people. Focus on the priority reforms underpins ongoing efforts to support Aboriginal self-determination in Tasmania and helps ensure the Tasmanian Aboriginal community-controlled sector has the freedom to govern its own resources and data, supported by government policy.

This report summarises effort, investment and actions aligned to the achievement of Closing the Gap socioeconomic outcomes in Tasmania during the 2023–24 financial year. The report meets the Tasmanian Government's commitment under Clause 118 of the National Agreement to report Tasmania's progress against the National Agreement and the *Closing the Gap Tasmanian Implementation Plan 2021–2023*.



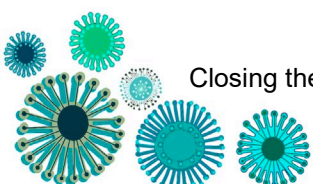
Guide to this report

This report has two parts.

The first part reports on Tasmania's progress against the socioeconomic outcomes sought through the National Agreement, including the related targets, and progress implementing actions committed to in the *Closing the Gap Tasmanian Implementation Plan 2021–2023*.

The second part reports on Tasmanian Government progress implementing the four priority reforms of the National Agreement:

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



Data overview

The National Agreement includes a set of targets to track national progress against 17 socioeconomic outcomes that measure life and wellbeing outcomes experienced by Aboriginal people.

This report outlines Tasmania's contribution to meeting the socioeconomic outcomes of the National Agreement. It draws on the Productivity Commission Annual Data Compilation Report July 2024 (using data available as at 30 June 2024) and progress against baseline data published on the Closing the Gap Data Dashboard: www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard¹

¹ Annual Data Compilation Reports and the latest data on the Data Dashboard can be viewed on the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap Information Repository website: www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data



Part 1 Socioeconomic outcomes and targets

Summary of Tasmania's progress

Tables 1 and 2 provide an overview of Tasmanian and national progress against the Closing the Gap socioeconomic targets.

Table 1. Tasmanian progress summary

Tasmania's progress summary	# of Targets	Target #
Improvement	8	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11
Worsening	2	9a, 10
No change from baseline	3	12, 15a, 15b
No assessment (data not available)	6	1, 9b, 13, 14, 16, 17
Targets being met at 30 June 2024	2	3, 8

Tasmania has improved from the baseline on eight of the targets for which there is reportable data.

Information for the Productivity Commission Closing the Gap Data Dashboard and annual data compilation reports is developed in stages. The Tasmanian Government is working with the Australian Government to further develop the data indicators needed to better track progress on the targets.

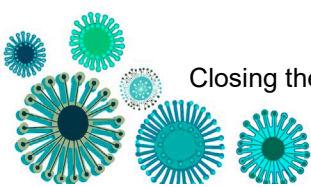


Table 2. Targets by sector: Tasmanian and national progress, as of 30 June 2024

Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
Health		
1: Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.	Improvement, not on track Latest data (2020–22): Males = 8.8 years gap Females = 8.1 years gap Baseline (2005–07): Males = 11.4 years gap Females = 9.6 years gap	Tasmanian data is not reportable due to insufficient data levels and quality, in line with national reporting guidelines. ²
2: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight to 91%.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2021): 89.6% Baseline (2017): 88.8%	Improvement Latest (2021): 90.7% Baseline (2017): 88.5%
Early Childhood Care and Development		
3: By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling early childhood education to 95%.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2023): 101.8% Baseline (2016): 76.7%	Improvement; target being met Latest (2023): 115.5% Baseline (2016): 90.9%
4: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55%.	Worsening Latest (2021): 34.3% Baseline (2018): 35.2%	Improvement Latest (2021): 38.3% Baseline (2018): 37.5%
Education		
5: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people (age 20–24 years) attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualifications to 96%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 68.1% Baseline (2016): 63.2%	Improvement Latest (2021): 68.1% Baseline (2016): 62.7%
6: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 47% Baseline (2016): 42.3%	Improvement Latest (2021): 51.2% Baseline (2016): 47%

² Advised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-life-expectancy-methodology/2020-2022



Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
(Certificate III and above) to 70%.		
Training and Employment		
7: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education, or training to 67%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 58% Baseline (2016): 57.2%	Improvement Latest (2021): 63.3% Baseline (2016): 62.4%
8: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 who are employed, to 62%.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2021): 55.7% Baseline (2016): 51%	Improvement; target being met Latest (2021): 62.4% Baseline (2016): 59%
Housing		
9a: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88%.	Improvement, not on track Latest (2021): 81.4% Baseline (2016): 78.9%	Worsening; target being met Latest (2021): 88.8% Baseline (2016): 89.9%
9b: By 2031, all Aboriginal households within discrete Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet the relevant jurisdictional standard.	Not reported for any state/territory; there is no data source that includes all the required data elements. ³	
Justice		
10: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15%. <i>Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 620 Aboriginal adults per 100,000 in detention.</i>	Worsening Latest (2023): 2,265.8 per 100,000 Baseline (2019): 2,142.9 per 100,000	Worsening Latest (2023): 810.6 per 100,000 Baseline (2019): 729.7 per 100,000
11: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30%. <i>Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 6 Aboriginal young people per 10,000 in detention.</i>	No change Latest (2022–23): 29.8 per 10,000 Baseline (2018–19): 32.1 per 10,000	Improvement Latest (2022–23): 7.3 per 10,000 Baseline (2018–19): 8.8 per 10,000

³ Advised by the Productivity Commission:
www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area9

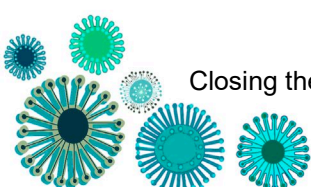


Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
Family Safety		
12: By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care by 45%. (Tas equivalent target (rounded) = no more than 18 Aboriginal children per 1,000 in out-of-home care.)	Worsening Latest (2023): 57.2 per 1,000 Baseline (2019): 54.2 per 1,000	No change Latest (2023): 33.4 per 1,000 Baseline (2019): 32.7 per 1,000
13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero. <i>Tas equivalent target = 4.15%</i>	No assessment available Baseline (2018–19): 8.4% of females aged 15 years+ experienced physical or threatened physical harm.	No assessment available Baseline (2018–19): 8.3% of females aged 15 years+ experienced physical or threatened physical harm.
14: Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal people towards zero.	Worsening Latest (2022): 29.9 per 100,000 Baseline (2018): 25.1 per 100,000	Tasmanian and ACT data is not reportable due to insufficient data levels and quality, in line with national reporting guidelines.⁴
Land and Sea		
15a: By 2030, a 15% increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests. <i>Tas equivalent target = extra 95 kms² subject to Aboriginal people's rights or interests.</i>	Good improvement, on track Latest (2023): 4,213,978 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 3,908,387 km ²	No change Latest (2023): 631 km ² (0.9%) subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 631 km ²
15b: By 2030, a 15% increase in areas covered by Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests in the sea.	Good improvement, on track Latest (2023): 113,461 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 90,252 km ²	No change Latest (2023): 0 km ² subject to Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests Baseline (2020): 0 km ²

⁴ Advised by the Productivity Commission: www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/dashboard/se/outcome-area14 and by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: www.abs.gov.au/methodologies/causes-death-australia-methodology/2022



Target	National progress	Tasmania's progress
Language and Digital Inclusion		
16: By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal languages being spoken.	No assessment available Baseline (2018–19): 123 languages spoken	No assessment available Baseline (2018–19): 4 languages spoken
17: By 2026, Aboriginal people have equal levels of digital inclusion. <i>There is no comparable data for non-Aboriginal people.</i>	No assessment available Latest (2014–15): 73.5% of Aboriginal people 15 years+ accessed the internet in their home.	No assessment available Latest (2014–15): 85% of Aboriginal people 15 years+ accessed the internet in their home.



Jurisdictional actions

Health (Outcomes 1 and 2)

Outcome 1

Aboriginal people enjoy long and healthy lives.

Target 1

Close the Gap in life expectancy within a generation, by 2031.

Action

The Department of Health will work in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to deliver initiatives under the next Healthy Tasmania Five Year Strategic Plan that address their needs and priorities.

Progress

In 2023–24, the Department of Health worked with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Reference Group on the allocation of two Healthy Tasmania grants to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people.

One outcome of this work was a grant to the Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association for a food security project. Although the project did not progress as determined by the Association, the Department of Health has gained a deeper understanding of food security-related challenges on Truwana / Cape Barren Island.

Outcome 2

Aboriginal children are born healthy and strong.

Target 2

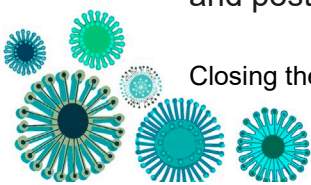
By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal babies with a healthy birthweight to 91 per cent.

Action

The Department of Health, via the Tasmanian Health Service, will continue to develop partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to facilitate the provision of culturally appropriate pregnancy and childbirth support services.

Progress

Hospitals North supports the provision of culturally appropriate pregnancy and childbirth support services through active partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, the continued delivery of a weekly antenatal clinic at the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and monthly midwifery visits to Flinders Island (including the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association) to provide antenatal education and postnatal care.



In addition, the Midwifery Group Practice is available for all women birthing at the Launceston General Hospital, offering culturally appropriate continuous care throughout pregnancy, birth and the postnatal journey.

Hospitals South maintains a strong partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre that facilitates early engagement and direct referral pathways for Aboriginal families, including to the Midwifery Group Practice.

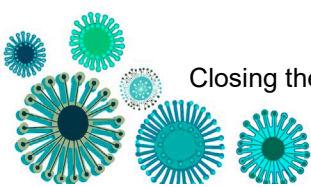
The Midwifery Group Practice model prioritises continuity of care through building trusting relationships with a known midwife throughout pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period. Culturally responsive practice is supported as midwives receive ongoing cultural safety training from Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre staff and Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers.

Hospitals South practices collaborative and culturally sensitive care planning, including opportunity for joint care planning, and ensuring referrals to relevant services including Aboriginal health liaison officers, social workers and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre or other services occur as appropriate.

A partnership model is applied to working with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, to provide culturally safe pre-term prevention care, including providing education and culturally appropriate resources to general practitioners and local community groups about available models of care.

Other actions include:

- embedding an information-sharing process between the Royal Hobart Hospital and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations;
- understanding what makes Aboriginal women and families feel safe, respected and supported when accessing care through continuous engagement with individuals and organisations;
- engaging Aboriginal women with lived experience to contribute to service design; and
- an active statewide partnership with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre that ensures support for the social and emotional aspects of care when Aboriginal patients are transferred to the Royal Hobart Hospital as the tertiary care centre, for complex care.



Early Childhood Care and Development (Outcomes 3 and 4)

Outcome 3

Aboriginal children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years.

Target 3

By 2025, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children enrolled in Year Before Fulltime Schooling early childhood education to 95 per cent.

Action

The Department for Education, Children and Young People will work in partnership with Aboriginal people to deliver services through Child and Family Learning Centres that address their needs and priorities.

Progress

There was a strong take-up of Child and Family Learning Centre registrations by Aboriginal families in the reporting period, comprising 16 per cent of all Child and Family Learning Centre registrations in 2023.

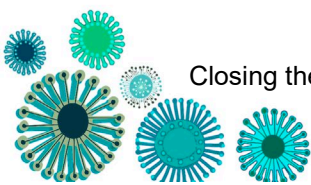
Action

The Department for Education, Children and Young People will work in partnership with Aboriginal people to deliver support through Launching into Learning programs that have significant Aboriginal decision-making.

Progress

Tasmania continues to have nearly 100 per cent of First Nations children actively enrolled and engaged in preschools (Kindergarten), continuing the long-standing take up by families and carers.

Across the reporting period, Aboriginal children were over-represented in enrolments for the Launching into Learning program delivered in schools to children aged 0–4 years. Aboriginal children comprised 21.6 per cent of enrolments in 2023.



Outcome 4

Aboriginal children thrive in their early years.

Target 4

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census to 55 per cent.

Action

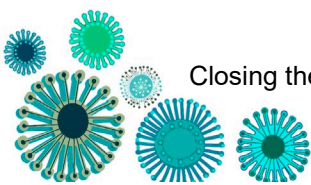
The Department of Health will work in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to deliver culturally appropriate mental health support to address the needs of Aboriginal children and young people.

Progress

Across this reporting period, the Department of Health focused on whole-of-community actions to deliver improved mental health supports to children and young people through Tasmania's strategic mental health plan, *Rethink 2020*, and reform of Child and Youth Mental Health Services.

The Department of Health continued to focus on meeting the needs of Aboriginal people through culturally appropriate service delivery by Child and Youth Mental Health Services. This included the continued implementation of the reform program, including the establishment of new specialist programs in Early Years Mental Health, Out of Home Care Mental Health, Youth Mental Health and Youth Forensic Mental Health. Child and Youth Mental Health Services supported the Mental Health Council of Tasmania to co-design a Youth Peer Work implementation plan to improve service integration and navigation across the continuum of care within youth mental health services.

Child and Youth Mental Health Services also commenced the two-year trial of the Youth Mental Health – Hospital in the Home program in the North-West, a service for young people aged 16 to 25 to receive intensive, short-term mental health intervention and support in their own home.



Education and Training (Outcomes 5 and 6)

Outcome 5

Aboriginal students achieve their full learning potential.

Target 5

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people (age 20–24 years) attaining Year 12 or equivalent qualification to 96 per cent.

Progress

In the reporting period, 398 Aboriginal people aged 20–24 years attained a qualification from TasTAFE, from Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III to Advanced Diploma.

Of these students, approximately 82 per cent completed a Certificate III, 11 per cent completed a Certificate IV, and 6 per cent completed a Diploma.

Action

The Department for Education, Children and Young People will continue to ensure that all Aboriginal students have individual learning plans developed in partnership with the student, their family and teachers.

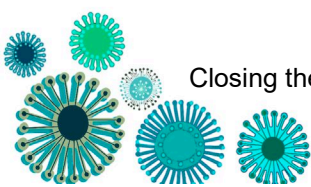
Progress

In 2023, 84 per cent of Aboriginal students in Tasmanian schools had an individual learning plan, an increase from 63.7 per cent in 2022.

There were 6,274 Aboriginal student enrolments in government schools between the years Kindergarten to Year 12.

Supporting actions

- As the first step in implementing the Tasmanian Literacy Advisory Panel's recommendation that the Tasmanian Government work with and be led by Tasmanian Aboriginal people to develop an Aboriginal Literacy strategy aligned with Closing the Gap principles, the Department for Education, Children and Young People has begun broad consultation with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and Aboriginal people involved in education to understand the barriers to accessing literacy support for Aboriginal students.
- The two-year Alma Lily Stackhouse Scholarship honours Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder Aunty Alma Lily Stackhouse; and is awarded once every two years to an Aboriginal student in Year 10 from rural/remote areas to help them complete Years 11 and 12. In 2023, there were four applicants, and the scholarship was awarded to an Aboriginal student.



Outcome 6

Aboriginal students reach their full potential through further education pathways.

Target 6

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification (Certificate III and above) to 70 per cent.

Progress

In the reporting period, 319 Aboriginal people aged 25–34 years completed an Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate Level III and above with TasTAFE.

Of these, Certificate III accounts for approximately 77 per cent of qualifications, with Certificate IV accounting for around 16 per cent and Diplomas making up 6.5 per cent of qualifications.

TasTAFE provided targeted and culturally responsive support for Aboriginal learners through proactive information sharing and a targeted outreach approach:

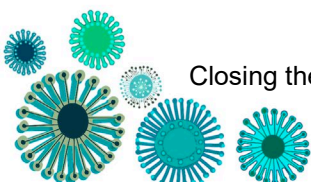
- Every learner who identified as Aboriginal on their enrolment form received tailored information outlining the individual, academic, financial, and cultural supports available throughout their studies.
- Recognising that some learners may feel overwhelmed by the volume of information provided, TasTAFE implemented a proactive outreach strategy. This included direct engagement with Aboriginal learners to ensure they were aware of and could access the support they needed.

TasTAFE fostered culturally appropriate, safe and respectful learning spaces through:

- ongoing Aboriginal cross-cultural awareness training for all staff
- inclusion of Aboriginal-specific content in professional development programs
- adoption and promotion of Aboriginal Cultural Protocols across the organisation.

The measured success rate of Aboriginal students at the University of Tasmania was 79 per cent in 2023, an increase of 3.3 percentage points from 75.7 per cent in 2022.

The University of Tasmania continues to provide programs and services to support Aboriginal students, including through the Riawunna Centre for Aboriginal Education. This includes Pathways to University (Murina Program) as a pathway designed for Aboriginal students to gain the skills and confidence to commence undergraduate studies or other vocational goals.



Training and employment (Outcomes 7 and 8)

Outcome 7

Aboriginal youth are engaged in employment or education.

Target 7

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal youth (15–24 years) who are in employment, education or training to 67 per cent.

Progress

There were 1,215 Aboriginal people aged between 15–24 years enrolled in vocational education and training at TasTAFE in the reporting period.

Of these students, 41.2 per cent were enrolled in a Certificate III course; 5.5 per cent were enrolled in a Certificate IV course; and 2.2 per cent were enrolled in a Diploma course.

Nearly 12 per cent of Aboriginal students were enrolled at Certificate II level, and 4.5 per cent enrolled at Certificate I level.

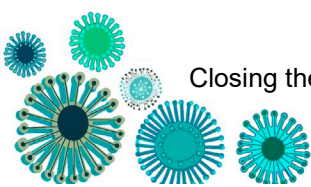
Just under 20 per cent of Aboriginal students were enrolled in Statement of Attainment courses; and 14.8 per cent were enrolled in 'other non-award' courses.

TasTAFE increased Aboriginal participation in vocational education and training through:

- Culturally appropriate marketing: developed and delivered marketing campaigns that were culturally appropriate and respectful.
- Direct engagement strategies: implemented targeted outreach initiatives to promote course offerings directly to Aboriginal individuals, that were accessible and relevant.
- Inclusive communication: used language, imagery, and messaging that resonated with Aboriginal audiences and that highlighted the benefits of vocational education and training.
- Community collaboration: engaged with Aboriginal organisations to disseminate promotional materials that supported informed enrolment decisions.

Supporting actions

Across 2023–24, the Department for Education, Children and Young People worked with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to develop and deliver a Junior Ranger school-based apprenticeship program, including discussions with the



Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance about the Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation being a host workplace.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People also worked with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to develop and deliver a Junior Ranger work-based learning program including experience on Country and cultural interactions, where students remain enrolled at school while undertaking the pre-vocational program.

Further collaboration with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre commenced to establish a data sharing agreement to support the muylatina milaythina Program.

In 2023, Aboriginal students engaged in work-based learning in a broad range of industry sectors as part of their school program.

Over 2023, 165 Aboriginal students undertook a work-based learning placement, with 196 placements provided over the calendar year.

During the year, 46 schools provided this opportunity for Aboriginal students, with 173 organisations hosting an Aboriginal student for placement.

The Lucy Beeton Scholarship honours Lucy Beeton, the first Tasmanian Aboriginal teacher, and is awarded annually to support Aboriginal students undertaking a teaching qualification at the University of Tasmania. There were two scholarships awarded in both 2023 and 2024.

Outcome 8

Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal people and communities.

Target 8

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people aged 25–64 years who are employed to 62 per cent.

Action

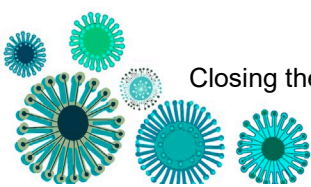
Continue working in partnership with palawa Enterprises to establish the wukalina Walk as a sustainable business model.

Progress

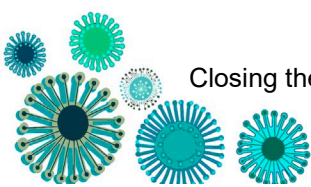
The Department of State Growth has supported the multi-award winning wukalina Walk since its inception.

During this reporting period, the Department of State Growth's support included:

- \$150,000 to contribute to the wukalina Walk's operational costs such as rent, insurance, utilities and staffing.



- A \$50,000 grant to enable the business to engage a professional consultant to review its structure, business model and financial viability. This grant also supported wukalina Walk in implementing the recommendations or initiatives stemming from the review.
- Approval of a multi-year funding package totalling \$525,000, aimed at providing the wukalina Walk with the capital required to operate and implement financial performance improvement initiatives, supporting its journey toward greater self-sufficiency. wukalina Walk received the first payment of \$95,000.



Housing (Outcome 9)

Outcome 9

Aboriginal people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need.

Target 9a

By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing to 88 per cent.

Target 9b

By 2031, all Aboriginal households:

- within discrete Aboriginal communities receive essential services that meet or exceed the relevant jurisdictional standard
- in or near to a town receive essential services that meet or exceed the same standard as applies generally within the town (including if the household might be classified for other purposes as a part of a discrete settlement such as a “town camp” or “town-based reserve”).

Action

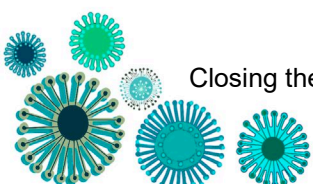
The Tasmanian Government will work in partnership with Aboriginal people to deliver services that address their housing needs.

Progress

The Department of Premier and Cabinet and Homes Tasmania commenced work to develop a creative, holistic and culturally responsive Tasmanian Aboriginal housing policy and action plan.

As an action under the *Tasmanian Housing Strategy Action Plan 2023–2027*, this work is expected to be funded through a Department of State Growth grant to Tasmania’s Coalition of Peaks partner.

Tasmania’s Coalition of Peaks partner plans to undertake extensive engagement with Aboriginal social housing tenants to ensure strong alignment between identified needs and the resulting policy and action plan.



Justice (Outcomes 10 and 11)

Outcome 10

Aboriginal people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Target 10

By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal adults held in incarceration by at least 15 per cent.

Action

The Department of Justice will continue to provide culturally appropriate support and programs for Aboriginal inmates through the Tasmania Prison Service.

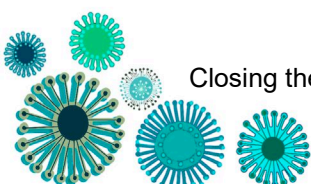
Progress

In 2023–24, the Department of Justice funded the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service to provide wellbeing supports to Aboriginal people within in the Tasmania Prison Service through the Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer Program.

The Program aims to improve Aboriginal people's experiences in the justice system by providing and facilitating supports to address immediate needs in a manner that promotes cultural safety, health and wellbeing, rehabilitation and reintegration of Aboriginal people in custody.

Supporting actions

- Through a Tasmanian Government Capacity Building Grant, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Service commenced a pilot Bail Support Program in Northern Tasmania in January 2024 to support adult Tasmanian Aboriginal people subject to bail by addressing issues contributing to repeated contact with the justice system.
- The Department of Justice has continued to represent the Tasmanian Government on the Closing the Gap national Justice Policy Partnership to lead a nationally joined-up approach to transforming justice systems through genuine partnerships across all levels of government.
- The Department of Justice has continued to work in partnership with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to build capacity to address adult justice service delivery for Aboriginal people engaged in the Tasmanian criminal justice system.



Outcome 11

Aboriginal young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Target 11

By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people (10–17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent.

Action

Tasmania Police will continue to work to divert young Aboriginal people from the criminal justice system.

Progress

Tasmania Police continued to divert youth from the formal criminal justice system when that was an appropriate response, with consideration to the seriousness and circumstances of the offending and individual.

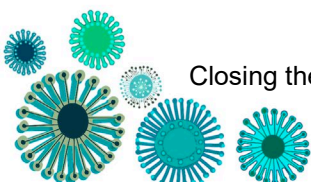
Supporting actions

During the reporting period, the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings made recommendations to reduce over-representation of Aboriginal children in the youth justice system. These recommendations included the appointment of a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People with statutory powers and functions, including to monitor the experiences of Aboriginal children in youth detention and out of home care.

The Commission of Inquiry recommended development, in partnership with Aboriginal people, of an Aboriginal youth justice strategy underpinned by self-determination and focused on prevention, early intervention and diversion strategies for Aboriginal children and young people. It further recommended the youth justice strategy:

- consider legislative reform to enable an Aboriginal-led approach to the design and delivery of the administration and supervision elements of the youth justice system for Aboriginal children and young people.
- support capacity building and funding for Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to participate in youth justice decision-making relating to Aboriginal children and young people, and service delivery.

Other Commission of Inquiry recommendations relate to the use of police discretion in the investigation and processing of Aboriginal children and young people, including cautioning, arrest, custody, charging and bail, and alternative pre-court diversionary options. Mechanisms to increase the likelihood of Aboriginal children and young



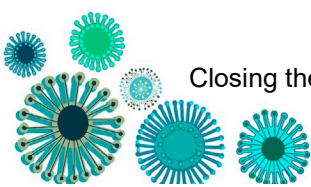
people receiving bail and minimising the number of Aboriginal children and young people on remand were identified as a priority, including through:

- culturally responsive supported bail accommodation
- other bail assistance programs
- legislative reform to require bail decision-makers to consider a child's Aboriginal status.

Another Commission of Inquiry priority is establishing mechanisms that support Aboriginal children and young people to comply with the conditions of community-based youth justice orders, to minimise their likelihood of breaching conditions and entering detention.

In response to Commission of Inquiry recommendations during this reporting period, the Department for Education, Children and Young People initiated two Aboriginal-led projects:

1. Development of a practice model as part of the palawa Youth Justice Futures Project for Aboriginal children and young people
2. Development of an Aboriginal youth hub model and trial in the Launceston area.



Family Safety and Wellbeing (Outcomes 12, 13 and 14)

Outcome 12

Aboriginal children are not overrepresented in the child protection system.

Target 12

By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent.

Action

The Government will work with Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to build their capacity to take on increased roles and responsibilities in the care, and protection of Aboriginal children. The government will continue to promote Aboriginal self-determination, particularly when it comes to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable Aboriginal children and young people.

Progress

In 2023–24, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre was supported by a Tasmanian Government Closing the Gap Capacity Building Grant to develop a palawa Strategy and Action Plan to work towards transferring responsibility for Aboriginal children and young people in care to community control. At the time of reporting, the project report was pending.

Supporting action

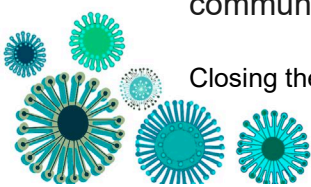
The Tasmanian Government has committed to full implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, arising from Commission of Inquiry Recommendation 9.15. This includes legislative reform that will enable Aboriginal people to co-design a statutory framework and plan for transferring child safety decision-making authority for Aboriginal children to Aboriginal community control.

Action

The Department of Communities [now the Department for Education, Children and Young People] will work in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations in relation to all planning and decision-making for Aboriginal children in the child safety system.

Progress

In 2023–24, \$1.5 million was directed to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to support Aboriginal-led participation in the design and delivery of the child safety service system and to deliver culturally safe early intervention services in communities. This included funding for Intensive Family Engagement Services,



Integrated Family Support Services, and other individualised family-centred supports as required.

Further work has been undertaken to ensure that the Aboriginal status of all children and carers is identified and recorded to improve care planning, care placements and reporting.

Action

The Department of Communities [now the Department for Education, Children and Young People] will work in partnership with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to develop Aboriginal programs to deliver services to support Aboriginal children in the child safety system.

Progress

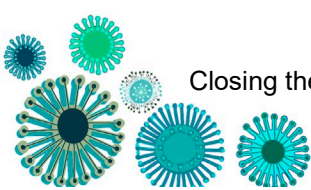
The Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre was funded to develop a palawa Strategy and Action Plan to reduce the rate of overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care. The intent of the strategy and action plan is to guide the transfer of Aboriginal child welfare and safety to the Aboriginal community-controlled sector; with future work to be focused on implementing the action plan. The Department for Education, Children and Young People is also working with other Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.

Supporting action

Tasmania's Commission of Inquiry prompted a comprehensive reform of the child safety service system, called 'Uplifting Care'.

During 2023–24 further foundations were laid for shared decision-making with the establishment of governance arrangements relation to 'Uplifting Care' (out-of-home care reform), including an expert panel with Aboriginal representation to progress reforms aimed at reducing the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care.

In this reporting period, the Tasmanian Government committed to establishing a position of Executive Director for Aboriginal Children and Young People in the Department for Education, Children and Young People, and for this role to oversee and report on the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle by 2029.



Outcome 13

Aboriginal families and households are safe.

Target 13

By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal women and children is reduced at least by 50 per cent, as progress towards zero.

Action

The Department of Premier and Cabinet works in partnership with Aboriginal people to develop and deliver actions to address Aboriginal family and sexual violence as part of the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan.

Progress

Survivors at the Centre: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022–2027 provides support for Tasmanian Aboriginal people affected by family and sexual violence.

In this reporting period, Survivors at the Centre continued to fund Aboriginal Family Safety Workers in three Child and Family Learning Centres to provide culturally appropriate support and engage with Aboriginal families in activities that promote family safety and raise awareness of the impact of family violence on children. These workers also help Aboriginal families to overcome barriers to engagement and participation in early years learning environments and to support transition to school.

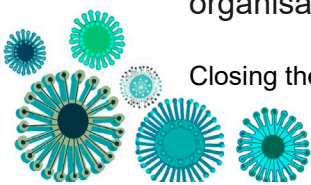
Across the reporting period, at least 126 Aboriginal families were supported by Aboriginal family safety workers in Child and Family Learning Centres. Of these families, nearly 43 per cent received support at the tagari lia Child and Family Learning Centre at Bridgewater, just under 36 per cent from the Burnie Child and Family Learning Centre, and a little over 21 per cent from the Ravenswood Child and Family Learning Centre.

Action

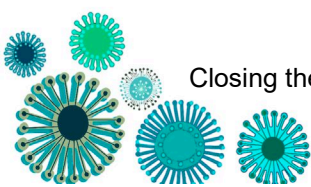
The Department of Premier and Cabinet will work in partnership with Aboriginal people to develop and deliver targeted primary prevention and early intervention programs and to improve service delivery for Aboriginal people affected by family and sexual violence.

Progress

Late in the reporting period, the Australian Government approved the Project Plan for the 2023-25 component of the *Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 Federation Funding Agreement*, which included funding of \$625,000 to facilitate a partnership between the Tasmanian Government and Aboriginal organisations to support Tasmanian Aboriginal people who experience family and



sexual violence. The funding will enable development and support implementation of a collaboratively developed and mutually agreeable plan for specific actions and strategies aligned with the *National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022–2032*, the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023–2025*, and Tasmania’s Survivors at the Centre Action Plan.



Outcome 14

Aboriginal people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

Target 14

Significant and sustained reduction in suicide of Aboriginal people towards zero.

Action

- The Department of Health will work in partnership with Primary Health Tasmania and Aboriginal community-controlled organisation to inform development of the new Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Strategy. This will include consideration of the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Tasmanian Mental Health Reform Program.
- The Department of Health will provide ongoing opportunities for communities to develop local suicide prevention community action plans.
- The Department of Health will work in partnership with Aboriginal people to develop and deliver alcohol and drug services that meet their needs and priorities.

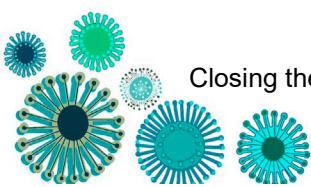
Progress

Across the reporting period, the Department of Health focused on whole-of-community suicide prevention actions. The department partnered with researchers, including lived-experience researchers, to develop an evaluation framework for community-led grassroots suicide prevention initiatives.

The Department of Health boosted funding for Relationships Australia Tasmania to increase funding for community action plans and to provide grants to support local suicide prevention activities in communities.

The Department of Health also engaged the Tasmanian Centre for Mental Health Service Innovation to review evidence of suicide prevention training across Australia. An evaluation framework is being developed to inform a nationally consistent approach to evaluate workforce training programs, and a suite of suicide prevention training programs are being considered for offer through the department to the community sector and government services.

Under the Tasmanian Drug Strategy and the Reform Agenda for the Alcohol and Other Drug Sector in Tasmania, the Department of Health also contributed to the development of an Alcohol and Other Drugs Workforce Strategy for Tasmania.



Land and Sea (Outcome 15)

Outcome 15

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

Target 15a

By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in Australia's landmass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests.

Target 15b

By 2030, a 15 per cent increase in areas covered by Aboriginal people's legal rights or interests in the sea.

Action

Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania will work in partnership with Aboriginal people in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to protect and promote Tasmania's unique Aboriginal heritage.

Progress

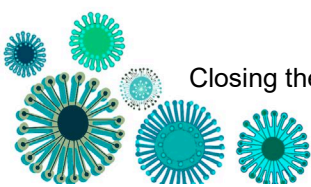
The 2023–24 program of Aboriginal community access visits increased the engagement and capacity of Tasmanian Aboriginal people to access, understand and manage cultural values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In 2023–24, Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania facilitated access to Country for 75 Aboriginal people.

Two significant projects commenced involving Tasmanian Aboriginal people, with the aim of increasing the understanding of Aboriginal cultural values and the nature of Aboriginal occupation in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area inland areas (Southern Lacuna Project) and the highland lake area (Highlands to Lakes Project). These projects involved:

- targeted field surveys
- input from Tasmanian Aboriginal people on the ongoing effective management of these areas
- facilitation of opportunities for Aboriginal people to maintain their relationships with land and culture.

Action

The Government will consult extensively with Tasmanian Aboriginal people as it finalises the review into the model of land return.



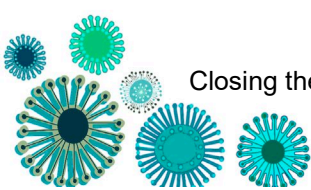
Progress

Across the reporting period, consultation was undertaken with Tasmanian Aboriginal people on the development and finalisation of the review into the model of land return, including the Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill – Exposure Draft for consultation (September 2023). Draft amendments to the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995* (Tas) progressed in 2023–24, with the intention to deliver more successful land returns. A proactive community engagement strategy resulted in 308 submissions on the draft Bill.

Supporting action

During 2023–24, the Closing the Gap Joint Council agreed to reconvene an Inland Waters Target Working Group with representatives from all jurisdictions, led by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, in partnership with the Coalition of the Peaks, to bring a revised approach to determining an inland waters target (15c) under Outcome 15 of the National Agreement.

The Inland Waters Target Working Group includes representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. Through this group, a recommendation was made to the Joint Council to deliver a state/territory-based approach to identification of inland waters targets.



Language and Digital Inclusion (Outcomes 16 and 17)

Outcome 16

Aboriginal cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing.

Target 16

By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal languages being spoken.

Supporting action

Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery

In the reporting period, and with agreement from Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery continued to use palawa kani in exhibitions, including a solo exhibition by respected palawa Elder Uncle Rex Greeno, titled 'Memories through Sea Stories'. This exhibition of works by Tasmanian Aboriginal Elder Rex Greeno – artist, fisher and maker of tuylini, ninga and pyerre – tells a story of deep connection to culture, family and the sea.

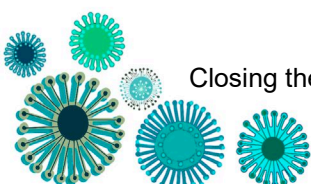
Department of Health

The *Improving Aboriginal Cultural Respect Across Tasmania's Health System Action Plan 2020–2026* outlines the commitment of the Department of Health to lead the systemic change needed to create culturally safe health services, environments and workplaces for Aboriginal people.

In this reporting period, the Department of Health invested in Focus Area 2 of the Action Plan – Communication and Cultural Visibility – by procuring work from Tasmanian Aboriginal artists.

The Hospitals North Aboriginal Consumer Action Group, rana rrala payngana rrala, initiated acquisition of three pieces for the Launceston General Hospital: Luana Towney's 'Ikapawa tayaritija'; Caleb Nichols-Mansell's 'Our Islands, Our Home'; and Dean Greeno's 'Healing Country is restoring ourselves'.

In the south, the Royal Hobart Hospital commissioned a project from artist Luana Towney that drew influence from an earlier commission of mural art by that artist for the Maternity Unit. It includes palawa kani to welcome people and contributes to creation of a welcoming, inclusive space.



Outcome 17

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

Target 17

By 2026, Aboriginal people have equal levels of digital inclusion.

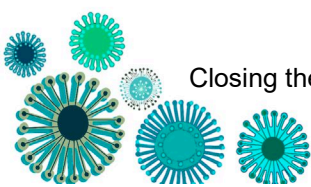
Action

The Tasmanian Government will align digital inclusion initiatives to contribute, where possible, to achieving Closing the Gap outcomes.

Progress

Under the department's *Digital Inclusion for 21st Century Learners: Connected and Engaged*, the Department for Education, Children and Young People aims to ensure all learners have the technological skills to pursue life opportunities and equitable access to safe online environments.

Under this approach, in 2023, the Department for Education, Children and Young People extended digital inclusion and digital literacy to Tasmanian school students, including Aboriginal students, through 49 schools across the State, through a laptop loan scheme and the provision of dongles enabling internet connectivity in students' homes.



Part 2 Priority Reforms

Priority Reform 1: Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Outcome

Aboriginal people are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.

Target

There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal people and governments in place in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal people have chosen their own representatives.

Progress

Department of Health

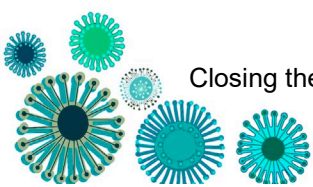
In the reporting period, the Department of Health continued to improve partnership approaches and build shared decision-making, including through the establishment and two meetings of the Health Executive Subcommittee Aboriginal Health (now called the Health Board Aboriginal Health Subcommittee) with representation from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Reference Group.

The governance arrangements for the Action Plan for Improving Cultural Respect continued to reflect a partnership approach where the Action Plan Steering Committee is co-chaired with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and the chairing and monitoring arrangements for the Action Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group continue to be Aboriginal-led through representation from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and Karadi Aboriginal Corporation as a representative of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Reference Group.

The Department of Health represented Tasmania on the Social Emotional Wellbeing Policy Partnership, which met three times in the 2023–24 reporting period.

Key progress and decisions in this period included:

- finalisation of the draft strategic plan to guide the work of the Policy Partnership to June 2025, for endorsement by the Closing the Gap Joint Council;



- progression of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy for endorsement by governments; and
- agreement to elevate the issue of increased racism following the Voice to Parliament Referendum.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Action 2.3.1 of the *Tasmanian Housing Strategy Action Plan 2023–2027* is:

Support and enable the Closing the Gap peak to lead a state-wide Tasmanian Aboriginal housing review and the development of a creative, holistic, and culturally responsive state-wide Tasmanian Aboriginal housing policy and action plan in line with the State Government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

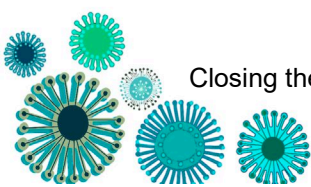
This action arose out of the working relationship between Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner and Homes Tasmania established through their participation in the Housing Policy Partnership. The work is planned to commence in the 2024-25 financial year.

Department for Education, Children and Young People

During the reporting period, the Child Safety Service implemented a new collaborative decision-making forum for child safety matters, where Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and family members representing Aboriginal children and young people form part of a panel and provide input to safety and wellbeing decisions. Also in this period, the Department for Education, Children and Young People released 'Feel Safe. Are Safe: Our Practice Approach', which sets out standards for practice in child safety, including cultural safety for Aboriginal families, inclusion and responsiveness to diversity, and child-centred, rights-based participation.

The department began to lay the groundwork for engagement with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to develop a culturally appropriate statement of duties for the role of Executive Director for Aboriginal children and young people, to be established in response to Commission of Inquiry Recommendation 9.7.

Building and sustaining long-term formal partnerships with the Aboriginal community-controlled sector will be a key responsibility of this role.



Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

Outcome

Building the community-controlled sector: There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal people across the country.

Target

Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal programs and services going through Aboriginal community-controlled organisations.

Progress

Department of Health

In 2023–24, the first cohort of trainees began in the Aboriginal Health Worker Traineeship Program funded by the Department of Health.

Funding provided through the program allows Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to deliver Aboriginal Health Worker traineeships to new and existing staff, with nine students participating in the program during the reporting period.

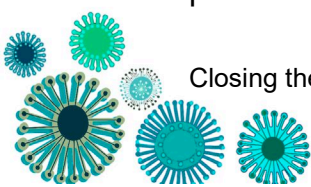
Department for Education, Children and Young People

In 2023–24, significant funding was directed to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to support Aboriginal-led participation in the design and delivery of the child safety service system and to deliver culturally safe early intervention services in communities.

This included funding for Intensive Family Engagement Services, Integrated Family Support Services and other individualised family-centred supports as required. It also included three full-time equivalent Aboriginal liaison officers to support implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. This initiative supported the work undertaken by case managers working in services for children and families to tailor assessments, placement, and care planning to address the specific needs of Aboriginal children and young people.

Supporting action

In 2023, the Commission of Inquiry recommended the Tasmanian Government fully implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle. This recommendation has been accepted with a completion date of 2029. It includes a commitment to increasing investment in Aboriginal-led targeted early intervention and prevention services for Aboriginal families, including family support and reunification



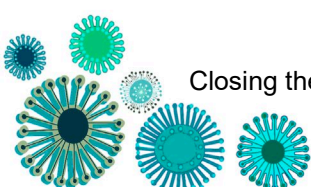
services, to a rate equivalent to the representation of Aboriginal children in the Tasmanian child safety system. Planning for this work commenced in 2023–24.

In addition, a National Child and Family Investment Strategy is a key deliverable of the *Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan 2023–2026*. The draft Investment Strategy is being considered for endorsement nationally and by states and territories. The Tasmanian Government has committed to developing a work plan to implement the Investment Strategy once endorsed. This will align with the work under Commission of Inquiry Recommendation 9.15. The Tasmanian Government has also signed a partnership agreement between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group, Australian Government and state and territory governments, which will support shared decision-making under the Safe and Supported Action Plan.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

During 2023–24, the Department of Premier and Cabinet delivered Round 2 of the Tasmanian Government Closing the Gap Capacity Building Grant Program and awarded grants to the following Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to enhance their ability to support achievement of the outcomes sought through the National Agreement.

Organisation	Project
Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation	Healing and culturally safe activities on Country
Elders Council of Tasmania Aboriginal Corporation	milangkani Cultural Program
Karadi Aboriginal Corporation	Community Strength and Resilience Project
melythina tiakana warrana Aboriginal Corporation	Building capacity on Tebrakunna Country
Six Rivers Aboriginal Corporation	rrala tunapri mapali
South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation	Family support and community transport
Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	palawa Child Safe and Supported



Priority Reform 3: Transforming government organisations

Outcome

Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people, including through the services they fund.

Target

Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal people who have experiences of racism.

Progress

TasTAFE

Across 2023–24, 151 TasTAFE staff members enrolled in a trauma-informed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural capability online training course.

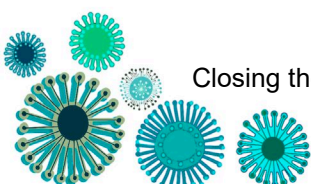
The course was an introduction to trauma and its ongoing impact on Aboriginal people. Learning outcomes included:

- being able to define and understand the impacts of trauma and secondary trauma
- being aware of culturally informed approaches to healing
- being aware of referral pathways
- outcomes related to trauma-informed policy, service delivery and safety practices, and applying a trauma-informed lens to evaluation.

Department of Health

Sustained work in 2023–24 by the Department of Health on the Action Plan for Improving Cultural Respect continued to promote the systemic change needed for culturally safe health services and workplaces for Aboriginal people in line with Priority Reform 3.

Examples within the reporting period included the creation of the new position of Chief Aboriginal Health Advisor, and the inclusion of Closing the Gap key performance indicators in the Tasmanian Health Service Plan.



An Aboriginal clinical nurse educator role was developed by Statewide Mental Health Services to provide advice and cultural guidance on safe wards, psychologically safe environments and staff training requirements.

Oral Health Services Tasmania and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre partnered to deliver a dental clinic from the Aboriginal Health Service in Launceston.

Services across the Department of Health commissioned local Aboriginal artwork to improve cultural visibility and create welcoming spaces.

Five Ida West Aboriginal Health scholarships were awarded through the Office of the Chief Nurse and Midwife, and working groups were established to progress priorities relating to Aboriginal data collection and use, and consumer feedback on cultural safety.

Department of State Growth

Screen Tasmania continued to support Tasmanian Aboriginal people to share their stories across the reporting period.

The Production Support Program supported Nathan Maynard and Adam Thompson's 'Moonbird', an SBS Digital original short-form series set on the Furneaux Islands that explores a father-son relationship during muttonbirding season. 'Moonbird' is a co-production between the first-ever Tasmanian Aboriginal screen production company, kutikina Productions, and Sheoak Films for SBS and NITV.

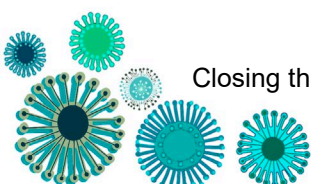
Arts Tasmania also continued to administer programs for Aboriginal artists and arts workers, inclusive of culture, traditional and modern artistic practices. This included the Aboriginal Arts Program and the Tasmanian Aboriginal Arts Mentoring Scheme.

Arts Tasmania also continued to appoint Aboriginal artists and arts workers to assessment panels for grants across all programs in 2023–24.

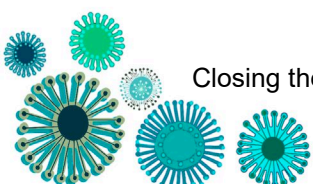
Department for Education, Children and Young People

Tasmania's palawa Children's Working Group continued to be guided by Tasmania's Coalition of Peaks partner's priority work on transferring responsibility for the safety of Aboriginal children to Aboriginal community control in 2023–24.

An online Culturally Responsive Practice training module was developed for Child Safety Service staff in partnership with Aboriginal trainers. Topics included Aboriginal culture, working with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, the cultural needs for Aboriginal children and families, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.



During the reporting period, the Department for Education, Children and Young People released 'Feel Safe. Are Safe: Our Practice Approach'. Standard 4 of the Practice Approach is cultural safety for Aboriginal families, which embeds in practice the principle (within Tasmania's *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* [clause 10G]), that Aboriginal people have a major, self-determining role in promoting the wellbeing of Aboriginal children.



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

Outcome

Aboriginal people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

Target

Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development.

Progress

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

In 2023–24, the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management continued its significant multi-year information system upgrade. Through this project, several disparate information systems will be integrated and enable improved, more reliable data capture and reproduction, including Aboriginal identification status. This improved system is expected to be delivered in 2026.

Department of Health

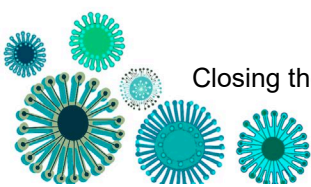
Late in the reporting period, the Department of Health commenced work to improve collection, access, management and use of patient/consumer data. The Aboriginal Data Collection and Use Working Group was established and completed a scan of departmental systems and provided advice on system capability, staff awareness, training, support and business improvement processes.

Department of State Growth

In 2023–24, the Department of State Growth worked to develop a Tasmanian Workforce Compass that brings together demographic, education, training and labour market data in one platform, linking multiple government and professional body data sources.

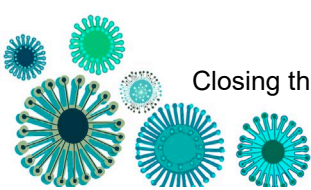
Through the Workforce Compass, users will be able to explore information related to workforce engagement and readiness and to develop workforce-related insights. This includes disaggregated data so users can delve into the range of outcomes experienced by different population groups, including by Indigenous status (based on Australian Bureau of Statistics definitions), sex and age groups.

The Workforce Compass will be released in May 2025.



Annual reporting requirements

Annual reporting requirements under the National Agreement	Relevant sections
Parties will include in their annual reports information on partnerships, including the number of partnerships, those that have been reviewed, which strong partnership elements are met for each partnership, and what has been achieved through the partnerships. (Clauses 37, 118 and 119)	Priority Reform 1
Parties will include in their jurisdictional annual reports information on action taken to strengthen the community-controlled sector based on the elements of a strong sector, as outlined in Clauses 118 and 119. (Clause 47)	Priority Reform 2
Parties will include in their annual reports information on how they are undertaking and meeting the transformation elements. (Clause 65)	Priority Reform 3
Parties will include in their annual reports information on action taken to improve access to data and information by Aboriginal and people and organisations. (Clause 73)	Priority Reform 4
Parties, by July 2022, agree to review and identify current spending on Aboriginal programs and services to identify reprioritisation opportunities to Aboriginal organisations, particularly to community-controlled organisations. Actions taken to implement the outcomes of these reviews will be included in jurisdictional implementation plans and annual reports. (Clause 113)	Throughout
The Parties agree to make public information on their progress on the Agreement and their implementation plans through annual public reports. The annual public reports will: (Clause 118)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw from the dashboard and annual Productivity Commission data compilation report, to ensure consistency of measures of progress 	Socioeconomic outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> include information on efforts to implement this Agreement's four Priority Reform areas, particularly outlining how implementation aligns with the principles for action 	Priority Reforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate how efforts, investment and actions are aligned and support the achievement of Closing the Gap goals 	Throughout
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> list the number of Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and other Aboriginal organisations that have 	Throughout, including under Priority Reform 2



Annual reporting requirements under the National Agreement	Relevant sections
<p>been allocated funding for the purposes of Clause 24, 55a and 55b, and 135 of this Agreement; and subject to confidentiality requirements, also list the names of the organisations and the amount allocated. (Clause 118)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be tabled in parliament. (Clause 119) 	Tabled in 2025

