Closing the Gap Information Repository July 2026 dashboard update and 2026 Annual Data Compilation Report

Webinar transcript | 14 August 2026

Note: This transcript has been edited for clarity and brevity. Certain words have been modified or omitted, while maintaining the integrity of the original message.

Commissioner Selwyn Button

We'll kick off for those that I haven't met around the place, my name is Selwyn Button, one of the Productivity Commissioners here at the Productivity Commission that I have the responsibility of looking after the data and reporting component of the dashboard as part of the overall implementation of the National Agreement on Closing Gap.

With me online today, who you'll also hear from in this afternoon's webinar, is the Assistant Commissioner, Amanda Meric, and we've also got Jacqui Swart and Ruby King who are part of the reporting team.

As we go through the presentation, we'll refer to each team member throughout the process, but I will start by acknowledging Country and acknowledge that today I'm joining from Brisbane in the Meanjin on the lands of the Turrbal and Jagera people.

We acknowledge their custodianship and connection to this Country and their continuing connection over many years and their guidance and wisdom as we as we go throughout the webinar this afternoon and also acknowledge Country where everyone else is located throughout the place, wherever you're joining from today. And we also want to acknowledge the custodians of the Traditional Owners.

Thanks very much.

The outline of the presentation today.

We'll talk a little bit about our role at the PC.

I'll keep referring to it as the PC because it's a much easier acronym to, to talk through than continually saying Productivity Commission.

So I'll talk a bit about our role at the PC.

We'll then go into the 2026 Annual Data Compilation Report and the July dashboard updates, talk a little bit about progress in relation to the targets, provide some context and then talk through some future considerations.

We do have the Q&A function, at sits at the top of the screen.

If you do wish to ask a question throughout the process, more than happy for you to, to put it into the, the Q&A function.

And we do have a team of people that are actually having a look at that and they'll make sure that we, we get to, to answering those questions, whether it'd be at the end or throughout the presentation today as well.

We'd encourage you if you do have any questions, put them into the Q&A function and, and we'll work through it from there.

A quick snapshot of our role and, and what that looks like in the overall Close the Gap National Agreement architecture. In terms of the governance arrangements of the Agreement itself, we have Joint Council which provides leadership and monitors performance.

Joint Council is made up of all state and territory governments, the Federal government and by community-controlled organisations represented through the Coalition of Peaks. Joint Council is the decision-making body in relation to the ongoing arrangements for the National Agreement and any changes.

It is unique that the only National Agreement at this point in time, where there is a partner that is outside of government. All other National Agreements are agreements between only between governments in terms of state and territories and federal agencies.

Sitting beneath Joint Council is a Partnership Working Group that provides the implementation and guidance.

Where the Productivity Commission comes into play is in the Agreement itself (Section 9 of the Agreement).

The main functions for the Productivity Commission are the production of the Annual Data Compilation Report (ADCR) and updates to the dashboard which shows progress against the targets. The final component of the work that we do is an independent review every 3 years, which looks at the implementation of the Agreement.

The review was released in 2024 and we're now due to commence our next review process this year to undertake that assessment to provide advice back to government about the overall arrangements.

We often get questions in relation to, to the data and, and updating of the work that's on the dashboard. What we do is we do the analysis of the information.

We're not the agency that undertakes the surveys.

We're not the agency hat specifies the datasets.

What we do at the back end is we collate and collect the information from a whole range of other data collection agencies and statistical agencies who provide that data to us for us to undertake the analysis that we're talking about today.

And so we just wanted to make sure for clarity, everyone gets an understanding of the PC's role in the overall data landscape and architecture.

I'll hand over to Amanda to then talk us through the 2026 ADCR and July updates.

Amanda Meric

Thanks, Selwyn.

Hi all.

My name's Amanda Meric.

I'm a Palawa and Trawoolway woman.

I'm the Assistant Commissioner here at the Productivity Commission for Closing the Gap reporting.

I'm calling in from Naarm today and would like to acknowledge our country and pay my respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and thank them for their custodianship of this beautiful place that we get to live and work on.

Now that Sel's set out our role, I'll run you through some of the things that will that we updated in the ADCR this year and on the dashboard as well.

For the 2026 ADCR, we know that understanding the diverse experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people requires more than just quantitative data and our approach to monitoring progress has evolved.

This includes how we present and analyse the data and the context presented in the report.

We know that accuracy and taking a strength-based approach both matter and how outcomes are reported and we would like to thank everyone who has guided the work.

Listening to your feedback truly helps to ensure that the reporting and accountability is more responsive, rigorous and robust.

On the right-hand side of the slide, you might have noticed that for this year's cover we've transitioned our artwork to the third piece in a series created by artist Lani Balzan.

Once you open the cover of the report, you'll see reporting on progress towards targets, as well as analysis and information for 60 supporting indicators this year.

The expanded contextual information helps to present a picture that is more than just the target headlines, and the summaries or snapshots in section 2 bring together some of the key insights within each theme.

You'll also find in the report information on state and territory progress, plus the summary table in the appendix.

This year you'll see data from new sources, including the Mayi Kuwayu study, which is the first community-governed data source to be included in our reporting process.

We'll speak to that and other new data sources in more detail a bit later.

But now let's take you to the updates.

As you can see, we have quite a few updates this year.

On the screen, you can see a snapshot of the updates across the 9 themes for the ADCR.

There's new data for 9 targets across 6 themes, there is new data for 34 socio-economic supporting indicators, plus we have an additional 12 supporting indicators being reported for the first time.

And now I'll hand you back to Sel to talk about the progress.

Commissioner Selwyn Button

And now we can get intosome of the progress and updates.

And as you can see in terms of the snapshot, of an overview of progress, we have one target that's been met and that's Target 3.

I won't go into the detail around that because Jacqui is going to talk us through exactly what that looks like.

We've got 3 targets that are showing good improvement and are on track, 5 targets are improving but not on track, and 2 have had no change from baseline.

Unfortunately, we still have 4 that are worsening and we have 4 targets that cannot be assessed due to lack of comparable data.

If we actually then get into the target updates for 2026.

If we look at those that have been updated, of the 9 targets that have been updated in the 2026 ADCR, what we can actually see, as we mentioned, the early childhood education Target 3 has been met in terms of preschool enrolments.

Unfortunately, we have things like the criminal justice target, Target 10, which is still worsening.

We will take a closer look in this session at Targets 11 and 12 around youth justice and child protection. So at least we can get a better understanding of what we're seeing in terms of those spaces.

We have seen progress in respect of land and water rights, through native title applications.

But certainly, the other thing that we did want to mention in terms of overview of progress and updates for 2026 is that the National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS) has been completed and we now have a baseline for the languages for Target 16.

And importantly, and certainly something to be celebrated. It does show that there are 177 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages that are being spoken and being used in 2025–26 through the survey itself, there are varying degrees of maturity in terms of overall language understanding and fluency of language, but this gives us a good indication of knowing that there's a lot of work that's going on, not just about language revitalization, but also preservation. And certainly, looking at those things to ensure that language and culture are an important aspect of overall wellbeing in communities.

We then look at the ADCR themes as we described them, in the health and wellbeing space. We're seeing now that healthy birthweights is showing no change from the baseline. Previously, this one was trending in the opposite direction in terms of improving, but not on track. But now we've seen some stagnation that shows that it's there's no change from the baseline in terms of social and emotional wellbeing. It does show again that it's, it's certainly not trending in the right direction. When we look at suicide rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country, unfortunately this is something of concern and certainly something that we need to focus on.

In Target4, when we think about AEDC, whilst when we look at the education components in terms of Target 3 that preschool enrolments are showing to be met and we're seeing an increasing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrol in preschool.

What we now need to focus on is, I guess that next iteration of the AEDC in terms of developmentally on track and the vulnerability index that's used to then determine, I guess, what is the overall socialisation and interaction in schooling. And what we're seeing at the moment is that that's what not on track and in, in many cases going backwards. So we do need to make sure at least there's some focus between the correlation of the two.

We can see in Target 10, as I mentioned, justice in prison, incarceration rates are still worsening, which is a concerning trend for us.

As I mentioned, land and sea rights are certainly progressing in the right direction.

And even though economic participation isn't one of the targets that was updated this year, we are seeing a trend in the right direction for economic participation rates against Target 8.

And as I mentioned those with the two dots, there is no available assessment at this point.

Whilst we do have a new baseline with the National Indigenous Languages Survey for Target 16, at this point we don't have any comparable data because the last time the NILS was undertaken it was a different type of survey. So we can't actually use that as a comparator at this point. But at least we now know that we've got a baseline to progress from into the future.

Now to go into Target 3 a little bit more. And as I mentioned, there's been some interest in Target 3 given that is something that has been met. I'll hand over to Jackie to, to talk us through in a little bit more detail.

Jacqui Swart

Thanks Selwyn, and thanks, Amanda.

I'm Jacqui and I'm in the data and reporting team and I'm joining you from the beautiful lands of the Larrakia people in the NT, where I've been very fortunate to live, work and grow my family.

And I'd like to acknowledge their enduring connection to country and to waters and pay my respects to the elders past, present, and to those emerging.

So as we've mentioned, Target 3 is the first target in the National Agreement to reach the end point.

But there are limitations.

So there's differences between the numerator and the denominator which has led to enrolment rates that have exceeded 100%.

But we don't want to dwell on the maths for a moment and we want to have a look at the story under the hood.

So this chart shows the actual number of children who are enrolled in preschool in that crucial year before full-time schooling, or YBFS and the chart is by state and territory and it shows good progress since the start of the agreement.

And as you can see over the lifetime of this target, there's been a substantial increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children enrolled in preschool in that year before full time school.

And that equates to a more than 50% increase since the baseline year.

And now we'll add that denominator to the overall result whichis the dotted line at the top of the slide.

This shows a bit more of the detail of those data differences that I mentioned.

So the dotted line or the denominator at the top of the chart represents the potential population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

And the numerator or that shaded area of the slide is the actual number of children enrolled in preschool.

So the numerator is from the Early Childhood Education and Care collection and that's collected annually based on administrative data.

And that denominator that I mentioned is a potential population estimate which is projected based on the 2021 census for that crucial year before full-time schooling and is the most current population estimate available.

So what's happening in this chart?

So the denominator has been projected to decrease over the period of reporting (since 2016) is declining at a rate that is different to preschool enrolments.

So it's a fantastic outcome that we have preschool enrolments that have increased significantly and for this year we've arrived after the result that's over 100% in 2025.

There's work underway by parties to the Agreement to consider that numerator and denominator alignment for the new target.

It's also really important to look across outcome areas to get a more fulsome picture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's experiences and their outcomes in that early learning and education system.

Preschool participation is one of the several factors in the agreement that highlights the importance of good quality supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander childhood development.

And while Socio-economic outcome 3 aims to increase that proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children engaged in high quality and culturally appropriate early childhood education in those early years, Socio-economic outcome 4 aspires to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years and is measured as the proportion of children assessed as developmentally on track, at risk or vulnerable by those AEDC domains that Selwyn mentioned.

Target 4 aims to increase the proportion of children assessed as developmentally on track to 55% by 2031

And there is more work need to that needs to be done to achieve this.

As of the last data point in 2024, the target outcomes were not improving and they remained uneven across places and groups.

So, the overarching message is that enrolment or participation alone may not translate across outcome areas - they should be considered alongside the quality, the continuity and the cultural safety of early learning and care environments, including having access to those broader social and economic supports that play a critical role into realising a child's full potential.

This takes us through to outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in youth justice and in the out-of-home care system.

And we're continuing to see really concerning results for targets 11 and 12.

For target 11, youth detention, the national rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention on an average day was 25.7 young people per 10,000 in 2024-25.

The chart shows there's been fluctuations in recent years, and despite those fluctuations, we can see that nationally there's no change from that baseline year of 2018-19.

Similarly, progress towards a 45% reduction in the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care is worsening.

In 2025 there were almost 21,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care, that's a rate of 52.2 children per 1000, which is an increase from 47.3 children per 1000 in 2019.

So despite the National Agreement, there's continued andalarming over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the out-of-home care and the youth justice system.

And we're seeing little or no progress towards targets which are due to expire in 2031.

We'll now shift into another really important outcome area, which is Connection to Language and Culture, and move into the newest data on the dashboard that Selwyn mentioned earlier, which is Language use under Target 16.

This target, as Selwyn mentioned, is informed by data collected in the National Indigenous Languages Survey, or NILS as we like to call it, which is in its fourth iteration of the survey.

And as Sel mentioned, there's been some changes to the most recent NILS 4 methodology, which means that we can't provide an assessment of progress over time.

However, it has allowed us to establish a new baseline for Target 16 and the methodology is a step in the right direction.

These changes were co-designed between AIATSIS and the Languages Policy Partnership, which brings more meaning to the data and better reflects community perspectives and understandings of language.

So this year we're able to say that there were 177 Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander languages that were spoken or used and 45 of those languages were strong.

It's also really important to look beyond the target, and understanding language use by age is critical for language revitalization.

The NILS also tells us that in 2025-26, many languages have no speakers or users in those younger age groups, which are the age groups that are crucial for future growth.

But we do know that people are learning language.

In data that was previously added to reporting, we know that 16% of people reported learning in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language back in 2023.

I'm now going to pass to Ruby to talk about the state and territory outcomes and also the importance of the right data.

Ruby King

Thanks, Jacqui .

Hi, everyone.

I'm Ruby and I'm also in the Closing the Gap reporting team.

I'm joining from Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung country.

Today I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians and their continuing care for land, seas and waters.

I'd also like to pay my respect to Elders past and present.

To finish the overview of target progress, I'll briefly look across the states and territories.

At a high level, all jurisdictions are showing improvement and at least half of the targets assessed.

This means that while the picture varies across the country, there are signs of progress in every jurisdiction.

Several jurisdictions are improving in outcomes related to land and sea country.

Improvements are also common in education, employment, youth engagement and appropriately sized housing, noting these assessments rely on data from the 2021 Census.

The picture is more mixed in some jurisdictions. The ACT, Tasmania and the NT have the highest number of targets assessed, showing no change or worsening.

We'll now go a little beyond the headline target data to context target disaggregations and supporting indicators, which are also included in our reporting.

Government-collected data is important. Our partners rely on it for transparency, accountability and a shared evidence base.

But government data alone does not tell the whole story. Strong and meaningful partnerships are built when there are multiple forms of data.

Together, these help us build a shared understanding and enable and support progress under Closing the Gap.

We know from the first PC review into the National Agreement that improving outcomes requires Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to have greater control over the collection, use and interpretation of data.

The 2026 ADCR and Dashboard aim to broaden this evidence base by going beyond the government-collected data to incorporate community voices, community-governed and community-sourced data, and contextual information to help try and build a fuller picture.

This year, the ADCR includes the insights of Distinguished Professor Maggie Walter, a palawa woman and founding member of the Maiam nayri Wingara Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective.

Distinguished Professor Walter shared her expert perspective on Indigenous Data Sovereignty and the role of data in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination.

In the words of Kukatai and Taylor and the Maiam nayri Wingara Collective, Indigenous Data Sovereignty refers to the right of Indigenous peoples to exercise ownership of Indigenous data.

Ownership of data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of Indigenous data.

The article highlights the development and importance of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance in Australia and internationally, and how these have been started to become embedded in policy.

The article also highlights the continuing necessity of Indigenous data leadership.

Throughout the ADCR, we include thematic introductions and reform-focused boxes to provide historical and ongoing context for the data.

These boxes showcase how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LED solutions and genuine partnerships are supporting progress across a range of outcome areas.

Reform focused boxes such as the three here: Connected Beginnings, Justice Reinvestment and VACCA's Childhood and Family Supports highlight community controlled and continually LED initiatives that support better outcomes and provide context that can't be captured through quantitative data alone.

Keeping this historical and ongoing context front and centre is important every time data is reviewed or analysed.

So these pieces of writing are now provided for every socio-economic outcome and are published on the PC CtG dashboard.

These pieces highlight the connections between outcomes and the power and implementing the Priority Reforms.

We thank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and government agencies for feedback and guidance in drafting these pieces of writing.

The dashboard and the ADCR provide breakdowns of data or disaggregations which can provide more insights into the outcomes and experiences in different regions and population groups and help highlight where areas of progress have been happening or where greater effort is needed.

The disaggregation show that experiences are varied among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Outcomes vary across the life course.

People living in the most disadvantaged areas are seeing some improvements.

There are different outcomes for males and females.

The lives of people with disability are also seeing some improvement, but people in remote areas continue to face greater barriers to access.

Given the assessments of progress for targets are often reported at this national level, some data may not capture the diverse local priorities and experiences across places and groups.

Further, there's limited intersectional data to understand overlapping experiences.

I'll now pass on to Amanda who will discuss supporting indicators.

Amanda Meric

Thanks, Ruby.

In 2026, we've expanded our reporting to include a number of new supporting indicators across themes in the ADCR, which you can see on the screen here. I won't go through them all.

The new indicators do include outcome 4c, which is by AEDC domains. This indicator provides additional context for socioeconomic outcome area 4.

It enables us to explore childhood development outcomes across different domains, including the physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, as well as communication skills and general knowledge.

Supporting indicator 9d reports on homelessness. It helps build a fuller picture of housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by presenting data on experiences of homelessness or living in insecure housing arrangements.

That indicator includes 3 measures, including the rates of homelessness, the rate of homelessness by age group, and the rate of people experiencing homelessness who are also receiving support from specialist homelessness services.

We'll share some of the insights from these new indicators in a couple of slides.

And you can also see here that we have 4 new indicators for our justice outcomes.

This slide shows all the existing supporting indicators that we updated this year. As you know, supporting indicators provide additional information about the drivers and contexts behind our targets.

The volume of updated indicators here highlights the wealth of up-to-date information that is contained within the information repository, and we would encourage you all to explore that in more detail after the webinar.

So here, what do the supporting indicators actually tell us?

We have a number of things that we'll tell you about, but we'll start with outcome 13. A new supporting indicator was included for outcome 13 in March this year: indicator 13p, which reports people who have experienced domestic violence who sought assistance from specialist homelessness services.

And what does it tell us?

The first thing you can see is that the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experienced family and domestic violence and are seeking assistance from the specialist homelessness services has increased since the baseline year.

Our analysis also shows that in 2024 to 2025, females were 6.5 times more likely than males to seek assistance from those services while experiencing family violence.

While not shown on the slide here in a figure, we can see from indicator 13h that, overall, there has been a decline in the rate of hospitalisation for family violence since the baseline.

The latest data available shows us that the rate of hospitalisation for females has increased since the previous year.

The Australian Digital Inclusion Index talks to us about outcomes for target 17, and it offers us some important information in the absence of an assessment for that target.

The ADII is a relative measure based on 3 dimensions: access, affordability and digital ability.

The figure on the left shows data from 2024 where the greatest gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people was seen in the affordability score.

The access score is the second largest gap for this indicator, and the smallest gap was for digital ability.

In 2024, the total ADII score was greatest for those living in major cities, and worsened with remoteness.

There are a number of indicators for outcome 17, including 17g , which reports on community broadcast licences with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interest.

As you can see on the right-hand side, community radio broadcast licences are growing, especially in regional and remote areas.

We're now going to turn our minds to indicator 4c, which shows outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across the 5 AEDC domains.

It tells us that, nationally in 2024, most children continue to be assessed as developmentally on track across all 5 domains.

Since the baseline, the picture has been mixed. Physical health and wellbeing remain stable and continue to have the highest proportion of children assessed as on track.

There have been improvements in communication skills and general knowledge, with a higher proportion of children assessed as developmentally on track in 2024 compared to 2018.

However, there have been declines in other domains.

Social competence and emotional maturity both had small decreases, and the largest decline was in language and cognitive skills.

Now we move to socioeconomic outcome 9.

For the first time, we are presenting national data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness.

In 2021, the rate of homelessness was 306.8 per 10,000 people. While this does remain high, it represents a 15% decrease from the 2016 baseline.

In terms of living conditions, most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness were living in severely crowded dwellings.

Smaller proportions were in supported accommodation, or in improvised dwellings or they were sleeping out.

We do know that homelessness rates were highest among young and middle-aged adults, particularly those aged 19 to 24 and 35 to 44, and the lowest was among people aged 75 and over.

But since 2016, homelessness rates have decreased across all age groups.

For specialist homelessness serves data, we observed that, in 2024 to 2025, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing homelessness and receiving homelessness support has increased across all age groups.

Overall, what this shows us, is that some improvement in census-based homelessness rates is occurring, but a growing and ongoing demand is there for specialist homelessness services.

So now we're moving into community-governed data insights.

New data is reported this year for the first time for indicator 14g, both in the Dashboard and in the ADCR.

The data is sourced from the Mayi Kuwayu Study on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing.

The MK Study is the largest national longitudinal study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult wellbeing, which is also led and governed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and grounded in Indigenous data sovereignty.

It is the first community-governed data source to be included on the information repository.

You can see the different experiences across the jurisdictions here on the slide. Nationally, from 2019 to 2021, just under half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 or over experienced racial discrimination in everyday life.

This is important for us to know because experiencing racism in our everyday lives negatively effects our social and emotional wellbeing.

Here, we have more Indigenous-led data providing insights into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.

Our last update to Target 8 was in 2023, and this year we have an interesting new supporting indicator, 8i.

The data is from the Dilin Duwa Institute, which is an Indigenous-led data provider, and our thanks go to Michelle Evans and her team for their work at Dilin Duwa.

Indicator 8i is showing us that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are continuing to strengthen their role in the economy.

You can see that activity and employment within the Indigenous business sector has grown in recent years.

The figure on the left shows that there were just over 15,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses in 2021–22.

In total, they employed 143,752 people around Australia and, of these, more than 1 in every 3 employees were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The right-hand side shows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses employ one fifth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the workforce, while constituting less than 1% of total firms Australia-wide.

These businesses are also up to 12 times more likely to employ an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

Thank you for listening, and I'll pass you to Selwyn as you turn to future considerations.

Commissioner Selwyn Button

Thanks Amanda, I appreciate that. We'll get into some of the specifics now in respect of where to next, and why do we do the things we do. We'll also answer a bunch of those questions that are sitting in the Q&A.

So, for those that have been putting questions in the Q&A: thank you, have patience, we are going to try and respond to all of those pieces.

If we think about the challenges that remain in relation to addressing the data gaps, we've got 18 out of the 19 targets that have data available.

For us, the important work that goes on at the PC is not just looking at the data sources that we have available, but those supporting indicators. As Amanda alluded to, when we think about unpacking the pieces of the puzzle to then provide the practical advice that's necessary to improve outcomes, we've actually got to really look at not just the headline indicators, but at all of those supporting indicators that make sense and make meaning for people to action on a day-to-day basis.

If I provide one thing as a live case study, an example of what we can do to effect some change: the overall AEDC data looks at vulnerability domains. As you would have seen when Amanda went through unpacking the domains themselves, one of the lowest scores that we see for Aboriginal children in terms of their vulnerability is in language and cognition skills.

What we do know that contributes to improving language and cognition skills, is simple things like young people's access to books in the home, and being read to at home, and being socialised towards learning and book language before they start schooling.

It's those practical pieces of the puzzle that we get a better understanding of when we start to unpack the data to tell real stories about how to affect change.

And that's why we'll continue to work on those supporting indicators because we think they are critically important to make sure when we're providing advice to policy makers and practitioners.

Certainly, the community organisations who are all part of the process here, everyone is working towards ensuring that we can we can build the evidence around doing those things really well.

As we've talked about, there are 4 targets that don't have comparable data. The Languages target is one of them.

We have 52 out of the 60 supporting indicators that have some time series data, so there's still work to be done.

There was a question in the Q&A around the priority reforms. We still have no consistent national measurement on the priority reforms.

There has been some work done and some reference made to some work through ANU and ANZSOG which has been taken up by NIAA. NIAA is working across the federal agencies from a federal perspective. The National Indigenous Australians Agency has been working across federal agencies to look at building a monitoring and evaluation framework for all the priority reforms. That's still under

development. It hasn't come to fruition yet, but we do know that it's built on the learnings of the work that's come from ANU and ANZSOG to start to look at what does that look like into the future as well.

For further information and developments – we take an iterative approach to developing the dashboard.

As I mentioned, currently 60 out of the 146 socioeconomic supporting indicators have reported data.

New targets are expected to be added in the future, but there's certainly still a lot of work to be done to make sure that we can tell the fullness of the story in relation to the data.

The data store is important, as I mentioned, because it provides advice in relation to implementation and how things are tracking. It's even more critical to make sure that we focus on the practical application of the data and focus on those things and actions and initiatives that are going to make a significant difference to improve those outcomes over time.

When we're thinking about new targets and new data development work, that is agreed to under the agreement itself. This is led by the parties to the agreement who form working groups to look at the co-development process.

Parties agree to form those working groups to develop the new targets, and the Joint Council approves the process itself.

Once that's gone through Joint Council and the Partnership Working Group, the agreement then gets updated to include those new targets and those new initiatives. Then it's provided to the Productivity Commission, to us here at the PC.

Then we start to look at the process of how we work with PWG to make those sort of things come to fruition, and then update them on the dashboard.

As indicated on this page, there is a governance group or a governance process around what it looks like in terms of continuing the data development work.

It isn't just unilateral decisions made at the PC about how we go about making sure that we're providing new data information and then just sticking on the dashboard.

It goes through a fairly extensive process with all parties to the agreement to make sure everyone's comfortable with the direction and shape the PCs going in, in respect of updating the dashboard.

Looking ahead, the focus for us is really about looking at the priority reforms.

Certainly, as I mentioned, there's some work that's happening at NIAA at the moment in respect to the monitoring and evaluation framework for the priority reforms.

Progress remains uneven.

There are new targets that that are being developed as well.

Another important aspect for us, which is about to commence soon at the PC, is the second three-yearly review, which is an overall review of the Closing the Gap Agreement.

That should start soon.

The focus for us is really looking at the overall performance, looking at the data, and then being able to provide that practical advice back to government to ensure that we can actually look at seeing some acceleration and growth in the trajectory of where things are at.

So we're certainly looking at meeting some more targets other than just Target 3. We're looking at more targets to be met by 2031.

Again, it's going through the process of gathering the evidence, working out what that looks like, where are the success stories and ensure that we can bring those pieces of the puzzle together.

So that brings us to the end of the presentation itself.

I will now start to go back and answer some of the questions that we've got in the Q&A and again, thanks for throwing those questions in.

Q&A segment

The first one that's comes through from Kieran is in relation to some local data and looking at nationally consistent ways of determining disadvantage.

What I will say, Kieran, is that we are.

The focus on disadvantage and the focus on community level information has been through the local data projects.

So, there's been local community data projects which are about place-based initiatives and as part of the overall place-based process with those communities that have been identified and in state and territory to look at local initiatives, community data projects would under development to support those initiatives as well.

And, and certainly part of that was about understanding community-based information and data that goes alongside government data that determines progress.

And, and that is something, whilst we don't have those on the dashboard, that's certainly something that we will look at through the review, because we do have some planned visits as part of the review process to go to those place-based locations where this exists and to then determine are they progressing in the right direction?

What are we learning from them and what can we then share with other communities around the place.

So hopefully that answers your question.

Nikki had a question in relation to the Indigenous data sovereignty principles.

What we do know what we do have Nikki now, which is available for all federal government agencies to use and I'd encourage those in states and territories to have a look as wellis that the National Indigenous Australians Agency has produced a, a framework for the governance of Indigenous data, which goes into the principles themselves about how to apply Indigenous data sovereignty, how to apply and apply Indigenous data governance in your day-to-day work.

So I'd encourage you to go and have a look at those, certainly if you're thinking about going down that path in, in your own, in your own agencies themselves.

Roy asked a question in relation to drilling down not just about state level data but looking at in local Indigenous area and what I would ask you to have a look at Roy

I mean other than the Mayi Kuwayu Study , which does look at some local level granular data.

The other place to that's probably worth having a look at to get some of that localised data is, is the RIFIC website which is hosted by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare.

Because RIFIC does go into to local Indigenous area data and may provide what you're looking for in that context.

Because obviously AIHWcollect data from all community control services as well through the national KPI process that there would be some comparisons you'd be able to do there as well.

Wes asked a question in relation to focusing on Target 14.

What I can say Wes, and this is on the back of obviously the work that completed last year through the review of the National Suicide Mental Health Agreement.

Is that what government has undertaken to do is pick up one of the recommendations that the Productivity Commission provided out of the mental health and suicide prevention agreement review to look at a First Nation schedule to the overall mental health and suicide prevention agreement

And that is being Co designed with First Nations organisation and then being led by Gayaa Dhuwi, who were the Co, I guess the Co chair or the lead for the social emotional well being policy partnership of the Close Gap National Agreement.

What we did notice in our review of the national mental health suicide prevention agreement is there was a disconnect between what was happening in suicide prevention and sort of what was happening in social emotional well being for First Nations people.

So our recommendation was use the SEWB policy partnership as the vehicle to then Co design a First Nation schedule.

And we do know that that work is actually happening at the moment.

So that's some, some progress in the right direction there.

Christian.

Oh, that was about the hands of an ANU report.

So hopefully you can see some of that stuff being picked up in the not only the NIAA framework, but certainly what happens in in future work that's coming out in terms of monitoring and evaluation.

That's underway.

Vet asked the question about Maggie Walter's work and AI being included in addition to data governance in the application in terms of third secondary use purposes and what that might look like.

It is something that it is something that has been considered and certainly what I would suggest is that is something that would be picked up by the data policy partnership.

There is a data policy partnership that now exists and it's been Co chaired by ABS and New South Wales CAPO.

So they would be the appropriate, I guess, body, governance body within the overall agreement that focuses on those things.

And certainly they've, they've published their, their work plan for the next couple of years.

So they've, they've already identified 6 priorities for the work that they're doing.

And certainly we liaise with the data policy partnership in respect of any ongoing future data work as well.

Wes has provided some advice, some questions in relation to alternate data sources and as you can see Wes and certainly agree what we are looking at doing is, is attempting to include other additional data sources that supplement government based data, which is why you'll see on the dashboard.

Now we've included data from Mayi Kuwayu study, we've included data and references to the Dilin Duwa work that Michelle Evans and her team have been doing because it's about ensuring that this supplementation of additional data that comes from other sources other than just government based data.

So that's something that we're continuing to have conversations with others around the place to make sure at least we're encouraging continuing to encourage that work.

It's not progressing as quick as we'd like obviously, but certainly it is something that we want to make sure that there is the overlay.

And certainly when I was in New Zealand a couple of years ago, got to the work that they do is through Stats NZ, which actually has a direct interface between government data and IWI led data, which then helps support planning approaches in local communities.

We'd certainly like to get there.

That was one of the recommendations that came out of the first PC review to look at the Bureau of Indigenous Data and how do we build those principles of IDs and IDG in our ongoing work.

So certainly it's something that the data policy partnerships picked up and it is something that we'll continue to focus on in our work as well.

Christian's asked the question about moving away from Census data.

As we've sort of talked through Christian, I think you've, you've seen in terms of some of the work that it is very much for us, the data sources and the reliance on data sources.

It doesn't necessarily just come from us.

There's a process that we go through and there's a, and there's work that happens not just through the data policy partnership, but through joint council and the partnership working group where they identify the relevant data sources and they approve essentially what, what data sources are being used that end up on the dashboard.

So it isn't just a, an easy thing of saying, let's not use that one, Let's use another one.

There's a, there's a fairly lengthy governance process that we go through to make sure at least we, we're getting, getting the best, the best data sources and to make sure at least we're, we're focusing on, on measuring the right things as well.

Natasha asked a question about considerations of state and territory levels.

We have had some questions.

We have had some requests in relation to looking at state-based performance.

And Jacui and I, who's on the, he was on the call here with me today, Jackie and I did a presentation with the NT Aboriginal Exec Council a couple of weeks ago in Darwin.

So where there are requests to look at state and territory progress, we're happy to, to accommodate and to work through that with, with different agencies.

So if you would like to, to, to request those things, then certainly send emails through to the email address you've got on the screen.

And then we can, we can work out sometimes and work around that.

And Jane asked a question about connections between targets.

Certainly is consideration around connections between worsening targets and there's some work that's happening in the background.

But certainly one of the things that we're, we, we've, we'll focus on in the, in the next Productivity Commission review is, is looking at what does, what does success look like?

What's the, what's the distance that's, that's required in terms of the travel between where we are now and what's the 2031 target look like?

And how do we make sure at least how can we provide advice to governments in respect of the things that we know are working and are working well to help accelerate some of that growth.

So certainly we'll, we'll, we'll look at doing more of that analysis through the review process.

OK, I saw a couple here.

AEDC potential bias in relation to the collection.

Yes, absolutely aware of the potential bias that Marian describes.

For those that aren't aware, AEDC is a survey that's done every three years and it's done if it's undertaken by teachers and the teachers undertake the survey of students in their first full year of schooling.

So, but there is, there is potential for bias in the survey, but certainly what we do with the work, the important part is, is about making sure that we're actually taking the information to focus on the things that we can control.

And as I mentioned, that's why we've now unpacked the domains and using that to provide further information in terms of supporting indicators.

Because if we focus on the information that's available to us through the actual domains themselves, we could certainly provide then some practical advice about how to potentially change the trajectory in respect of AEDC scores for abstraction and the children.

Kanes asked about the increase in identification rates.

And yes, look, there were some there is increase in terms of identification, but certainly I'd refer you back to the ABS to look at their explanatory note.

And what we have seen certainly in the demographic trends for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country is that there is the largest proportion of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander across the country is still in zero to 24 age bracket.

So it is still a very, very young population.

And the growth of the population is in the younger age bracket.

Katie's asked in relation to outcome 4 as well.

So AEDC into the cultural differences.

It is something that we, we have had conversations and I'm sure there is a note that we've, we've worked with SNAICC to look at some of those cultural differences.

So it is something that we do know can have some influence on AEDC scores.

And certainly weare working with relevant parties to, to make sure at least we'recognizant of that, and what the additional information looks like when we're producing the reports in respect of those things as well.

We do have a lot of other ones that are coming in and I'm conscious that we're now over time what I might do given we are at time, we might actually call it a day for the presentation itself.

And if it's OK with those who provided questions to us, what we will do is to come back to you directly to make sure at least we're responding to those questions because they're recorded, they're in our system.

We've got your name because email and name was listed when you're registered and we can certainly send the responses to give you an indication of those responses post the webinar today.

But certainly, what I would like to do is to thank everyone for your time.

Thank everyone for hanging in there for those that have hung in with us right past the one hour session.

Hopefully you've we've given you enough information to at least give you a good understanding of where things are at with the ADCR and the July dashboard updates.

Thank you very much for your interest and we certainly look forward to working with many of you in the future.

And I wish you a good rest of the day and a great weekend.

END