

Closing the Gap Review and Reporting: Briefing note for Senate Estimates November 2022

Closing the Gap review

How are you going about the review?

- For this first review, we are planning to focus on how governments are implementing the four Priority Reforms in the Agreement. These reforms are the central pillars to the Agreement and are intended to accelerate improvements in socioeconomic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- We are aiming to highlight what is working and where improvement is needed through case studies and use of quantitative data where appropriate and available.
- Our work is guided by our engagement approach which is based on the principles of being fair and inclusive, transparent and open, ongoing and reciprocal.
- We are providing a variety of options for people to engage with us, including written, video or oral submissions and comments. And we are aiming to provide material in a way that is accessible to different audiences (including Plain English version of papers we release and writing back to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations we have met with to confirm our understanding of points raised).

How are you reaching people?

- We are engaging in different ways to reach as many and diverse groups as we can. These include direct contact via face-to-face and virtual visits, email and phone (with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and in all jurisdictions) social media (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and our website.
- Our first phase of engagement in 2022 has been meetings with governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. Our second phase in early 2022 will expand to community forums to seek the views of community members and service users, as well as non-Indigenous non-government organisations.

Is there duplication with your work and that of the Voice and Referendum? Do people understand the difference?

- In our meetings to date, people have not raised questions with us that would indicate confusion between Closing the Gap and the Voice to Parliament.

Closing the Gap reporting

The Commission is building its Closing the Gap Information Repository which houses the Dashboard (most recent update in June 2022) and Annual Data Compilation Report (most recent report July 2022).

The Dashboard currently includes reporting for the targets under the 17 socioeconomic outcome areas and 20 indicators.

Work is progressing iteratively given the large number of indicators in the National Agreement (currently over 150 indicators plus disaggregations)

The next Dashboard update is scheduled for March 2022.