

# **Communique – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership Meeting 10-11 October 2023**

The third Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership (LPP) meeting was held at the home of the Yawuru people in Rubibi (Broome). The LPP was hosted by the Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga Language Centre and welcomed to Country by Aunty Dianne Applebee.

The LPP heard of successful community-led language models being delivered by the Mabu Yawuru Ngan-ga Language Centre and the Kimberley Language Resource Centre. The representatives were inspired by their work to safeguard their languages and the benefits that flow to the community and individuals. The members also attended an on-Country cultural trip with local Traditional Owners.

The key focus of discussion on day one was Outcome and Target 16 and the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms. This included:

- Barriers and opportunities highlighted by the Productivity Commission’s Draft Report for the three-yearly review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- The need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to determine the definition of ‘strong, supported and flourishing’ and to actively shape and collect their own data across the country.
- The group agreed to establish a data subcommittee to provide detailed consideration of how language data should be collected and managed to ensure its benefit and relevance for people on the ground.

On day two the LPP continued to develop key strategic documents and further explored languages legislation. This included the following:

- Reviewed the Partnership’s draft outline of the 3-year strategic work plan and provided comments.
  - The LPP will finalise the work plan at the fourth LPP meeting in December 2023.
- Upon final endorsement the workplan will be made available on the First Languages Australia website.
- Continued discussion on early identified strategic priorities and agreement to seek consideration and comment from communities through an online consultation.
- The members heard from the NSW Aboriginal Languages Trust to learn more about the process to protect and strengthen Indigenous languages through legislation.
- The LPP discussed the scope of possible national languages legislation and what that could look like in Australia.

The next meeting of the LPP will be held online on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

## Meeting attendee list

<b>Coalition of Peaks representatives</b>	
Heather Sculthorpe	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Karina Lester	Mobile Language Unit
Vicki Couzens	Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
Karen Paterson	First Nations Media
Beau Williams	First Languages Australia (Co-Chair)
<b>Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives</b>	
Patsy Ngalu Bedford	Independent
Daryn McKenny	Independent
Leitha Assan	Independent
Samantha Armstrong	Independent
Gulwanyang Moran	Independent
<b>Government representatives</b>	
Erin Gauntlett	Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government
Jazlie Davis on behalf of Clare McHugh	Aboriginal Languages Trust, New South Wales Government
Kathy Parton	Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts, Queensland Government
Stephen Fraser	Department of Education, Victorian Government
Jodee Wilson	Department of Education, Children and Young People, Tasmanian Government
Bronwyn Milera on behalf of Dionne Smith	Department for Education, South Australian Government
Brendan Moyle	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, ACT Government
Stephen Arnott	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts, Commonwealth Government (Co-Chair)

Apologies: Northern Territory Government