

Communique – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership Meeting

12 December 2023

The fourth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership (LPP) meeting was held online, on 12 December. Members began the meeting with a grounding exercise acknowledging the importance of language and Country.

The LPP Co-Chairs provided administrative updates on actions since the previous LPP meeting, and on the Closing the Gap Joint Council Meeting on 24 November.

The LPP members discussed:

- updates from governments on significant activities and actions in line with Target 16 under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap since the last meeting.
- government budget processes and how the LPP can work in partnership with governments to develop proposals.
- the complexities of the cross-sectoral and cross-jurisdictional nature of languages.
- First Languages Australia's [Yalbilinya First Languages Education Workforce Strategy](#) and how governments could consider Yalbilinya in the context of their jurisdictions.
- the evaluation requirements of Policy Partnerships and the proposed evaluation approach for the LPP.
- progress of the LPP Data Working Group including an update on its first meeting held on 22 November to discuss Target 16 and community-led data collection.

The LPP agreed to the following outcomes and actions:

- to publish the LPP Priorities paper on the First Languages Australia (FLA) website for consultation
- to hold consultation workshops on the Priorities paper with Indigenous language centres and community members in early 2024 (further details on consultation on FLA's [webpage](#)).
- to continue work on scoping national languages legislation as an LPP priority
- to continue to consider ways to support First Nations people, groups and organisations to learn, work in and speak their languages
- support and endorsement of the proposed approach for evaluation of the LPP.

Tentative meeting dates for 2024 were discussed, the first meeting is expected to be held in March 2024.

Meeting attendee list

Coalition of Peaks representatives	
Beau Williams	First Languages Australia (Co-Chair)
Daisy Allan (proxy)	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Vicki Couzens	Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
Karina Lester	Mobile Language Unit
Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives	
Samantha Armstrong	Independent
Leitha Assan	Independent
Patsy Ngalu Bedford	Independent
Daryn McKenny	Independent
Gulwanyang Moran	Independent
Government representatives	
Stephen Arnott	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, and the Arts, Commonwealth Government (Co-Chair)
Stephen Fraser	Department of Education, Victorian Government
Allan Girdler (proxy for Maree De Lacey)	Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Northern Territory Government
Shelagh Magazada (proxy for Erin Gauntlett)	Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government
Clare McHugh	Aboriginal Languages Trust, New South Wales Government
Bronwyn Milera (proxy for Deonne Smith)	Department for Education, South Australian Government
Brendan Moyle	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, ACT Government
Kathy Parton	Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Queensland Government
Adam Potito (proxy for Jodee Wilson)	Department of Education, Children and Young People, Tasmanian Government

Apology

Karen Paterson, First Nations Media Australia