

A complex, vibrant Indigenous Australian art pattern in white and yellow on a dark blue background. The pattern features a variety of traditional motifs, including concentric circles, wavy lines, and geometric shapes, creating a rich, textured effect.

Queensland Closing the Gap Implementation Plan

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government



Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise their connection to land, sea, and community as the oldest continuous living culture and the First Peoples of this country.

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Overview

The *Queensland Closing the Gap Implementation Plan* (the Implementation Plan) outlines the Queensland Government's commitment to achieving meaningful outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a strategic and targeted approach to implementing the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement). The Implementation Plan is designed to drive progress across 17 socio-economic outcomes outlined in the National Agreement, while advancing the Agreement's Priority Reforms.

Central to this approach is establishing the right foundations for success: *getting the basics right* by focusing on the priority areas of education, housing (safe and appropriate housing and essential infrastructure), health and employment. These areas are recognised as critical foundations for broader success, as progress in these areas supports progress across all National Agreement targets. These efforts are further strengthened by *building supportive and protective factors* through early childhood development, early intervention and prevention, social and emotional wellbeing, strong languages and culture and economic participation.

Recognising the interdependencies of the Closing the Gap socio-economic outcomes and the importance of key life stages as building blocks for future opportunities and success is vital to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families, and communities.

The Implementation Plan aligns with the commitments of the Queensland Government to make Queensland safer, restore health services, strengthen the economy, and plan for the state's future.

By adopting a targeted approach with measurable actions, Queensland can effectively monitor progress to ensure initiatives are driving meaningful improvements that are practical and tangible in achieving positive life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

The approach is guided by the advice of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, stakeholders, and recommendations from the 2024 Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement. It is further supported by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 2025 Report on Closing the Gap, which highlights the importance of prioritising foundational areas such as education, housing, health and employment.

Queensland Government Objectives for Community

Safety where you live: Making Queensland safer.

Health services when you need them: Restoring health services when Queenslanders need them most.

A better lifestyle through a stronger economy: Growing our economy to drive down the cost of living and give Queenslanders a better lifestyle and a place to call home.

A plan for Queensland's future: Planning for Queensland's future.

Closing the Gap in Queensland

Overcome the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders and achieve life outcomes equal to all Queenslanders.

Creating the right foundations for success

Getting the basics right

Education, Housing, Health and Employment

Building supportive and protective factors

Early childhood development, Early intervention and prevention, Social and emotional wellbeing, Languages and culture, and Economic Participation

Embedding and strengthening the Priority Reforms

Priority Reform 1: Formal partnerships and shared decision making

Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector

Priority Reform 3: Transforming government organisations

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

Queensland Closing the Gap Implementation Plan Framework

Getting the basics right – Actions

Education	Housing	Health	Employment
Enhance educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people by addressing barriers to education, improving access to culturally responsive learning environments, and providing professional development opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators.	Provide equitable access to safe, secure, and affordable housing, alongside essential infrastructure to improve health, wellbeing, and living conditions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.	Provide equitable access to healthcare by embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives into health services and addressing social determinants of health, while supporting community-led initiatives and targeted strategies to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.	Close the skills gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by expanding access to quality training, fostering workforce development, and creating flexible pathways to employment, while strengthening industry-specific opportunities such as manufacturing and tourism, and building the capacity and sustainability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and led training organisations.
Deliver targeted responsive initiatives to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by enhancing access to educational facilities, fostering school attendance, supporting student behaviour, lifting literacy and numeracy and removing barriers to education for those in remote and discrete communities and correctional facilities. Support professional development and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators, departmental staff, school and system leaders through attendance and engagement with the Education Futures Institute.	Deliver the First Nations Environmental Health Strategy 2024-29 to support remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils to provide safe water, pest control, waste management, dust control, food safety and hygiene and animal management services, alongside community-led approaches to improve overall health and reduce disease. Collaborate with remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils to identify community needs for social housing, fund and deliver solutions, and improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples while reducing overcrowding. Implement programs to support homeownership, repairs and maintenance works to improve housing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in remote and very remote Queensland. Deliver essential infrastructure projects in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities including under the Closing the Gap Priorities Fund and Discrete Communities Infrastructure program.	Implement the First Nations First Strategy 2032, through the First Nations First Action Plan 2025-28, focusing on addressing racism and improving priority health outcomes, including fostering a racism-free workforce, preventing and treating rheumatic heart disease, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections, supporting healthy pregnancies and births, and improving food security and healthy eating. Create accessible health facilities by embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and priorities into the design and delivery of the Hospital Rescue Plan and by monitoring and evaluating the performance of Hospital and Health Services and non-government partners’ investments.	Implement the Transforming Queensland Manufacturing Strategy to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander manufacturers by fostering new market partnerships, promoting their participation in major projects like Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and supporting the attraction and retention of a skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce. Connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to quality training, skills and supports to create future employment opportunities, including through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Initiative. Provide targeted support and flexible pathways to increase employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including through the 2024-27 Works for Queensland Program. Implement initiatives under Destination 2045: Delivering Queensland’s Tourism Future to strengthen partnerships with Traditional Owners, streamline ecotourism engagement, support agreements between tourism businesses and Indigenous communities, amplify the input of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism operators through the Our Country Advisory Service, and enhance employment and industry capability by developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism experiences, including walking trails.

Building supportive and protective factors – Actions

Early Childhood Development – Deliver programs to support the early childhood development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through developmental screening under the Healthy Kindies Program.	Early Intervention and Prevention – Deliver appropriate early intervention and prevention programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to reduce crime and interaction with the justice system, enhance education, improve safety and reduce instances of family, domestic and sexual violence including through the Safer Children, Safer Communities plan.	Social and Emotional Wellbeing – Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to achieve and maintain social and emotional wellbeing through culturally responsive and capable services, enhanced care pathways, promotion of active and healthy lifestyles, and investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led mental health and trauma-informed care models.	Languages and Culture – Support targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language and culture initiatives for early childhood, education, employment and tourism experiences to strengthen and revitalise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, foster community pride and activate local economies.	Economic Participation – Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic participation and improved business and employment opportunities by providing equitable access through targeted programs and supports to foster economic growth for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities.
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Positioning Government to deliver tangible outcomes through Embedding and Strengthening Priority Reforms

One: Partnerships and Shared Decision Making	Two: Building the Community-Controlled Sector	Three: Transforming Government Organisations	Four: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level
Establish and implement the Queensland Indigenous Mayors Accord between Queensland’s 17 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local governments and the Queensland Government to improve the liveability and opportunities for discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through the delivery of economic and social infrastructure and services. Strategically participate in Policy Partnerships under the National Agreement and work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations in the implementation of Closing the Gap to deliver Queensland’s priorities.	Implement the Queensland Procurement Policy 2026 to build a diverse supplier base including support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Businesses. Enhance service experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by uplifting capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations.	Ensure impactful implementation of <i>Public Sector Act 2022</i> commitments relating to Closing the Gap. Increase representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public sector employees in senior leadership and decision-making roles supported with professional development as required.	Improve access to community data through continued Closing the Gap outcomes reporting, investment mapping, and portal developed with Queensland Government Statisticians Office. Strengthen accountability and improve healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by enhancing progress monitoring, prioritising data sharing, supporting informed decision-making, and strengthening health service planning.