



Australian Government



The Indigenous Coordination Centres – assisting in implementing the National Indigenous Reform Agenda or Closing the Gap

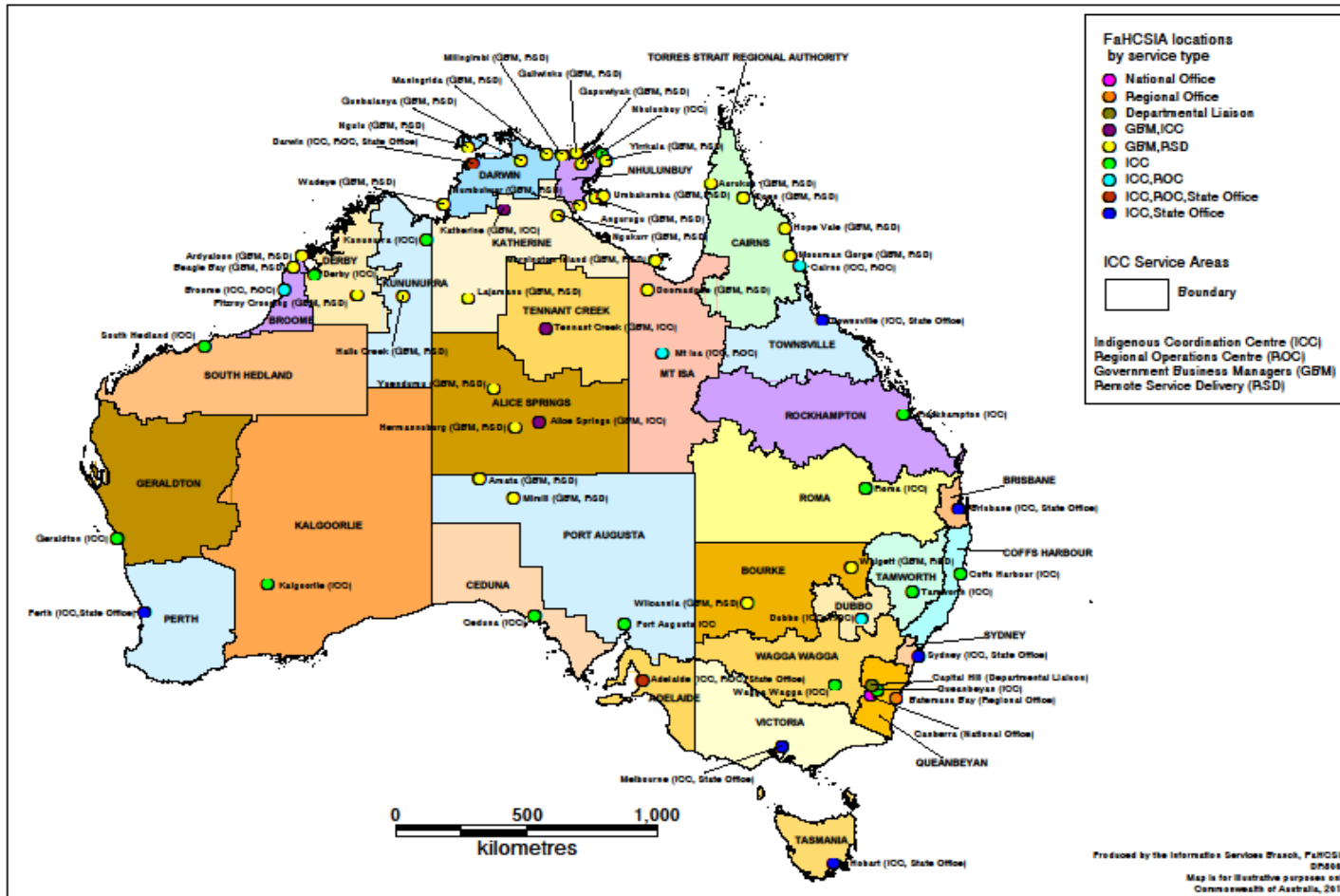
National Roundtable on Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Employment in Local Government
26-27 July 2011

Summary



- Australian Government – Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Indigenous Coordination Centres – who/what are we
- National Indigenous Reform Agenda
- How can we work with you and your communities

FAHCSIA



FaHCSIA NSW Indigenous Coordination Centre (Administered) Boundaries

Updated January 2011



Wagga Wagga ICC



- FaHCSIA - Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- DEEWR -Dept of Education, Employment and workforce Relations
- NSW AA – NSW Aboriginal Affairs

**WAGGA WAGGA
(Administered) ICC Boundaries**

*** for confirmation ***



ICC mandates



Indigenous Coordination Centre mandates include:

- To assist the Australian Government in implementing the 'social inclusion' agenda
- To assist in implementing the National Indigenous Reform Agenda – Closing the Gap

Social Inclusion agenda



A society in which all Australians feel valued and have the opportunity to participate fully in the life of our society.

- **Learn** by participating in education and training
- **Work** by participating in employment, in voluntary work and in family and caring
- **Engage** by connecting with people and using their local community's resources and
- **Have a voice** so that they can influence decisions that affect them.

National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA)



- July 2008 COAG endorsed the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) - *Closing the Gap* in Indigenous disadvantage.

What is Closing the GAP?

- A commitment by all Australian Governments (through the Council of Australian Governments – COAG) to improve the lives of Aboriginal Australians, and especially to provide a better future for Aboriginal children.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL RELATIONS

National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA)

The NIRA has been established to frame the task of Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. It sets out the objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance indicators and performance benchmarks agreed by COAG. It also provides links to those National Agreements and National Partnership Agreements (NPs) across COAG which include elements aimed at Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. Service delivery principles for programs and services for Indigenous Australians are set out at Schedule D. These principles are to guide COAG in the design and delivery of Indigenous specific and mainstream government programs and services provided to Indigenous people and the development and negotiation of National Partnership Agreements, National Agreements and reform proposals.

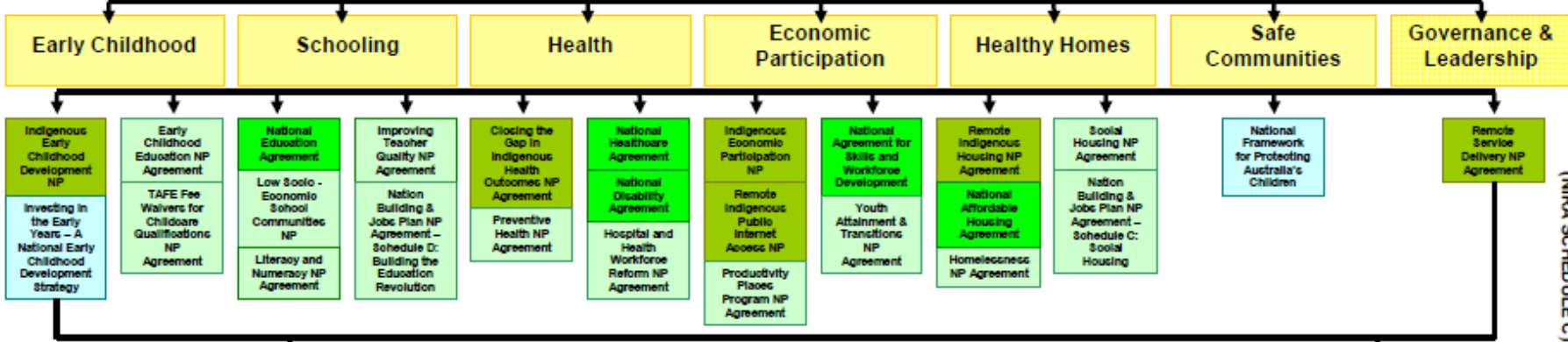
- Close the life expectancy gap within a generation
- Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- Ensure all four year olds in remote Indigenous communities have access to a quality early childhood education program within five years
- Halve the gap for Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade
- Halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020
- Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade

COAG TARGETS

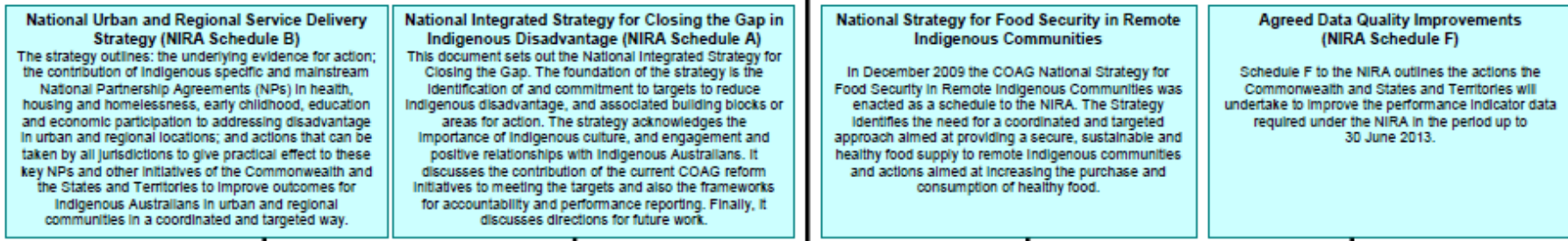
BUILDING BLOCKS

COAG NATIONAL AGREEMENTS, PARTNERSHIPS (NPs), STRATEGIES & FRAMEWORKS (NIRA SCHEDULE C)

NIRA SCHEDULES & STRATEGIES



National Partnership Implementation Plans
 Many National Partnerships have Implementation Plans publicly available on the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website.



Key to COAG agreements:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Indigenous specific NP Agreement | National Agreement |
| Mainstream NP Agreement | National Strategy / Framework |

Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plans with each jurisdiction
 The Commonwealth and States and Territories will work co-operatively to realise the objectives and commitments made in the NIRA, including through the development of Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plans under the NIRA. The Overarching Bilateral Indigenous Plans will be publicly available from the Ministerial Council for Federal Financial Relations website.

Linkages



- Council of Australian Government – COAG – Closing the Gap/National Indigenous Reform Agreement



- Overarching Bi-lateral Implementation Plan (OBIP) – NSW, Vic, QLD, SA, Tas, NT, WA, ACT

Urban and Regional Strategy



To coordinate delivery of services to Indigenous Australians in order to “Close the Gap” in Indigenous disadvantage

- All levels of government have a role
- Mainstream service providers to improve services to Indigenous Australians in urban and regional areas
- Engagement & partnership with Indigenous Australians

ICC role in Closing the Gap



- Sharing information about the National Indigenous Reform Agenda with all government and non-government agencies
- Assist mainstream service providers to increase the number of Aboriginal clients
- Assist mainstream service providers to think about their organisation's awareness of Aboriginal history and culture and what that means in their communities
- Listen and engage with Aboriginal families, communities, organisations etc to understand the priorities for each community and broker solutions

ICC assist LGs:



- Provide information about (and introductions to) local Aboriginal organisations, people and communities
- Provide information about local FaHCSIA funded programs for Aboriginal people in community (includes services provided from 'outside')
- Provide information (and introduction to) Aboriginal networks or interagency meetings in community
- Provide tools to assist local government in their own assessment of where they stand in terms of 'cultural competency'

Local councils can/have:



- Understand about Closing the Gap;
- Find out about, and understand your local Aboriginal community;
- Invite local Elders and other community representatives to talk about local Aboriginal history;
- Utilise any Aboriginal staff in your team – what can they tell you about your local community?
- Participate in local forums that exist such as Aboriginal or Koori Interagency networks, Community Working Parties, Women's/Men's Groups

Local Councils can/have



- Establish an Aboriginal council advisory committee;
- Develop partnerships that inform you, or provide information to interested Aboriginal parties about policies/decisions/services;
- Ask for information, seek feedback through defined channels;
- Develop Aboriginal reconciliation plan;

Local councils can/have:



- Review cultural competence of your team, council;
- Encourage staff to develop their cultural competence;
- Encourage continuous cultural development in all staff;
- Review how culturally welcoming your workplace is;
- Provide new staff with cultural orientation to your local community;
- Use readily available tools such as the FaHCSIA Toolkit for Indigenous Service Provision.

Summary



- Indigenous Coordination Centres –
 - Here to assist local government with getting links into the Aboriginal communities
 - Collaborate on specific programs/initiatives that will benefit the Aboriginal people in your community
 - Answer any questions you may have

QUESTIONS & Useful websites



- www.fahcsia.gov.au
- www.deewr.gov.au
- www.daa.nsw.gov.au
- www.coag.gov.au
- www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap
- www.socialinclusion.gov.au
- www.nsw.gov.au/stateplan