



Australian Government
Productivity Commission

Closing the Gap

Annual Data Compilation Report
July 2022



The Productivity Commission acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to their Cultures, Country and Elders past and present.

The Productivity Commission

The Productivity Commission is the Australian Government's independent research and advisory body on a range of economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians. Its role, expressed most simply, is to help governments make better policies, in the long term interest of the Australian community.

The Commission's independence is underpinned by an Act of Parliament. Its processes and outputs are open to public scrutiny and are driven by concern for the wellbeing of the community as a whole.

Further information on the Productivity Commission can be obtained from the Commission's website (www.pc.gov.au).

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ISBN 978-1-74037-744-7 (online)

ISBN 978-1-74037-743-0 (PDF)

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© Elizabeth Yanyi Close 2021



About the Artist

Elizabeth Yanyi Close

Elizabeth Yanyi Close is a Panaka Skin Anangu woman from the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Language Groups, whose family links are to the communities of Pukatja and Amata in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY).

In 2007, Elizabeth began to paint professionally and exhibit her work throughout Adelaide and her practice organically grew as she balanced a career in nursing, art and motherhood. By 2014 she had built up a full-time arts practice, and after the birth of their second child, Elizabeth and her husband decided to move home to the APY so that they could immerse their children in their culture and language.

Elizabeth reconnected with much of her Grandmother's family and learned much more about her family, her Tjukurpa and her Country from her Tjamu. This growth as an Aboriginal woman was profoundly reflected in the evolution of her artwork.

TUNUPA (Sand Hills)

Elizabeth's motifs and iconography speak to a concept that is central to her practice - Connection to Country. The relationships with the landscape that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have is difficult to measure or quantify. Anangu have a word they use to describe this relationship - Tjukurpa.

Tjukurpa is difficult to translate because all the words in the English Language are inadequate. It speaks of Stories, Dreaming, Songlines, Lore - but really, Tjukurpa is a way of being and experiencing the world around you. Anangu relationships with Country is far more than what we see with our eyes; but rather, what we feel with our spirit. Anangu have a relationship with every plant, animal, bird, rock, and grain of sand. And likewise, Tjukurpa is something that exists in all facets of the landscape.

This work reflects the way in which songlines and creation stories can be seen and felt through this connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with their Country. There is no delineation between people, earth, sea and sky; animal, bird and plant. They are all inherently as much a part of us as we are of them.

This work is profoundly informed by this relationship and interconnectedness of the different facets of the landscape. This translates and reflects the core values of the Productivity Commission and the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap - particularly the focus on partnerships, relationships and shared decision-making to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Foreword

Michael Brennan
Chair

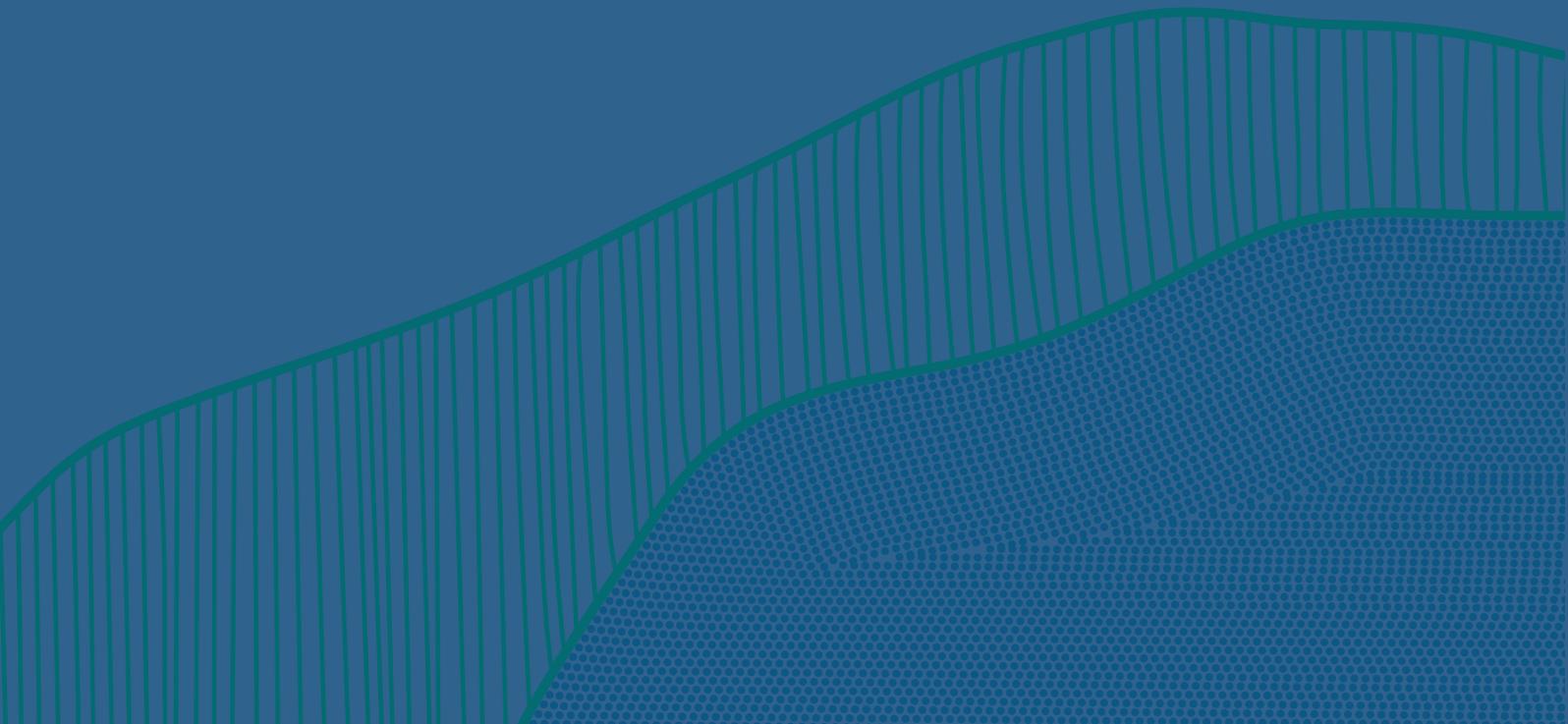
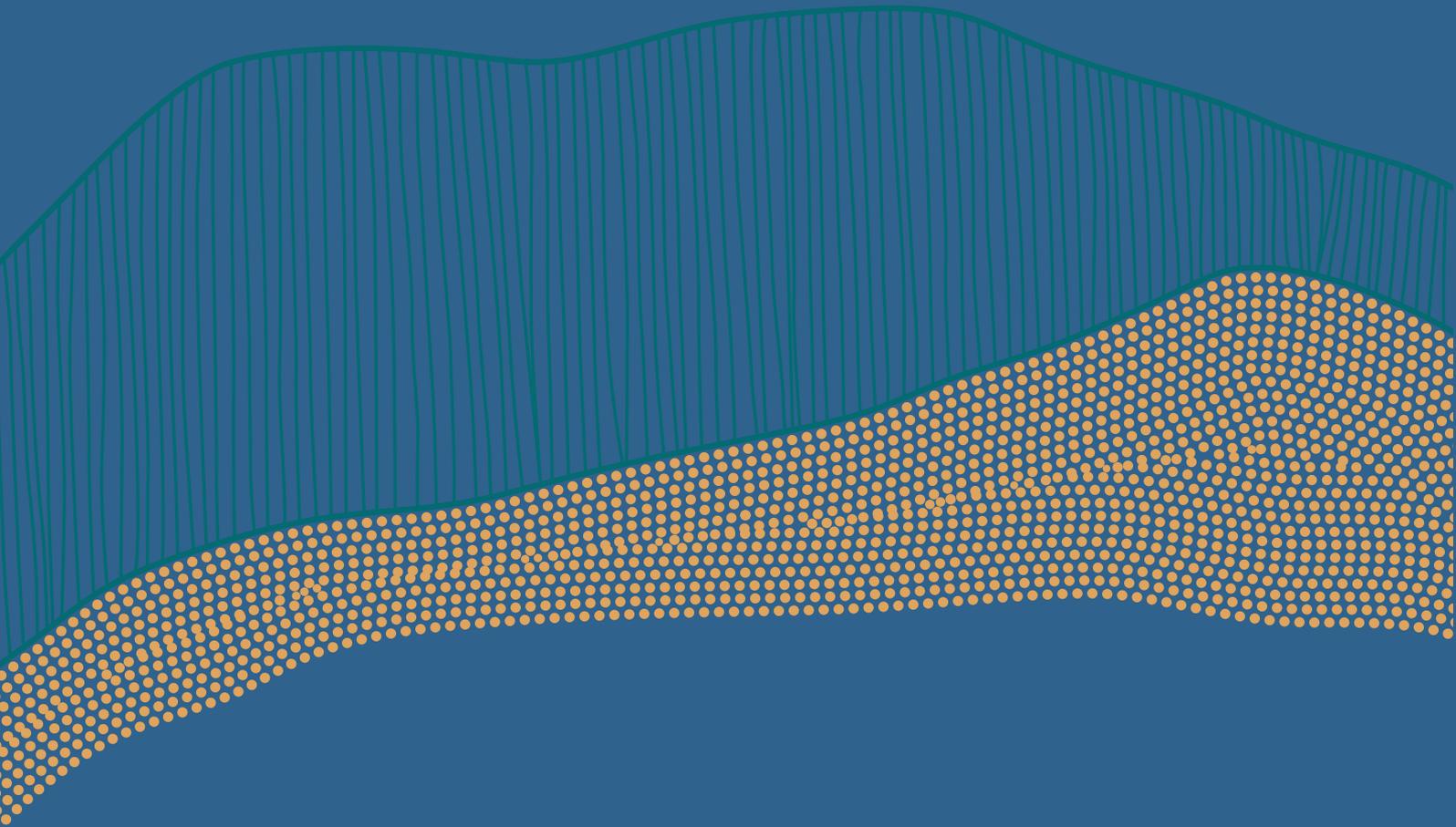
Romlie Mokak
Commissioner

Natalie Siegel-Brown
Commissioner

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement) is a significant agreement – committing to outcomes that have been developed in partnership between Australian governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak organisations. The Agreement enables new ways of doing things through its Priority Reforms, including that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now share in the decisions made to close the gap. The Agreement also focuses on the outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to see if the gap is closing.

The Productivity Commission is pleased to play a role in supporting oversight and accountability of the Agreement, and to provide this second Annual Data Compilation Report to monitor progress under the Agreement.

The Commission would like to acknowledge the ongoing valuable contribution to our work by the Partnership Working Group that supports the Joint Council on Closing the Gap. As we continue this journey we intend to build on our existing relationships and engage with more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and governments.



Contents

Foreword	1
Summary	5
Section 1: About this Report	8
Section 2: Monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms	14
Section 3: Monitoring the socioeconomic outcomes	19
Attachment A: Dashboard snapshots and data for download	29
1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives	30
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong	30
3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years	30
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years	31
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential	31
6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students reach their full potential through further education pathways	31
7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education	32
8. Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities	32
9. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need	32
10. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system	33
11. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system	33
12. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system	33
13. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe	34
14. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing	34
15. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters	34
16. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing	35
17. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives	35

Summary

The Annual Data Compilation Report provides a point-in-time snapshot of progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement). This is the second of the Annual Reports. It provides new information for the Priority Reform outcome areas on progress towards developing data to measure the targets and indicators. For the socioeconomic outcome areas, an additional year of data and disaggregations for the targets is provided, along with new reporting for the supporting indicators.

The Priority Reforms are the foundation of the Agreement, and commit all Australian governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (the Parties) to tangible and measurable actions. These actions are designed to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities.

Directly monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms is designed to promote accountability for these actions. Therefore, getting the measurement right for the Priority Reforms is important and will take time. The measurement of the Priority Reforms is new so it is being developed largely from scratch, and at each phase the Parties need to have an agreed understanding on what is to be measured.

Work on developing measurement for the Priority Reforms is in its early phases. The Parties have developed and agreed an approach that aims to ensure that measurement is done in a consistent and coherent way across the Priority Reforms. Work to develop and agree on the measurement concepts and calculations is now underway.

The Agreement also identifies 17 **socioeconomic outcomes** important to the rights, wellbeing and quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Monitoring these socioeconomic outcomes will help to determine if the Agreement is working to accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Additional information is now available on the targets both overall and for different population groups, along with some supporting indicators.

The socioeconomic targets provide limited information on progress at this stage. No new data are available since the baseline year for eight of the targets, and for the targets where there are new data available the most recent data are for 2021, only one year after the Agreement commenced.

For the targets that have new data and assessments of progress, the results are mixed and most need to be used with caution.

- Four are on track (healthy birthweight of babies, the enrolment of children in the preschool, youth detention rates and land mass subject to rights and interests).
- Five are not on track (children commencing school developmentally on track, out-of-home care, adult imprisonment, suicide deaths, and sea country subject to rights and interests).

These results also need to be understood in context. They are highly aggregated and may not reflect the outcomes for different population groups. While information on outcomes across different population groups is limited, some broad patterns emerge. Barriers to better outcomes appear to have a greater impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than non-Indigenous people in regional and remote areas. That is, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people generally experience increasingly poor outcomes as remoteness increases whereas non-Indigenous people do not (or not to the same extent). Supporting indicators that are now available can also help provide a more complete story on the socioeconomic outcomes.

As with the Priority Reforms, getting the measurement right for the socioeconomic outcome areas is important to promote accountability. The priorities here are to ensure the assessments of progress for the targets are accurate and comprehensive, and to develop indicators using data that reflect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives.

Priority Reform targets

Current progress of the development of measurement

Phases for developing measurement	Partnership arrangements in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments enshrining joint decision-making	Increase the amount of government funding going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations	Decrease the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience racism	Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions
Phase One: Develop and agree on an approach for developing measurement	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE	✓ COMPLETE
Phase Two: Develop and agree on the measurement concepts and computation	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS	... IN PROGRESS
Phase Three: Develop data for reporting on the measures	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED
Phase Four: Collect the data for reporting	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED
Phase Five: Report data and build the time series	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED	✗ NOT STARTED

Socioeconomic targets*

Latest results at June 2022 and progress since the baseline year



89.5%

of babies were born with a healthy birthweight in 2019



96.7%

of children were enrolled in preschool in 2021



34.3%

of children commencing school were developmentally on track in 2021



57.6 per 1000

children were in out-of-home care in 2021



23.2 per 10,000

young people were in detention in 2020-21



2222.7 per 100,000

adults in prison in 2021



27.9 per 100,000

people took their own life in 2020



4,027,232 km² of land

were subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests in 2021



90,555 km² of sea country

Key



Good improvement and on track



Improvement but not on track



Worsening, not on track

* Results relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and where new data are available since the previous Report

1. About this report

This is the second Annual Data Compilation Report (the Report) monitoring progress under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Agreement).

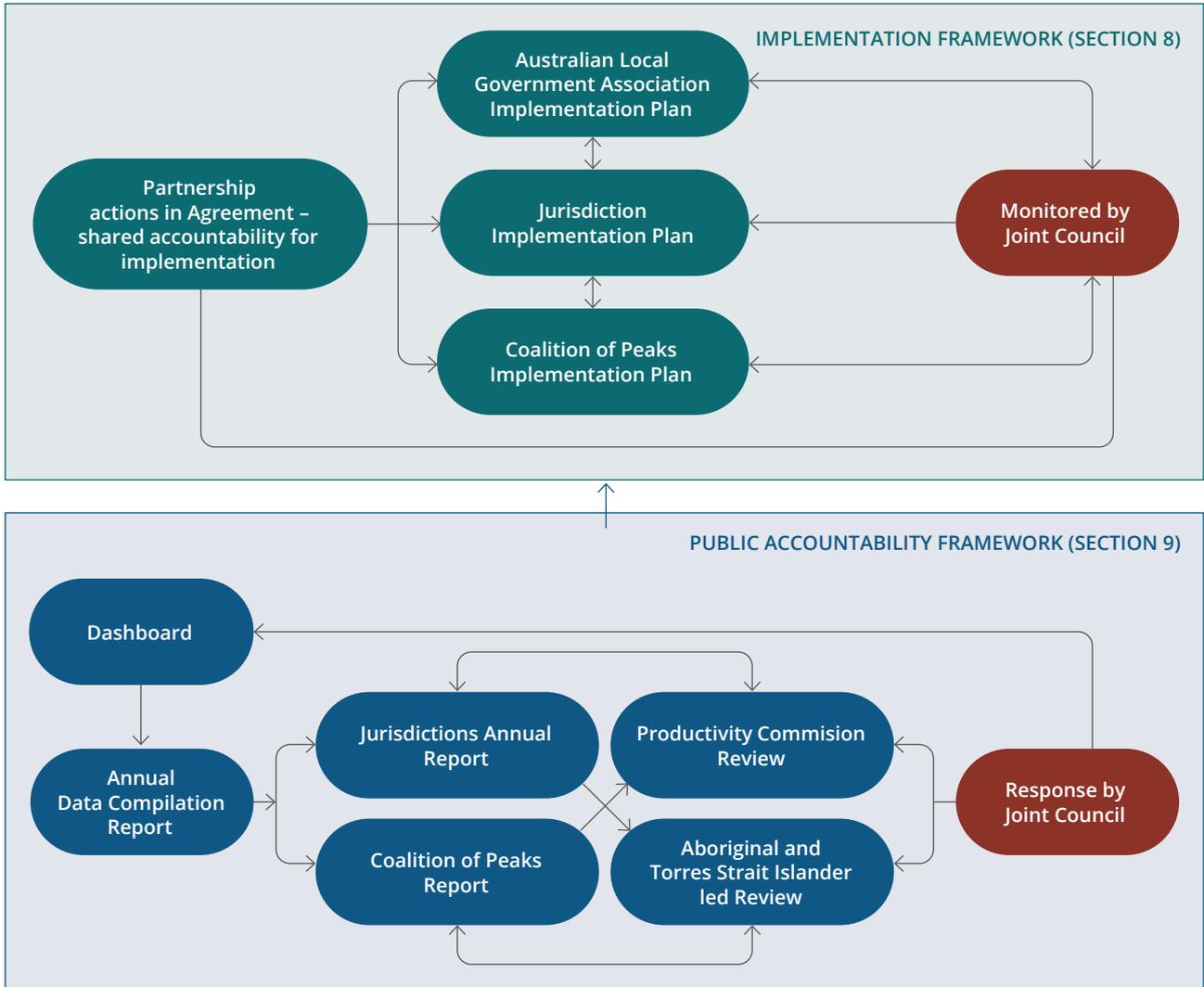
This section outlines the important role of monitoring progress for accountability under the Agreement, the framework for monitoring progress and what information is available. The remaining two sections discuss the importance of getting it right when monitoring progress under the Agreement to promote accountability, and what information is currently available to monitor progress for implementing the Priority Reforms (section 2) and achieving the socioeconomic outcomes (section 3).

Accountability under the Agreement

– what is the role of ‘monitoring of progress’?

The public implementation and accountability frameworks under the Agreement comprise a number of elements (figure 1.1). Together these elements commit the Parties — that is, Commonwealth, State and Territory governments, the Australian Local Government Association and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks) – to implement and be accountable for the agreed actions and progress under the Agreement (sections 8 and 9 of the Agreement).

FIGURE 1.1 – PUBLIC IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORKS



Key ———> Arrow shows the main direction of input across the elements.

A key element of the public accountability framework is the monitoring of progress toward achieving the agreed objective and the outcomes. Progress is monitored using data and information reported on the Closing the Gap Dashboard (the Dashboard) and in this Report.

The data and information used to monitor progress will also be key inputs to the other accountability elements. The other accountability elements include:

- annual reports prepared by each of the Parties to the Agreement setting out their progress under the Agreement and their Implementation Plans. These annual reports are to draw on information from the Dashboard and the Report to ensure consistency of measurement (clause 118.a)
- two independent but complementary three-yearly reviews, one by the Productivity Commission and the other led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A key part of

the Productivity Commission review will be to analyse progress on Closing the Gap (clause 121), which will draw on the data and information provided through the Dashboard and this Report along with other sources of information.

The data and information used to monitor progress will also inform and shape the implementation of the Agreement (figure 1.1). If progress toward an agreed outcome is not meeting expectations – that is, a target reported in this Report is not on track, or if one of the Productivity Commission’s three-yearly reviews indicates that achievement of an outcome is unlikely – actions to address this lack of progress are to be included in Jurisdictional Implementation Plans (clause 91).¹

¹ Jurisdictional in this context refers to Commonwealth, State and Territory governments.

What is the framework for monitoring progress under the Agreement?

The framework for monitoring progress under the Agreement is based on the objective and outcomes. Under the Agreement, all the Parties have committed to 'mobilising all avenues and opportunities available to them' (clause 16) to achieve the following objective:

'... to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians' (clause 15).

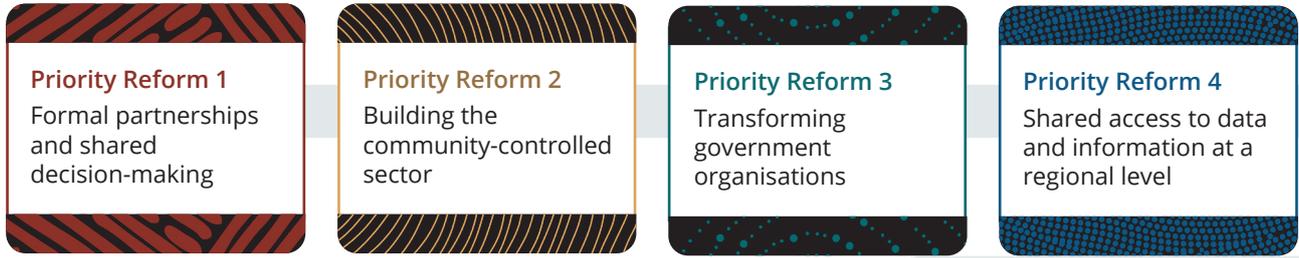
It is difficult to measure progress in achieving such a broadly stated objective, and to hold Parties to the Agreement accountable. Therefore, the Parties have also committed to specific outcomes against which progress can be measured (clause 17):

- *Priority Reform outcomes* — four outcomes related to reforming the way that government works to 'accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' (clause 25)
- *Socioeconomic outcomes* — outcomes important to the rights, wellbeing and quality of life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Currently there are 17 socioeconomic outcomes identified across a range of life areas including health, education, employment, housing, safety, and strength in culture and language.

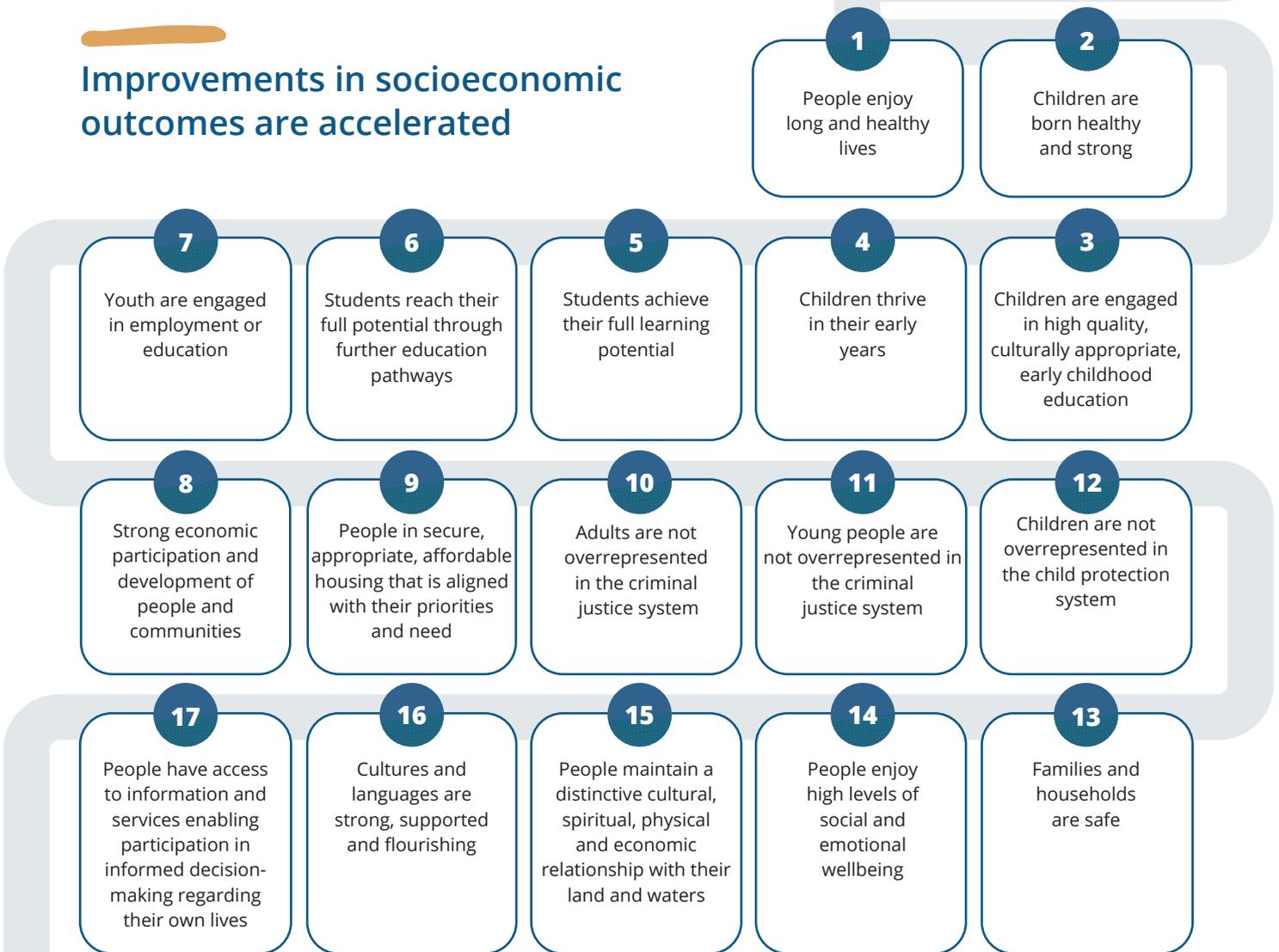
The framework for monitoring progress reflects the aim of the Agreement, that is, that full implementation of the Priority Reforms will support an accelerated improvement in the socioeconomic outcomes (clause 25), so that the objective can be achieved (figure 1.2). This is why progress is to be monitored for outcomes related to the implementation of the Priority Reforms, along with the socioeconomic outcomes (which cover the important elements of the broader 'life outcomes' referred to in the Agreement). Monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms will show if the Parties have done what they committed to. Monitoring the socioeconomic outcomes will show if life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are improving as a result.

FIGURE 1.2 – LOGIC OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR MEASURING PROGRESS

Priority Reforms are fully implemented



Improvements in socioeconomic outcomes are accelerated



Objective is achieved

To overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to all Australians

How is progress towards the outcomes being monitored?

Progress toward achieving the outcomes is being monitored through an agreed set of targets and indicators (figure 1.3). The targets are the key accountability measures for monitoring progress under the Agreement (clauses 81-82), but the Agreement also identifies supporting indicators that are to provide additional information on the drivers of the outcomes and further context.

Furthermore, to monitor how well the objective and outcomes are being achieved across the whole of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, the Agreement identifies different population groups, including cohorts experiencing vulnerability for whom data are to be disaggregated. In some cases, important information to understand progress is not currently available, so the Agreement includes data development items (which relate to both additional indicators and disaggregations), with work to develop these items currently underway.²

FIGURE 1.3 – MONITORING PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE OUTCOMES



² A Data Development Plan is anticipated to be provided to the Joint Council in July 2022. Details of the Plan are provided in clauses 92-95 of the Agreement.

What information for monitoring progress is now available?

The development of information for the Dashboard and this Report is being undertaken in stages. Since the last Report (July 2021), two Dashboard updates have been released (March and June 2022). This Report provides a snapshot of the results available as at 30 June 2022 (attachment A).

Work has begun to develop reporting for the Priority Reform outcome areas, but no data are yet available (see section 2 and attachment A).

For the socioeconomic outcome areas key data or information released since the last Report comprises:

- an additional year of data and new assessments of progress for eight socioeconomic targets – outcome areas 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15
- new disaggregations of data for eight targets – for different population groups, including by age group, sex, disability status, remoteness areas and socioeconomic status of the location – outcome areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 and 14
- data for 14 supporting indicators – across outcome areas 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 – with development work undertaken for one additional indicator in outcome area 13.



2. Monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms

The Priority Reforms are the foundation of the Agreement, with the Parties agreeing they are the key to its success. That is, the Parties have agreed that full implementation of the Priority Reforms will accelerate improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, so that their life outcomes are equal to other Australians (section 1).

The Priority Reforms commit the Parties to tangible actions. These actions are designed to change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities, and are also designed to support the prioritisation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures so that when implemented they promote rather than diminish these cultures (clauses 21-22 and 25). The Agreement includes jurisdictional and partnership actions (covering all Parties to the Agreement), and jurisdictions (Commonwealth, State and Territory governments) have committed to include 'actions to achieve the Priority Reforms' (clause 108.d) in their Implementation Plans.

Why is it important to monitor the implementation of the Priority Reforms and to get this monitoring right?

The Agreement takes a different approach to the previous agreement (the National Indigenous Reform Agreement), where monitoring focussed solely on socioeconomic outcomes. Although monitoring the socioeconomic outcomes is important and will continue, direct monitoring of the Priority Reforms is a key part of the new approach in the Agreement.

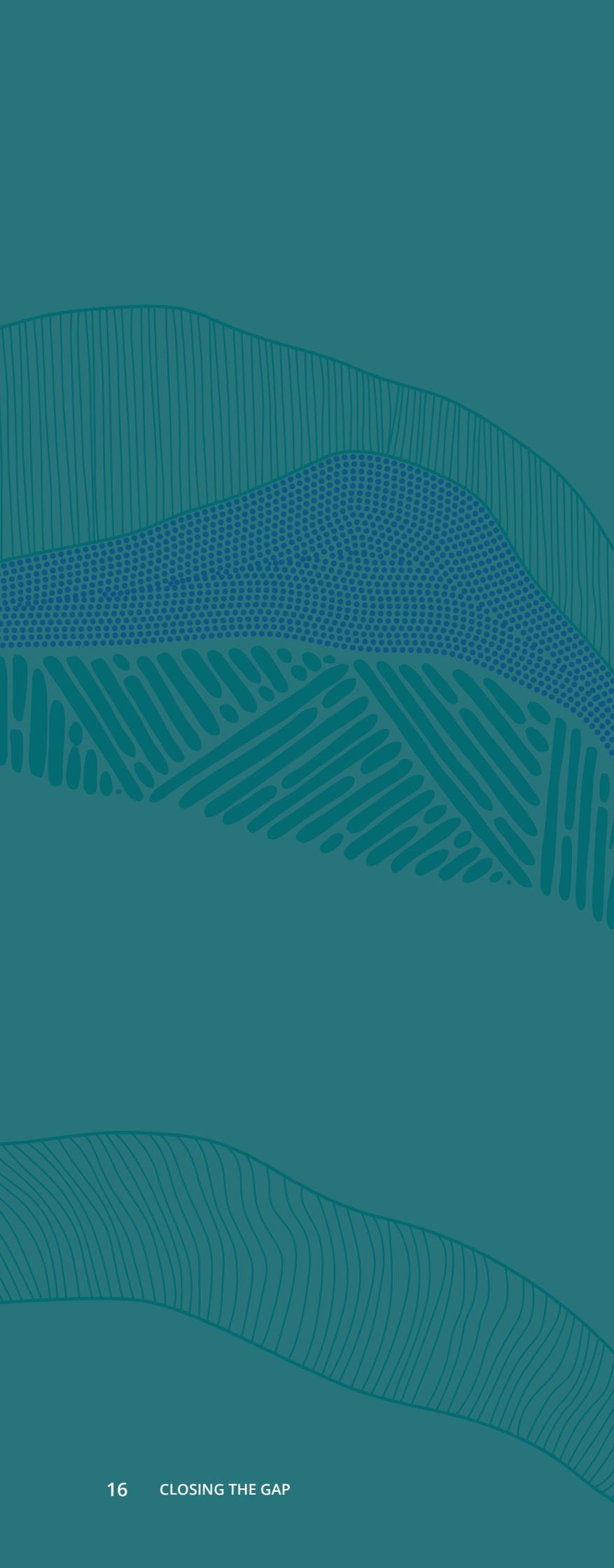
Directly monitoring the implementation of the Priority Reforms should promote accountability on the Parties for their actions under the Agreement; in particular, accountability on governments. For each Priority Reform outcome area, progress is to be monitored through:

- targets that 'focus on measuring the change governments are making in the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' (clause 79.a and table 2.1)
- supporting indicators that provide 'greater understanding of, and insight into, how all governments are tracking against the outcomes and targets' (clause 81.b.iii).

To promote accountability through this monitoring, it is important to get it right with the measurement of the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators.

TABLE 2.1 – OUTCOME AND TARGET FOR EACH OF THE PRIORITY REFORM AREAS

Priority Reform areas	Outcome	Target
 <p>Priority Reform 1 Formal partnerships and shared decision making</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements [clause 17.a].</p>	<p>There will be formal partnership arrangements to support Closing the Gap in place between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and governments in place in each state and territory enshrining agreed joint decision-making roles and responsibilities and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have chosen their own representatives [clause 81.a.i].</p>
 <p>Priority Reform 2 Building the community-controlled sector</p>	<p>There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country [clause 17.b].</p>	<p>Increase the amount of government funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services going through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations [clause 81.a.ii].</p>
 <p>Priority Reform 3 Transforming government organisations</p>	<p>Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund [clause 17.c].</p>	<p>Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism [clause 81.a.iii].</p>
 <p>Priority Reform 4 Shared access to data and information at a regional level</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development [clause 17.d].</p>	<p>Increase the number of regional data projects to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make decisions about Closing the Gap and their development [clause 81.a.iv].</p>



What does it take to get measurement of the Priority Reforms right and what progress has been made?

Getting the measurement right for the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators will take time. The measurement of the Priority Reforms is new so it is being developed largely from scratch, and at each phase the Parties need to agree on what is to be measured.

Work on developing measurement is underway but is in its early phases. Getting the measurement right in these early phases means the development is done in a consistent and coherent way across the Priority Reforms. This requires building a common understanding across the Parties about how the specified targets and indicators should be measured.

To guide the work, a tool has been agreed for use by the Parties. Development of this tool was phase one (now complete), with three subsequent phases (which include and implement the steps in the tool) to be completed before the final phase, which is the reporting of data on the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators (box 2.1). This Report will continue to monitor development of measurement across these phases and include data on the targets and indicators as they become available.

Work has also begun to develop and agree on 'measurement concepts and calculations' across the Priority Reforms (phase two). This requires considering how the targets and indicators can be measured so that they:

- show whether the outcome has been achieved — that is, what are the concepts to be measured and how does this relate to the outcome

- address a substantive element of the outcome
- enable improvements or worsening of the results to be linked back to actions of the Parties
- are based on clear definitions of key concepts, to which the Parties agree.

Using Priority Reform 3 as an example, some of the questions that might be answered as part of phase two include the following.

- Given the outcome identifies transforming governments, their organisations and institutions, should the target measure identify experiences of racism specifically when interacting with key government agencies and institutions (for example, across services such as police, child protection services and public hospitals)? Or, as the target does not specifically reference governments should it be interpreted more broadly to encompass racism experienced across the community?
- How are ‘experiences of racism’ to be defined – for example, should it be based on a person’s expectation of how they should be treated relative to how they were treated (that is, their view that they experienced/did not experience racism based on their perception of what racism is)? Or, should it be based on specific types of treatment experienced (that is direct and indirect actions that occurred, such as being physically or verbally abused due to race, or had to wait longer for a service than people of other races)?

Once the work of developing and agreeing ‘measurement concepts and calculations’ is completed, getting it right means developing, identifying and collating data that are fit for purpose (phase three). This would include for example, identifying data from sources where the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are embedded, and considering if the data are of good quality (for example, if collected using a survey is the sample sufficient to provide a reliable estimate).

BOX 2.1 - DEVELOPING MEASUREMENT OF THE PRIORITY REFORMS

Developing measurement of the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators – five key phases

The approach for developing measurement of the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators has five broad phases.

Phase One

Develop and agree an approach for developing measurement of the Priority Reform targets and supporting indicators.

Phase Two

Develop and agree on the measurement concepts and calculations: identify and define key concepts and describe how the measures will be calculated, that is how will they be put together (for example, numerator and denominator, and calculations).

Phase Three

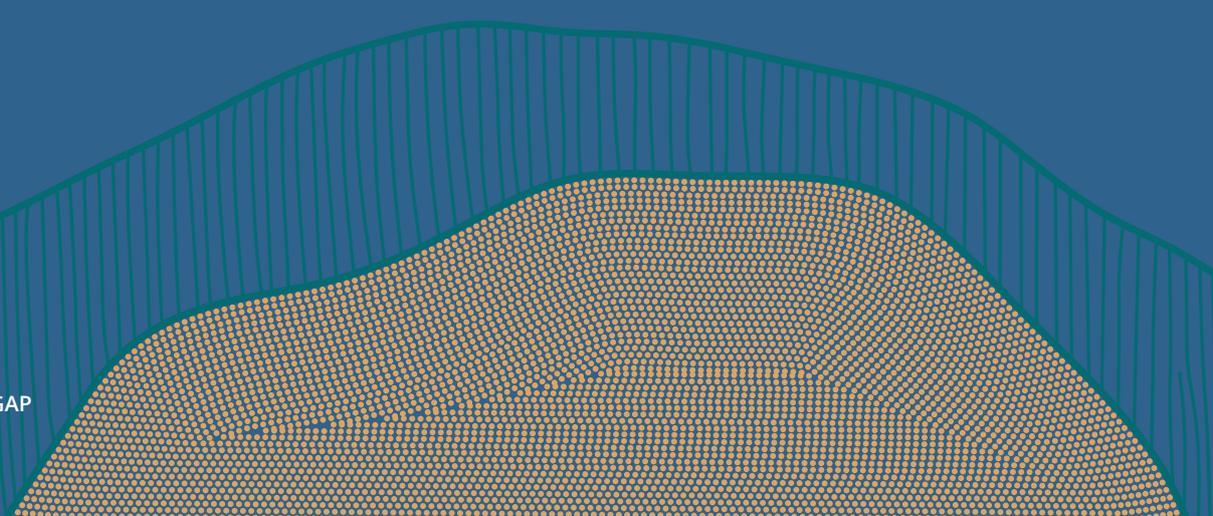
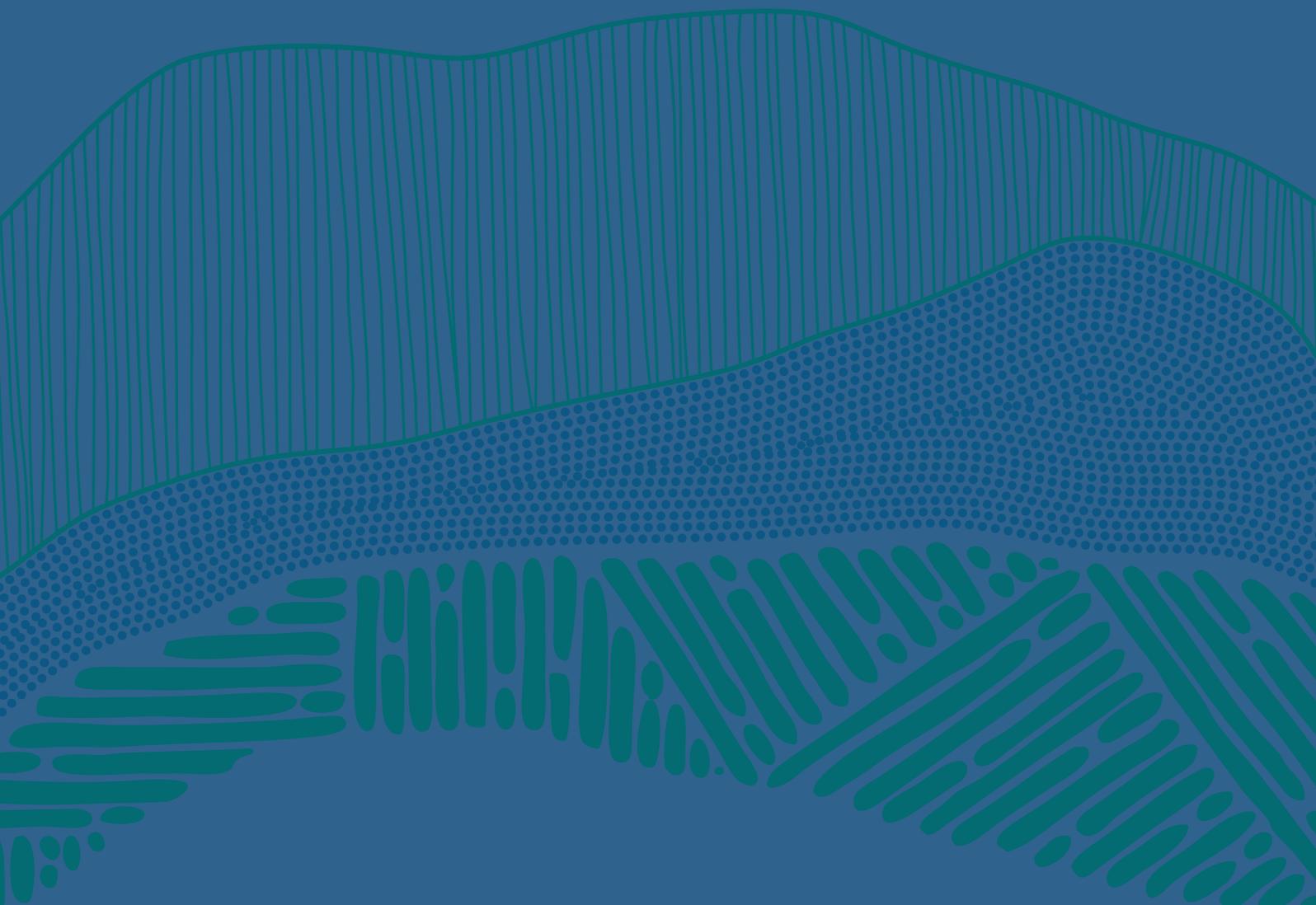
Develop data for reporting on the measures: develop and agree counting rules that align with the agreed definitions for the concepts, and identify potential data sources either from an existing source or the mechanism to collect them.

Phase Four

Collect the data for reporting: collate and validate the data and document any concerns with the measurement of indicators (for example, is it a proxy for the indicator) or data quality issues.

Phase Five

Report the data and build a time series for reporting.



3. Monitoring the socioeconomic outcomes

The socioeconomic outcomes focus on the life outcomes experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The life outcomes are in areas that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consider important for their wellbeing, including education, employment, health and wellbeing, interaction with the criminal justice system, access to land and waters, and the strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages.

Monitoring these socioeconomic outcomes will show if improvements in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are accelerating under the Agreement, so that their life outcomes become equal to other Australians (section 1). Information for understanding progress towards achieving these outcomes is now available on the targets both overall and for different population groups, along with some supporting indicators. Work to get the measurement right across the targets and indicators is ongoing, with the initial focus on improving the method for assessing progress and on developing reporting that better reflects the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

What can the latest results tell us?

Monitoring of the targets provides limited information on progress under the Agreement at this stage

The targets are the key mechanism for monitoring progress for the socioeconomic outcomes (section 1). A target provides a quantifiable measure of a life outcome for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be experienced in a future period (as specified in the Agreement). The baseline year for the target represents the starting point for that life outcome from which progress is measured.

At this stage, the monitoring of the targets provides limited information on progress *under* the Agreement (signed in July 2020) toward achieving the socioeconomic outcomes. For eight of the targets under the 17 socioeconomic outcome areas, no new data are available since the baseline year. For targets where new data are available since the baseline year:

- three have a new year of data from before or around the commencement of the Agreement (targets for socioeconomic outcome areas 1, 2 and 14)
- six have new data available for monitoring progress up to 2021, but this is still only one year after the commencement of the Agreement (targets for socioeconomic outcome areas 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 and 15).

Over time as more years of data become available, monitoring of the targets will provide greater insight into what progress is being made under the Agreement. An indication of how long this may take is provided under the current method for the assessments of progress, which requires at least five data points (for annual data this would be to 2025) to provide an assessment with a high degree of confidence (with this confidence level also subject to the variability of the data itself).

For the targets that have new assessments of progress, the results are mixed and most assessments need to be used with caution

While information to assess progress *under* the Agreement is limited, for the nine targets with new information available (since the 2021 Report³) it is possible to assess progress since the baseline year. These assessments show if outcomes are worsening, there is no change, or they are improving, and if this improvement continues whether it is sufficient for the target (the desired outcome) to be met in future at the national level.

All but one of these nine assessments should be considered with caution. They are based on trends estimated using a very limited number of data points (less than five years of data for all but one target. With limited data points (or years of data) it is difficult to know if the estimated trend is a real one that is likely to continue into future years. For the one target where the assessment is based on five or more data points (target 3), an indication of confidence in this assessment is provided. Please see the *How to interpret the data page* (www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data/how-to/interpret-data) for more information.

The results are mixed. A summary of the national assessments for the latest results is provided below:

Summary of the National Assessments

TARGET 1

Life expectancy is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are enjoying long and healthy lives. It is reported separately for males and females and measured relative to non-Indigenous people as a 'gap' in years of life.

Nationally, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males born in 2015–2017 are expected to live to 71.6 years and females to 75.6 years, which narrowed the gap in life expectancy from 2005–2007 for males (from 11.4 years to 8.6 years) and females (from 9.6 years to 7.8 years). While this represents an improvement, the national target of 'no gap' in life expectancy is not on track to be met for males or females – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

³ While there are nine targets with new information available since the baseline year, there is no new year of data since the 2021 Report for life expectancy (target 1). The new information for life expectancy relates to new data on disaggregations. A visual summary of the eight targets with a new year of data are provided in the summary section of this Report.

TARGET 3

Early childhood education enrolment rates is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years. It is reported as the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Year Before Full time Schooling (YBFS) age cohort who were enrolled in a preschool program.

Nationally in 2021, 96.7 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the YBFS age cohort were enrolled in a preschool program, which is an increase from 76.7 per cent in 2016 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of '95 per cent' on track to be met – this assessment is provided with a high level of confidence.

TARGET 4

Children assessed as developmentally on track is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are thriving in their early years. It is reported as the proportion of children commencing school who were assessed as being developmentally on track in all five Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains.

Nationally in 2021, 34.3 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children commencing school were assessed as being developmentally on track in all five AEDC domains, which is a decrease from 35.2 per cent in 2018 (the baseline year). This is a worsening in the result, with the national target of '55 per cent' not on track to be met – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

TARGET 2

Healthy birthweight is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong. It is reported as the proportion of babies born with a healthy birthweight.

Nationally in 2019, 89.5 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies born were of a healthy birthweight, which is an increase from 88.8 per cent in 2017 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of '91 per cent' on track to be met – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

TARGET 10

Rates of incarceration is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. It is reported as the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners per 100 000 adult population.

Nationally at 30 June 2021, the age-standardised rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners was 2222.7 per 100 000 adult population, which is an increase from 2142.9 per 100 000 adult population in 2019 (the baseline year). This is a worsening, with the national target of a *'reduction of at least 15 per cent in the incarceration rate'* not on track to be met – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

TARGET 12

Rates of children in out-of-home care is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are overrepresented in the child protection system. It is reported as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care.

Nationally in 2021, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0–17 years in out-of-home care was 57.6 per 1000 children in the population, which is an increase from 54.2 per 1000 children in 2019 (the baseline year). This is a worsening in the result, with the national target of a *'reduction in the rate of out-of-home care by 45 per cent'* not on track to be met – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

TARGET 11

Rates of youth detention is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are overrepresented in the criminal justice system. It is reported as the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention.

Nationally in 2020-21, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 10–17 years in detention on an average day was 23.2 per 10 000 young people in the population, which is a decrease from 31.9 per 10 000 young people in 2018-19 (the baseline year). This is a good improvement with the national target of a *'decrease of at least 30 per cent in the detention rate'* on track to be met – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

State and territory assessments of progress for these nine targets are also available (**attachment A**). Care should be taken in interpreting these assessments. They are not comparable to the national results as the State and Territory assessments are not tracked against an agreed target trajectory. Furthermore, different starting points (that is, baseline levels) across jurisdictions may influence the apparent nature and extent of progress. For example, a jurisdiction starting from a relatively poor baseline position (e.g. lower proportion of babies born with a healthy birthweight or higher rates of imprisonment relative to other jurisdictions) may see greater gains in the early years but could still be behind the national average at a point-in-time.

TARGET 14

Rates of suicide is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have high levels of social and emotional wellbeing. It is reported as the age-standardised suicide rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people per 100 000 people.

In 2020, the suicide rate (for NSW, Queensland, WA, SA and the NT combined) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was 27.9 per 100 000 people, which is an increase from 25.0 per 100 000 people in 2018 (the baseline year). This is a worsening, with the national target of a 'significant and sustained reduction in suicide towards zero' not on track to be met⁴ – however, this assessment should be used with caution as it is based on a limited number of data points.

⁴ This target has four possible trajectories based on a 20 per cent, 25 per cent, 50 per cent, and 75 per cent reduction in the suicide rate. The assessment is based on a 75 per cent reduction, as the most ambitious of the target trajectories.

TARGET 15

Land mass subject to, or sea covered by, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests is a measure of whether Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters. It is reported as square kilometres of the land mass or sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests.

Nationally in 2021, 4 027 232 square kilometres of the land mass and 90 555 square kilometres of the sea country were subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests, which is an increase from 3 911 679 square kilometres of the land mass and 90 252 square kilometres of the sea country in 2020 (the baseline year). This is good improvement for land mass with the national target of a '15 per cent' increase in land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests on track to be met, and while it is an improvement for sea country, this improvement is not enough for the national target of a '15 per cent' increase in sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights or interests to be met. However, these assessments should be used with caution as they are based on a limited number of data points.

These aggregated results should also be considered alongside the results for different population groups

The assessments of progress for these nine targets are highly aggregated, and may not reflect the outcomes for different groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Outcomes can vary as some groups experience additional barriers, including their location (for example, through reduced availability of key services and infrastructure) or personal circumstances (for example, through reduced mobility related to disability). Furthermore, some personal characteristics while not necessarily creating barriers, can influence outcomes for some targets, for example age and gender. To understand how the outcomes vary across different groups, disaggregations of the targets are now reported, including by remoteness areas, gender, and disability status.

While information on outcomes across different population groups (that is, disaggregations of the targets) is somewhat limited at this stage, some broad patterns emerge from the available data. One clear emerging pattern is that barriers to better outcomes appear to have a greater impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people than non-Indigenous people in regional and remote areas. That is, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people typically experience increasingly poor outcomes as remoteness increases, which is not the case for non-Indigenous people with the exception of suicide rates (see figure 3.1).

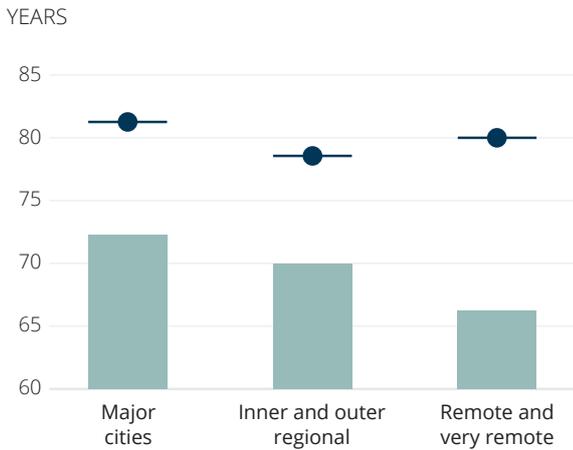
Living in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic areas and being male also appear to impact negatively on some outcomes, a pattern that is experienced by both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people.

Some of the key data gaps or limitations for reporting on the different population groups include:

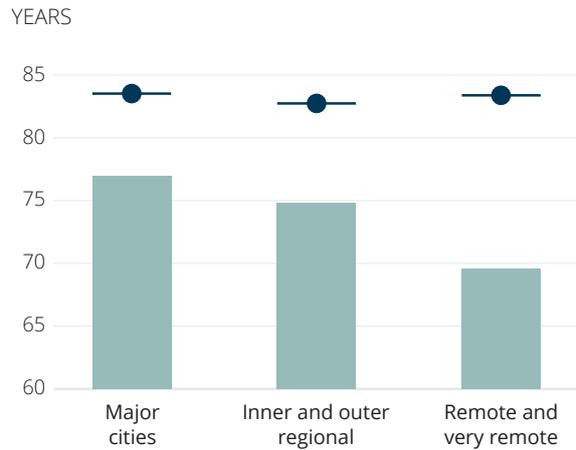
- across all targets for people with disability – data are not reported for some key targets (for example, for adult and young prisoners) and the information that is reported for most targets needs to be improved or developed (for example, for rates of children with disability in out-of-home care, the identification of disability in the administrative data set needs to improve and a comparable population estimate for children with disability needs to be developed)
- for adult and youth imprisonment rates – data sets with information on geographic location where prisoners resided before entering prison need to be developed, so outcomes can be understood for those from different geographic or socioeconomic status areas.

FIGURE 3.1 – OUTCOMES ACROSS REMOTENESS AREAS FOR THE SOCIOECONOMIC TARGETS

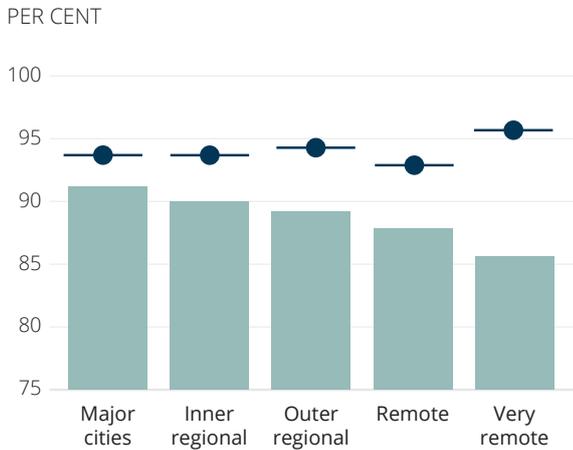
Male life expectancy (2015–2017)



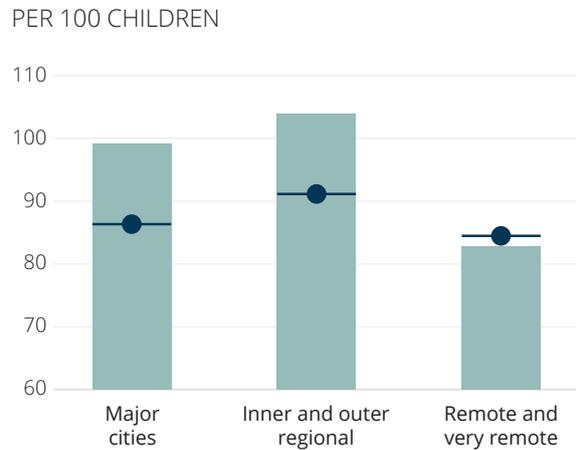
Female life expectancy (2015–2017)



Healthy birthweight (2019)

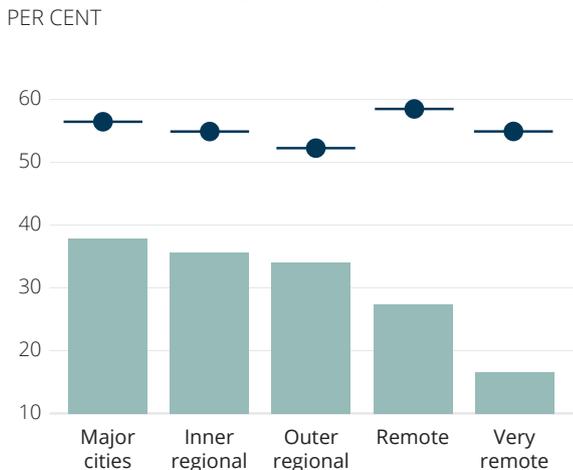


Preschool enrolment (2020 AND 2021)

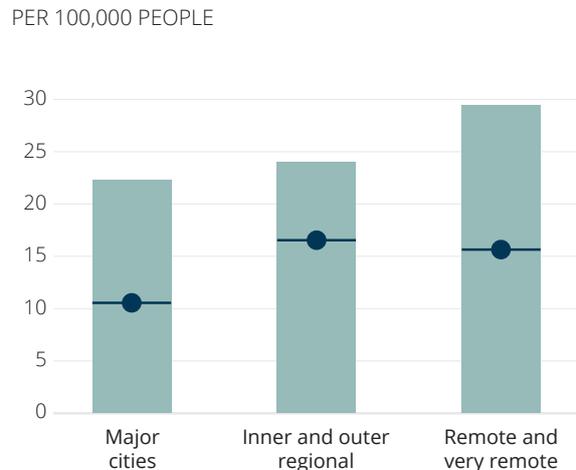


Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are for 2021 and for non-Indigenous people are for 2020

Children developmentally on track (2021)



Suicide rates (2016–2020)



Key

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Non-Indigenous people

Results for supporting indicators are now available and help to provide a more complete story

Supporting indicators are also now available across the socioeconomic outcome areas. Development of the supporting indicators is to be done in stages, and work has begun on 15 of these indicators, although data are only available for 14 for this Report. These supporting indicators provide information on the drivers of the outcomes and other contextual factors. And, along with the target disaggregations, can support the overall target results to provide a more complete story on progress toward the socioeconomic outcomes.

Some socioeconomic outcome areas now have new data for all three types of reporting: that is, the overall target, disaggregations of the target and supporting indicators. One such area is 'young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system' and provides an example of how these elements of reporting can be pieced together to illustrate the performance story (box 3.1).

What is being done to get measurement of the socioeconomic outcomes right?

As with the Priority Reforms, to promote accountability through monitoring it is important to get it right with the measurement of the targets and supporting indicators for the socioeconomic outcome areas. The key accountability mechanism to assess progress toward an agreed outcome is if a target is 'on track', and if it is assessed as 'not on track' actions to address this lack of progress are to be included in Jurisdictional Implementation Plans (clause 91). Given this, the measurement of progress towards meeting the target needs to be done well. Furthermore, accountability will also be promoted by ensuring that the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the outcomes is provided through data accessed for the supporting indicators.

With this in mind, there are two important areas that will be the initial focus for getting measurement right for the socioeconomic outcome areas:

- ensuring the assessments of progress for the targets are accurate and comprehensive – that is, they use robust and fit-for-purpose statistical methods and can assess if the contribution of each state and territory toward achieving the national target is adequate. The current method, while improved from the initial one used for the first release of the Dashboard, is still subject to review and ongoing improvements and currently does not assess the relative contribution of each state and territory in meeting the national target.

- developing indicators using data that better capture Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives – that is, investigating what community controlled data sets are available that could replace, supplement and/or enhance existing datasets that are predominately government controlled.

BOX 3.1 - WHAT THE LATEST RESULTS CAN TELL US ABOUT THE SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREAS

Case study of outcome 11 'young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system'

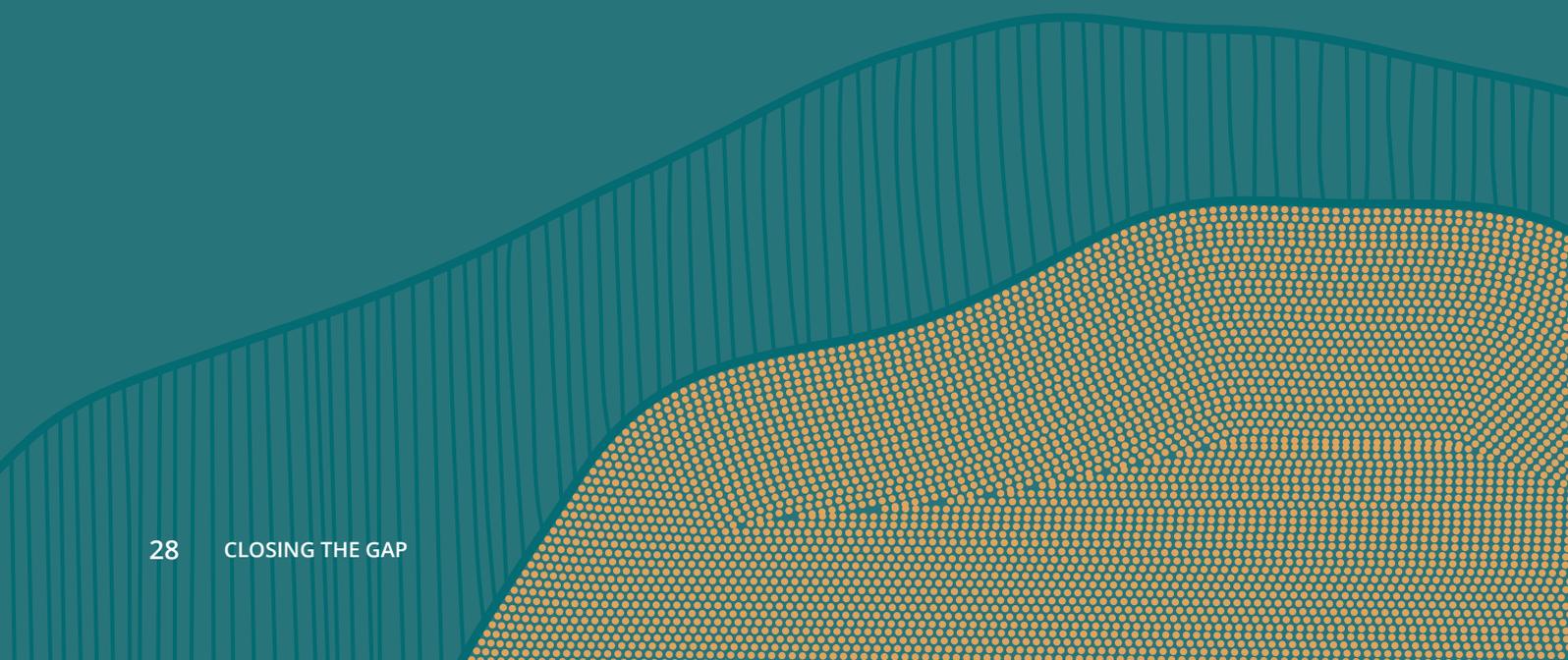
Imprisonment rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (aged 10–17 years) are decreasing, and if this trend continues they are on track to fall more than 30 per cent by 2031. Overrepresentation is also decreasing, and while it is close to 18 times the rate for non-Indigenous young people it has decreased from 26 times in 2015-16 (table CtG11A.1).

Imprisonment rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young males are higher than for young females (around 8 times), but rates have decreased for both since 2018-19. The rate for females decreased by 35 per cent from 2018-19 to 2020-21 (7.8 to 5.1 per 10 000 young females) with the rate for males falling by 26 per cent over the same period (55.0 to 40.5 per 10 000 young males) (table CtG11A.2).

System and structural factors can contribute to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people's overrepresentation in prison, including:

- the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) – currently the age at which a child is deemed capable of having committed a criminal offence is 10 years or over, with this policy more likely to affect Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people.
 - In 2020-21, around three-quarters of young people aged 10-13 years in prison were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (28 of the 38), compared to around half of those aged 14 years or over (308 of 602) (table CtG11A.4).
 - If the MACR was raised to 14 years old, the number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people in prison would decrease by around 8 per cent (compared to 3 per cent for non-Indigenous young people) (table CtG11A.4), which would go some way to reducing, but not eradicating, the overrepresentation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander young people in detention.
- the way young people are dealt with by police – for those states and territories reporting data (five of eight jurisdictions), three saw a decrease in the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were proceeded against by police since 2018-19 (table SE11c.1). However, in 2020-21 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were still more likely than non-Indigenous young people:
 - to have been proceeded against by police (from three to 17 times more likely across the five jurisdictions reported), and proceeded against more than once (tables SE11c1-2)
 - to be proceeded against with court rather than non-court action (table SE11c.4), noting that these data are only available for three jurisdictions.

Gaps to be addressed to improve current reporting on young people in detention include the provision of data on where young people lived before entering detention and if they had disability. For proceedings by police against young people, data quality issues need to be addressed to enable reporting for all jurisdictions.



ATTACHMENT A:

Dashboard snapshots and data for download

Priority Reform areas

Priority Reform 1
Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed

Priority Reform 2
Building the community-controlled sector

Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed

Priority Reform 3
Transforming government organisations

Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed

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

Measures and data for the target and indicators are yet to be developed

Socioeconomic outcome areas

Summary snapshots for the 17 socioeconomic outcome areas are included below.

- Assessments of progress are available for nine targets. The assessments reflect progress from the baseline.
- Data are available for 14 new supporting indicators reported across socioeconomic outcome areas.

Explanation of the range of assessments of progress:

	Good improvement and on track
	Improvement but not on track
	Improvement
	No change
	Worsening

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 1

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy long and healthy lives

Target 1: Life expectancy

For children born between 2015-17

				ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2005-07 to 2015-17								
Gender	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	Gap	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
Female	75.6 yrs	83.4 yrs	7.8 yrs	➡	..	➡	➡	..	..	..	➡	🇺🇸
Male	71.6 yrs	80.2 yrs	8.6 yrs	➡	..	➡	➡	..	..	..	➡	🇺🇸

Supporting indicator 1e: Access/use of health services

In 2020-21, 271.8 per 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (over one in four) had an Indigenous-specific health check, which is an increase from 2016-17. Most people (around 95 per cent) had a health check at a health care facility, with the remainder accessing a check via telehealth or in residential aged care.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 2

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are born healthy and strong

Target 2: Healthy birthweight

Proportion of live-born singleton babies, 2019

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2017 to 2019								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
89.5%	93.9%	🇺🇸	➡	➡	➡	➡	➡	🇺🇸	➡	✔

Supporting indicator 2d: Use of antenatal care

In 2019, over two-thirds of pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women attended antenatal care in their first trimester (68.2 per cent), and almost 9 in 10 attended five or more antenatal visits during pregnancy. These proportions represent an increase from 2017.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 3

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are engaged in high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood education in their early years

Target 3: Preschool program

Proportion of children in the state-specific year before full time schooling (YBFS) age cohort who are enrolled, 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2016 to 2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
96.7%	86.7%	➡	➡	➡	➡	➡	➡	➡	🇺🇸	✔
Confidence in assessment of progress		High	High	High	High	High	High	High	Low	High

Supporting indicator 3b: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood education and care service providers

In 2021, there were 99 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community-controlled integrated early years services, which is an increase from 86 services in 2016.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 4

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children thrive in their early years

Target 4: Children developmentally on track

Proportion of children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census, 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2018 TO 2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
34.3%	56.2%									

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full learning potential

Target 5: Year 12 or equivalent

Proportion of people aged 20-24 years who have attained Year 12 or equivalent, 2016

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
63.2%	88.5%

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 6

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve their full potential through further education pathways

Target 6: Tertiary qualification

Proportion of people aged 25-34 years who have completed a tertiary qualification, 2016

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
42.3%	72.0%

Supporting indicator 6a: Higher education commencement, attrition and completion rates

In 2020, 5360 Aboriginal and Torres Strait people commenced a domestic bachelor degree, a 10 per cent increase from 2016. However, not all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students that commence a degree complete their study.

- For those who commenced study in 2019, 22.8 per cent did not return the following year to complete their degree, which is slightly below the rate in 2016
- For those who commenced study in 2017, 24.5 per cent of students completed their degree by 2020; this increased to 41.5 and 49.4 per cent who completed their degree by 2020 for those who commenced in 2015 and 2012 respectively.

Supporting indicator 6c: Vocational Education and Training (VET) commencements, attrition and completion rates

In 2020, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students aged 34 years or under commenced 33 411 VET qualifications (Certificate level III or above), which is less than the 39 750 qualifications commenced in 2016.

It is projected that almost four in ten qualifications commenced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in this age group in 2019 will be completed within four years.

Legend
.. Not applicable na Not available

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 7

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth are engaged in employment or education

Target 7: Youth engagement

Proportion of people aged 15-24 years who are in employment, education or training, 2016

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
57.2%	79.6%

Supporting indicator 7a: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not engaged in employment, education or training

In 2016, of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people:

- 42.8 per cent were not fully engaged in employment, education or training
- 15.1 per cent were not fully engaged and provided unpaid care or assistance to a child or person with disability
- 9.0 per cent were partially engaged via part time employment
- 2.4 per cent were not fully engaged and needed assistance with core activities.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 8

Strong economic participation and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities

Target 8: Employed

Proportion of people aged 25-64 who are employed, 2016

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
51.0%	75.7%

Supporting indicator 8d: Employment (people aged 25-64 years) by occupation

In 2016, the occupation with the most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was community or personal service workers (with 8.6 per cent of people), followed by professional (8.1 per cent).

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 9

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people secure appropriate, affordable housing that is aligned with their priorities and need

Target 9: Appropriate housing

Proportion of people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing, 2016

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
78.9%	92.9%

Supporting indicator 9e: Acceptable standard of housing

In 2018-19, 80.2 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households (around four in five) lived in housing of an acceptable standard. Most lived in houses with working facilities, such as washing facilities, while around two-thirds lived in dwellings with no major structural problems.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 10

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

Target 10: Adults held in incarceration

Imprisonment rate per 100,000 adult population, 30 June 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2019 TO 2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
2,222.7 per 100,000	164.2 per 100,000									

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 11

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system

Target 11: Young people in detention

Young people aged 10-17 years in detention on an average day, rate per 10,000, 2020-21

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2018-19 TO 2020-21								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
23.2 per 10,000	1.3 per 10,000						..	..

Supporting indicator 11c: Alleged young offenders (aged 10–17 years) involved in police proceedings

In 2020-21, across the five jurisdictions with data, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people proceeded against by police ranged from 406.0 to 782.4 per 10 000. A young person may be proceeded against more than once in a year, with the average ranging from 1.7 to 3.6 times, and between 10.2 and 40.2 per cent were proceeded against three or more times. For each of the three jurisdictions with data, more than half of these proceedings were court actions rather than non-court actions (such as cautions).

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 12

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system

Target 12: Children in out-of-home care

Children ages 0-17 years in out-of-home care, rate per 1000 children, 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2019-2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
57.6 per 1000	5.0 per 1000									

Supporting indicator 12b: Children in out-of-home care (0-17 years old)

In 2021, 42.2 per cent of children in out-of-home care were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander – an increase of 2.2 percentage points since 2019. In comparison, 6.0 per cent of children in the general population were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Legend

.. Not applicable

na Not available

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 13

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe

Target 13: Family violence

Proportion of females 15+ years old who experienced domestic physical or threatened physical harm, 2018-19

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
8.4%	na

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 14

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing

Target 14: Social and emotional wellbeing

Mortality due to suicide, rate per 100 000 population (age standardised), Total (NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT), 2020

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2018 TO 2020								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
27.9 per 100,000	na	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Supporting indicator 14e: Barriers accessing health services

In 2018-19, 18.9 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people did not see a dentist, 12.5 per cent did not visit a GP or clinic doctor, and less than 10 per cent did not visit a counsellor, other health professionals or the hospital, when needed in the previous 12 months.

The reasons for not visiting health care professionals when needed varied by type of service. One of the top reasons for not visiting a GP or clinic doctor was being too busy, while for a dentist the top reason was cost.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 15

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people maintain a distinctive cultural, spiritual, physical and economic relationship with their land and waters

Target 15A: Relationship with land

Area of Land mass subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests, 30 June 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2020 TO 2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
4,027,232 sq km	..									

Target 15B: Relationship with waters

Area of Sea country subject to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's legal rights or interests, 30 June 2021

		ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS 2020 TO 2021								
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	AUST
90,555 sq km	..							..		

Supporting indicator 15a: Land and water ownership

As at June 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people owned or controlled 16.1 per cent of Australia's land. The proportion is the same as for June 2020.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages are strong, supported and flourishing

Target 16: Languages

Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages spoken, 2018-19	Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strong languages spoken, 2018-19
123	14

Supporting indicator 16e: Accessing Commonwealth funded Indigenous language centres

As at 30 June 2021, there were 20 Commonwealth funded Indigenous Language Centres, of which 18 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled. These numbers are unchanged from 30 June 2019. During 2020-21, 20 443 people were recorded as accessing an activity at these Centres, an increase of 3.7 per cent (720 people) from 2018-19.

SOCIOECONOMIC OUTCOME AREA 17

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision-making regarding their own lives

Target 17: Digital inclusion

Proportion of people who accessed the internet in the last 12 months, 15+ years old, 2014-15

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Non-Indigenous people
73.5%	na

Supporting indicator 17e: Using the internet to access government services

In 2014-15, 48.8 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or older used the internet to access government information or services for private purposes. Looking at different uses, 43.9 per cent used the internet to make lodgements to government and 24.0 per cent used the internet to get government information or services.

Legend

.. Not applicable

na Not available

www.pc.gov.au/closing-the-gap-data

