

# Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

WALGA's work regularly takes us across the State and as such we would like to acknowledge the many traditional owners of the land on which we work throughout Western Australia.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

*Pictured right: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar, Eastern Arrernte, Irish woman from Perth. The creation story for this area is about the Waugal/Waagyl (Rainbow Serpent).*



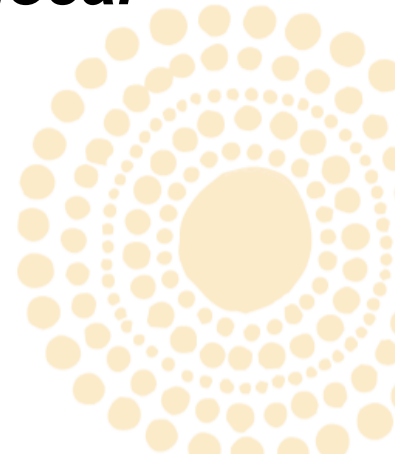


***“All Local Governments are unique. There are currently 537 Local Governments which make up the third tier of government in the Australian federal system. Each Council provides local solutions to local issues.”***

*ALGA draft Closing The Gap Implementation Plan*



AUSTRALIAN  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
ASSOCIATION



# Priority Reform One: Partnership and shared decision-making

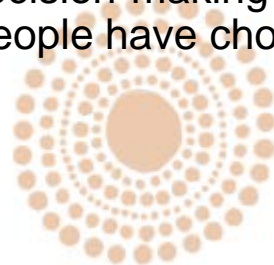
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**Outcome:** People are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.

**Target:** 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.

- Policy Partnerships
- Place-based Partnerships



# Priority Reform One: Partnership and shared decision-making

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**Key action PR1.1** ALGA and each state and territory local government association to work with the state and territory governments to identify any legislative impediments to joint decision making on Closing the Gap.

**Key action PR1.2** The state and territory local government associations and individual councils (where relevant) be involved in any stocktake and/or health checks of existing partnerships between Government and Aboriginal Partnership Organisations.

**Key action PR1.3** ALGA and state and territory local government associations to identify principles relevant to effective partnerships involving local governments that builds on successes seen through the stocktake and health check process. These principles to be made publicly available and build upon the characteristics of shared decision making (cl 32c).

**Key action PR1.4** The state and territory local government associations will be engaged in the relevant policy partnerships at a jurisdictional level whilst ALGA will engage at the national level.

**Key action PR1.5** The relevant local governments to actively participate in the place-based partnerships with support from State Government and LG Association.

**Key action PR1.6** ALGA and the state and territory local government associations to promote local governments participation in priority reform 1 partnerships and report annually. Best practice to be publicly recognised.

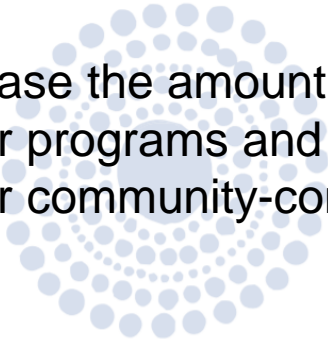
# Priority Reform Two: Building the community-controlled sector

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**Outcome:** Building the community-controlled sector: 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.

**Target:** 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.



# Priority Reform Two: Building the community-controlled sector

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**Key action PR2.1** ALGA and state and territory local government associations participate in the development and implementation of Sector Strengthening Plans for the ACCO sector.

**Key action PR2.2** State and territory local government associations to work with state and territory governments to review procurement policies and guidelines to facilitate greater ACCOs participation in Local Government tenders for goods, services and construction/maintenance contracts.

**Key action PR2.3** As part of the 2021 Local Government Skills and Capability Project being led by ALGA with the state and territory local government associations, consider issues associated with employment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and opportunities for joint training and development with ACCOs.

# Priority Reform Three: Transforming government organisations

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**Outcome:** Improving mainstream institutions: 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.

**Target:** Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have experiences of racism.

# Priority Reform Three:

## Transforming government organisations

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**Key Action PR 3.1** State and territory local government associations to facilitate council access to toolkits and cultural awareness training to support a culturally capable and confident workforce.

**Key Action PR 3.2** ALGA and state and territory local government associations to encourage all councils to develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan that aligns with Closing the Gap objectives.

**Key Action PR 3.1** ALGA and state and territory local government associations to showcase councils with Reconciliation Action Plans and/or undertaking other activities that improve the cultural appropriateness of council services.



# Reconciliation Action Planning and Closing the Gap



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jkdly17yF4&t> (Cr Brooke O'Donnell, City of Kalamunda)

# Priority Reform Four:

## Shared access to data and information at a regional level

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**Outcome:** 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.

**Target:** 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.



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

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**Key Action PR 4.1** ALGA and state and territory local government associations to encourage councils who are involved in the six Community Data Project Sites to capture their learnings so that these can be collated and made available to all local governments to inform their deliberations on relevant data collection and sharing.

**Key Action PR4.2** ALGA will alert state and territory local government associations to critical issues that would benefit from improved reporting that are raised at the Joint Council meetings, to assist them and state and territory jurisdictions to improve information to be collected and shared.

# Next Steps

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- ALGA's Implementation Plan will be published shortly
- ALGA continue to represent Local Government on the Joint Council and Partnership Working Group
- ALGA will establishment an association Indigenous Affairs officers' group (including WALGA)
- WALGA will continue to support the Aboriginal Engagement Network, deliver showcase events and support the sector
- Closing the Gap is a priority in the Partners in Government Agreement

*Pictured right: Artwork by Kevin Bynder, a Whadjuk-Yuet-Balaadong man from his mother and a Badamia Yamatji from his father. This painting shows Whadjuk Country.*



# Aboriginal Engagement Network



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