

Data Policy Partnership Communique

Meeting Four Outcomes

The Data Policy Partnership (DPP) held its fourth meeting on Yuggera and Turrbal Country (Brisbane) on 25 and 26 August 2026.

Members were welcomed to Country by Baringa Barambah, a Turrbal Songwoman. She delivered a Welcome to Country which included a blessing, traditional songs and an invitation to recognise our shared humanity through the spirit of Country.

Coalition of Peaks Co-Chair, Sharif Deen and Australian Bureau of Statistics Co-Chair, Dr Phillip Gould hosted the meeting and opened by recapping outcomes from Meeting Three. Co-Chairs noted any apologies and proxies, including Queensland Government whose proxy representative was unable to agree to any decisions or recommendations.

Community Data Projects (CDPs)

DPP members discussed the work of CDPs and the DPP's role in relation to CDPs. The difference between community evaluations and external evaluations of CDPs was identified as significant, recognising that community perspectives should shape measures of success and future reporting. Members agreed to work with the Co-Secretariat to develop materials that support engagement with Joint Council and better articulate key enablers, barriers and lessons emerging from the CDP experience.

Engagement with other Policy Partnerships

DPP members discussed and noted two data proposals from the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership (ECCDPP) and the Justice Policy Partnership (JPP). Members discussed the importance of embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty and Governance in projects led by other Policy Partnerships and that the full implementation of Maiam nayri Wingara principles should remain the goal. The DPP agreed to further discussion with the JPP.

Data Reporting Working Group (DRWG) Terms of Reference Refresh

DPP members discussed the purpose of the DRWG and its relationship to the DPP. The DPP agreed to continue discussions with the DRWG convenors.

NSW case study: Shared Access to Data Policy

The NSW member and the Principal Policy and Reform Manager, NSW Department of Customer Service presented the NSW Shared Access to Data for Aboriginal Communities Policy, developed as part of a broader Priority Reform 4 investment package. DPP

members agreed that other jurisdictions could learn from this policy and partnership approach.

Annual Report

DPP members discussed opportunities for DPP to support system wide change to realise shared access to data and information at a regional level. Members agreed the Annual Report should shift from primarily describing barriers to focusing on lessons learned, opportunities, and the system-wide reforms and commitments needed to accelerate Priority Reform Four. Members agreed to provide detailed feedback to the Co-Secretariat.

Indigenous Data Entity update

Data Policy Partnership members discussed the next steps to explore options for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data entity. Discussion highlighted the importance of clearly defining the scope, objectives and key concepts to support a shared understanding of the work. Members agreed that these considerations should be reflected in the next phase of work.

Members agreed to seek clarification from Joint Council around the scope of this next phase with a view to present options that are reflective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community expectations and Priority Reform Four.

Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) presentation

Jacob Madden, Chief Data and Analytics Officer at the CDC presented on the establishment journey of the CDC as an entity and the role of data in the CDC's mission.

Australian Centre for Evaluation (ACE) presentation

Dr Ruth Nicholls, Director of Evaluation Leadership at ACE spoke about the work of ACE, particularly place-based evaluation. DPP members discussed the role of non-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander evaluators in government evaluations. Members agreed to continue discussions with ACE.

Commonwealth Priority Reform Strategy

DPP members discussed the Commonwealth Priority Reform Strategy, noting there are contextual differences and approaches across jurisdictions and communities. Success measures for government and partnerships, and incorporation of Maiam nayri Wingara principles were identified as areas to consider in a DPP recommendation.

DPP Year Two

DPP members agreed to carry forward Year One priorities to Year Two. Members discussed the importance of open and frank sharing with each other to strengthen collective

understanding of the different contexts in which Priority Reform Four is being delivered. Members agreed on a new approach to reporting and that future agendas would include more presentations from jurisdictions on their implementation experiences and lessons learned.

Other business

DPP Members present endorsed recommending publication of the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms Performance Measurement Project 2023-24 Report (ANZSOG Report).