

Data Policy Partnership Communique

Meeting Three Outcomes

The Data Policy Partnership held its third meeting on Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country (Canberra) on 19 and 20 May 2026.

Members were welcomed to Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country by Aunty Dr Caroline Hughes, who spoke about data as deeply connected to people, culture and identity, and highlighted the longstanding systems of knowledge, accountability and governance that existed to care for data well before modern institutions.

Coalition of Peaks Co-Chair, Sharif Deen and Australian Bureau of Statistics Co-Chair, Dr Phillip Gould hosted the meeting and opened proceedings by recapping the outcomes from meeting two.

Engagement and Policy Partnerships Update

Data Policy Partnership members noted the Co-Chairs update on engagement with all Policy Partnerships. DPP members agreed a role for DPP setting standards, being a leading example of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty and Governance and how this can be applied practically.

Community Data Projects Relationship with Place Based Partnership

Data Policy Partnership members noted the importance of partnership between Community Data Projects and Place Based Partnerships and discussed potential to ensure measurements for Priority Reform 4 with a focus on data governance, access, Government capability and use.

Members heard "there is no right or wrong way, if it is driven by community need" and that definitions of success do not always reflect Community expectations.

Community Data Projects

Data Policy Partnership members discussed the governance approaches to community data projects with focus on Community and a request for Government members to report back to the Data Policy Partnership on Commonwealth funding received for Community Data Projects.

Guidance on existing Government Data Access and Services

Data Policy Partnership members discussed and agreed the approach to the development of a guide on existing government data access and services, including the proposed structure to the guide. The guide is intended to meet the data needs of all

stakeholders, including Community and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

Closing the Gap Priority Reforms Performance Measurement reporting to Partnership Working Group

Data Policy Partnership members discussed and agreed their approach to their reporting progress to the Partnership Working Group and their response to the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms Measurement Project 2023-24 (ANZSOG Report).

DPP members agreed there was value in highlighting data projects that are working well and welcome contributions from Community at dppsecretariat@coalitionofpeaks.org.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Entity Options Study

Data Policy Partnership discussed and agreed the draft desktop review, with amendments to reflect recommendations that map against Maiam Nayri Wingara principles to inform potential Indigenous data entities to support work on the Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Action 2.2 (establish a Bureau of Indigenous Data).

Project Proposal and Procurement Update

Data Policy Partnership members agreed with further information on methodology and costings for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Entity Options Study and an overview of the procurement process.

Data Policy Partnership members agreed to nominations for Tender Evaluation Committee and/or Technical Advisor roles.

Joint Council Reporting

Data Policy Partnership members discussed and agreed the content and format of reporting to Joint Council due in November 2026 including a one-page strategic overlay to support engagement of Joint Council members.

Data Policy Partnership members discussed the Statutory Review of the Data Availability and Transparency Act 2022, the Commonwealth Priority Reform Strategy progress and the Data Policy Partnership meeting four agenda, which will take place on 25 and 26 August on Yuggera and Turrbal Country in Meanjin (Brisbane).