



# First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 6

## Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group held its sixth meeting on Thursday 22 February, 2024. The meeting was held on Gadigal land in Sydney.

### The Regional Telecommunications Review

The Advisory Group was joined by the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, Chair of the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee. Ms MacTiernan provided an update on the progress of the Review to date, including outlining some of the issues it is likely to consider.

The Advisory Group talked to Ms MacTiernan on how to best align the work of the Review with its plans for 2024. They also spoke with Ms MacTiernan about the importance of connectivity solutions being place-based, particularly with respect to First Nations communities.

### The Universal Services Obligation (USO) Review

The Universal Services Branch from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts provided an update on the review of the universal service framework.

The Advisory Group discussed the current aspects of the universal services framework that are not fit for purpose for First Nations people and communities, and the opportunities that the review presents for improving the current situation.

The Advisory Group noted that they would be making a submission to the review following the meeting, and indicated that they are interested in continuing to engage with the department over the coming months.

### Roadmap and workplan

The Advisory Group discussed its plans for its upcoming public consultations on the First Nations digital inclusion roadmap.

They also explored the key messages they would like to include in the discussion paper that will be provided to stakeholders to consider as part of the public consultation process.





Following this, the Advisory Group considered and finalised its workplan for the year ahead, which includes a number of engagements across the country to discuss the roadmap with stakeholders and communities.

### Next steps

The Advisory Group will finalise its discussion paper ahead of their public submissions process, which is set to go live on 1 May 2024.

The Advisory Group will next be travelling to Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in May 2024. For more information, please feel free to email [FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au)

