



First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 10

Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group, established by the Australian Government in January 2023, had its 10th meeting on Thursday 19 June, 2025. The meeting was held in Warrane (Sydney) on the lands of the Gadigal people.

Attendees included members of the Advisory Group and Digital Inclusion Expert Panel, as well as representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department).

The Advisory Group heard from a number of presenters, including the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Department of Social Services (DSS), and Telstra.

[Update from the ACMA](#)

The Advisory Group and Expert Panel were joined by representatives from the ACMA, who outlined a proposed secondary spectrum licensing framework, which would allow the ACMA to facilitate place-based services to access parts of the spectrum that incumbent licensees are either not using or do not plan to use.

The Advisory Group welcomed the ACMA's proposed framework, noting that in order to achieve effective outcomes, there is a need to communicate and work through technical complexities regarding spectrum negotiations between place-based providers and the larger mobile network operators.

[Update from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts \(the department\)](#)

The Advisory Group received an update from Mr. James Chisholm, Deputy Secretary of the Communications and Media Group in the department. Mr Chisholm outlined progress on a range of activities underway to support First Nations digital inclusion, as well as upcoming opportunities for the Advisory Group to inform broader government priorities.

[Update from the Department of Social Services](#)

Mr Mike Hair from the Department of Social Services (DSS) updated the Advisory Group on the Digital Connectivity Program (DCP), providing figures relating to total installation of the community Wi-Fi program. The Advisory Group discussed the department's plans for the DCP's future once installation is completed.

[Update from the National Indigenous Australians Agency \(NIAA\)](#)

Mr Laurence Wilson and Ms Mary Peterson provided an update on the First Nations Digital Inclusion Forum and the Remote Indigenous Communities Telecommunications (RICT)





program. Ms Peterson noted that NIAA is also working with the department on the response to the Community Broadcasting Sector Sustainability Review.

[Update from Telstra](#)

The Advisory Group welcomed representatives from Telstra to provide an update on their Pre-Paid Community Plan. Telstra highlighted their plans for promotion this year, and the Advisory Group reiterated the importance of using First Nations media and community stores to increase awareness and uptake of the plan.

[Discussion surrounding advocacy](#)

The Advisory Group discussed their advocacy plans for the upcoming year, including engaging with stakeholders at conferences and through social media. The Advisory Group also discussed their plans for Meeting 11, which will be held in September this year.

[Telecommunications workshop](#)

Following the meeting, the Advisory Group held a workshop with representatives from across the telecommunications sector, where they discussed industry's role in closing the digital divide.

