



# First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 7

## Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group held its seventh meeting on Monday 20 May, 2024. The meeting was held in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte country.

Attendees included the members of the Advisory Group and Digital Inclusion Expert Panel, Dr Jessa Rogers from the Regional Telecommunications Review, Ms Catherine Liddle from the Coalition of Peaks, and representatives from across the Australian Government.

### Funding for First Nations Digital Inclusion

The Advisory Group discussed the recent Budget announcements supporting First Nations digital inclusion, which were informed by the recommendations made in the Advisory Group's initial report. This funding is a significant milestone for the Advisory Group, and will contribute to closing the digital gap.

The Advisory Group noted that while it was pleased to see more funding allocated towards First Nations digital inclusion, it was disappointed by the lack of additional funding for the First Nations media and broadcasting sector. The Advisory Group will continue to advocate for increased funding to the sector to support digital inclusion.

### Update from the Productivity Commission

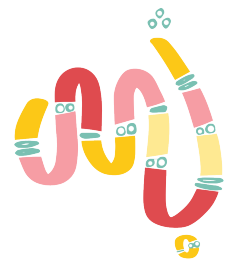
The Advisory Group was joined by Andrew McDonald and Stephen Walters from the Closing the Gap Review and Reporting Group within the Productivity Commission. Mr McDonald and Mr Walters provided an update on data development work related to Target 17 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The Advisory Group spoke with Mr McDonald and Mr Walters about how data can be best utilised to support the transformation and empowerment of First Nations people and communities. They also discussed the importance of data sovereignty as per Priority Reform Four.

### The Regional Telecommunications Review

The Advisory Group welcomed Dr Jessa Rogers from the Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee (the Committee) to provide an update on the Committee's progress. The Advisory Group and Dr Rogers discussed how they can work together in achieving Target 17 and will remain in touch.





## Update from the telcos

Representatives from Telstra and NBN Co attended the meeting. Telstra provided an update on its work to support communities through improved affordability. NBN Co outlined their progress in the roll-out of community Wi-Fi in remote communities.

The Advisory Group thanked Telstra and NBN Co for their continued efforts towards closing the digital gap. The Advisory Group will continue to consult with industry on matters of digital inclusion.

## 3G Shutdown

The Advisory Group is concerned about the impact of the shutdown of the 3G network for First Nations people and communities in remote areas. The Advisory Group is pleased that Telstra has announced a delay in the closure of its 3G network.

## Coalition of Peaks

The Advisory Group heard from Ms Catherine Liddle, acting convenor of the Coalition of Peaks. The Advisory Group discussed with Ms Liddle how they can work with the Coalition of Peaks in the future to support progress on other Targets and Priority Reforms.

## Roadmap and next steps

The Advisory Group discussed the First Nations Digital Inclusion roadmap. The Advisory Group is currently accepting public submissions to help inform the content of the roadmap.

Submissions close on 28 June and can be made by following this link: [A roadmap for First Nations digital inclusion | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.](#)

Following the meeting, members from the Expert Panel travelled to Utopia and Ampilatwatja to conduct community engagement and discuss the roadmap.

For more information on where the Advisory Group will be travelling to next, please feel free to email [FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au).

