



Communique – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy (LPP) Partnership Meeting, 11 & 12 December 2024

The eighth LPP meeting was held in Meanjin/Brisbane on the 11th and 12th of December 2024. The meeting was opened with a Welcome to Country and a local language presentation from Gaja Kerry Charlton, Yagarabul and Gabi Gabi Elder, Traditional Owner, and Indigenous Industry Fellow at the School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Queensland

The group received governance and administrative updates, approving the previous LPP Meeting minutes and noting the submission of the 2023 LPP Annual Report to the Secretariat of the Joint Council as required. The group then received an update on recent activities and planning for the National Languages Sector Strengthening Plan (LSSP), including hearing about the recent LSSP workshops held in Zenadth Kes and noting the formation of the LSSP Working Group.

Members considered developing data work on Target 16 for Closing the Gap and identified their top five data development priorities. The LPP will continue to work on supporting and strengthening the approach to measuring Target 16.

The group considered progress on the LPP evaluation, working with Cox Inall Ridgeway to commence evaluation activities in early 2025. Members then received a presentation from the Language Data Commons of Australia (LDaCA), who spoke about the importance of community access to national language data assets, the project's approach and upcoming training opportunities and events.

An update on the three LPP commissioning projects was provided, and feedback was incorporated. The projects are set to get underway in 2025. The commissioning projects seek to develop an evidence base and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language communities, workers and advocates, and for continued language policymaking and investment.

On day two, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives shared updates, and the group discussed jurisdictional progress reports. The group then received an update from the Commonwealth Office of Arts (OFTA) regarding the Indigenous Languages and the Arts (ILA) open competitive grant round and the reformation of the ILA funding distribution working group, which will reconvene in 2025 to further consider the Commonwealth's 2025-2026 funding increase for the ILA program.

The LPP members received an update on the ongoing Treaty process in Victoria including the recent ceremonial launch of Treaty negotiations. The group then heard from the Commonwealth Department of Education about their portfolio and partnership arrangements and received information updates on the First Nations Languages Education (FNLE) program, the First Nations Teacher Strategy, and the First Nations Education Policy.

In the afternoon the group worked on the draft LPP Communications Strategy and received updates on recent and ongoing policy partnership cross-sector meetings and discussions. The LPP then considered the 2025 LPP meeting dates with locations to be determined and finished the meeting sharing reflections in a yarning circle.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 4 and 5 March 2025.

Meeting attendee list

Coalition of Peaks representatives	
Beau Williams	First Languages Australia (Co-Chair)
Karina Lester	Mobile Language Team
Daisy Allen on behalf of Heather Sculthorpe	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Vicki Couzens	Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages
Karen Paterson	First Nations Media Australia
Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives	
Patsy Ngalu Bedford	Independent
Daryn McKenny	Independent
Leitha Assan	Independent
Samantha Armstrong	Independent
Gulwanyang Moran	Independent
Government representatives	
Stephen Arnott	Commonwealth Government (Co-Chair)
Bronwyn Milera	South Australian Government
Kathrin Jensen	Queensland Government
Angela Singh	Victorian Government
Shelagh Magadza on behalf of Erin Gauntlett	Western Australian Government
Caroline Spotswood on behalf of Mellissa Gray	Tasmanian Government
Camille Lew Fatt on behalf of Dorrelle Anderson	Northern Territory Government

Apologies

Clare McHugh	New South Wales Government
Heather Sculthorpe	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
Dorrelle Anderson	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
Brendan Moyle	ACT Government
Erin Gauntlett	Western Australian Government
Melissa Gray	Tasmanian Government