



Communique – National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership Meeting

21, 22 May 2025

The tenth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Policy Partnership (LPP) meeting was held in Garramilla/Darwin on the 21st and 22nd May 2025. On day one, the meeting was opened with a Welcome to Country by Mary Williams from the Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Joe Raymond and Les Huddleston also provided a tap stick and yidaki performance. The LPP Co-Chairs provided administrative updates, and key work updates from the LPP Funding Priorities Working Group and the Languages Sector Strengthening Plan (LSSP) Working Group. The LPP endorsed the LPP Meeting Nine minutes.

The group then received updates on the LPP Commissioning projects, including ongoing development work on the National Interpreting and Translating Framework, a National Collections Framework, and a Languages Economic Investment Framework. The LPP received a presentation by the Commonwealth Office of the Arts. Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP) legislation team. The team provided an update on how the community engagement on potential legislation has progressed, with LPP members expressing the crucial importance of protections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages within the legislation.

The LPP received an update on collaborative work between First Languages Australia and SNAICC – National Voice for Our Children, to undertake a shared research project that will inform the considerations of the LPP and the Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership (ECCDPP). The Partnerships understand the importance of working together across sectors to achieve respective goals and Closing the Gap Targets.

Members workshopped the LPP evaluation, with a focus on ensuring culturally strong evaluation and alignment with the Closing the Gap priority reforms as the evaluation gets underway.

On day two, the group discussed the LPP draft Data Policy Position. Led by its First Nations members, the LPP has developed this position to set a framework for how success in the sector should be measured. LPP members will be engaging with their respective partners to scope feedback and provide endorsement for the position out of session. The group also received a general update on data developments within Closing the Gap and considered ongoing community consultations being undertaken as a part of the AIATSIS co-design stage for the Fourth National Indigenous Languages Survey (NILS4).

The LPP jurisdiction representatives provided reports and updates on current work in respect to the LPP key priorities, and respective plans. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives then provided updates on language work happening in their respective communities and roles.

In the afternoon LPP members discussed potential LPP recommendations to the Joint Council. They then considered the LPP Communications and Engagement Strategy, discussing branding guidelines, and upcoming engagement activities to ensure the LPP is communicating its work. The group then wrapped up the meeting. The eleventh LPP meeting is scheduled for the 10th and the 11th of September 2025, in Sydney.

Meeting attendee list

Coalition of Peaks representatives		
Vicki Couzens	Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages	In attendance
Karen Paterson	First Nations Media Australia	In attendance
Daisy Allen on behalf of Heather Sculthorpe	Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre	In attendance
Beau Williams (Co-chair)	First Languages Australia	In attendance
Karina Lester	Mobile Languages Team	Apology
Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives		
Patsy Ngalu Bedford	Independent	In attendance
Daryn McKenny	Independent	In attendance
Leitha Assan	Independent	In attendance
Samantha Armstrong	Independent	In attendance
Gulwanyang Moran	Independent	In attendance
Government representatives		
Shelagh Magadza, on behalf of Erin Gauntlett	Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries, Western Australian Government	In attendance
Elle Blacklock	Aboriginal Languages Trust, New South Wales Government	In attendance
Kathrin Jensen	Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism, Queensland Government	In attendance
Angela Singh	Department of Education, Victorian Government	In attendance
Caroline Spotswood, on behalf of Mellissa Gray	Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmanian Government	In attendance (day one)
Laura Halm, on behalf of Mellissa Gray	Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tasmanian Government	In attendance (day two)
Bronwyn Milera	Department for Education, South Australian Government	In attendance
Camille Lew Fatt, on behalf of Dorrelle Anderson	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, Northern Territory Government	In attendance



Languages Policy Partnership

Brendan Moyle	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Australian Capital Territory Government	In attendance (day one)
Jonathon Sales, on behalf of Brendan Moyle	Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Australian Capital Territory Government	In attendance (day two)
Jake Budd, on behalf of Stephen Arnott	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication, Sport and the Arts, Commonwealth Government	In attendance