

## Governance of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in NSW

### About this report

This audit assessed the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for the implementation of the 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the National Agreement) in NSW.

The stated objective of the National Agreement is to overcome entrenched inequality faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is an agreement between all Australian governments.

The implementation of the National Agreement in NSW is led by the Premier's Department and the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peaks (NSW CAPO). NSW CAPO is a group of Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations that advocate for the rights and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in NSW.

### Findings

The governance arrangements are not operating effectively.

Formal shared governance bodies have been established, but the governance structure does not provide clear accountability for the delivery of National Agreement initiatives or drive the behaviours needed to achieve the National Agreement's stated outcomes.

The Premier's Department and NSW CAPO agreed to work together to implement the National Agreement, but they have not formed a genuine partnership.

### Recommendations

The report made four recommendations that aim to:

1. increase the accountability of NSW Government agencies for implementing the Priority Reforms of the National Agreement
2. ensure the Premier's Department and NSW CAPO are working in genuine partnership
3. improve the planning and oversight of the implementation of the National Agreement in NSW
4. improve the transparency of NSW CAPO's work conducted under the National Agreement.

## Fast facts

# 2020

the year the current National Agreement was signed

# \$222m

funding allocated by the NSW Government for the first four years of the National Agreement

# 7 of 19

socio-economic targets in the National Agreement that were on track in June 2022 (the most recent NSW Closing the Gap Annual Report)