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16 October 2023

Re: Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap - Draft report

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

As the Productivity Commission is aware, the Languages Policy Partnership (LPP) has been formed under the National Agreement to bring together State and Territory governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives to work in partnership to accelerate action and achieve outcomes under Target 16, which states that by 2031, there is a sustained increase in the number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken. The LPP is co-chaired by First Languages Australia and the Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

The LPP welcomes the frankness of the Productivity Commission's draft report within its review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. With the LPP being recently established, the draft report has been an opportunity for early learning and a timely reinforcement for LPP members of the significant systematic transformations that are required to achieve Target 16 and Close the Gap.

The report was discussed at the third LPP meeting on 10-11 October, during which the members reflected on its findings, discussed learnings, and reaffirmed their commitment to learning and working in genuine partnership under Target 16.

We thank the Productivity Commission for its work and advice, and we look forward to maintaining our engagement with the Commission.

Yours sincerely

Beau Williams
Chief Executive Officer – First Languages Australia
Co-Chair – Languages Policy Partnership

First Languages Australia is a national organisation working with community language programs around the country to support the continued use and recognition of Australia's first languages.