

Brief comments received

No.	Comment
1	The Commonwealth Government is currently engaged in a review of its Adult English Language Literacy & Numeracy (LLN) and Foundations Skills (FS) policies and programs, with a specific focus on needs of First Nations communities. In this context, the absence of any LLN or FS indicators in the current CTG policy is problematic, because LLN/F policy and programs for First Nations are not attracting the whole of government-whole of community attention which their impact on CTG outcomes should require. Moreover, it means that these policies have not to date been implemented and evaluated in accordance with the CTG's four priority reforms.
2	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on 'Review paper 2' for the Productivity Commission's Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. As per previous discussions between Tasmanian Government and Productivity Commission staff we agree that the review should be targeted rather than broad, focusing on the Priority Reform areas. In relation to the proposal to use case studies to understand progress against the National Agreement, we suggest that the criteria used to select case studies should consider the extent to which the case studies address any specific circumstances and issues effecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the relevant jurisdiction (ie to what extent is the case study a place-based solution, and to what extent are the approaches and learnings applicable/transferable across jurisdictions/nationally). We also suggest, in relation to any potential changes to the Agreement, that the review should perhaps focus on identifying any areas in which the Agreement is progressing poorly. If these areas are identified at an early stage in the life of the Agreement, they can be corrected before the overall success of the Agreement is impacted significantly.
3	How can you measure compromised data? Anyone can tick the black box? This is the greatest misrepresentation about us, First Nations people and the population. Most dishonest the pain and suffering this causes are immeasurable, identity politics is insidious
4	Noel Pearson has interviewed (on Youtube) prof. Bill Mitchell, concerning the latter's concept of a Job Guarantee, in many ways similar to the old CDEP scheme organized at the local level and employing local people who want to work, on a fulltime minimum national wage. There were successes on the CDEP, so these should be studied and developed more comprehensively. Note: the social and personal benefits of eradicating welfare dependency for those who want to work, will more than pay for the cost of the scheme, to be funded by the Federal government. Part of problem facing closing the gap is the so called welfare (poverty-level) "safety net" itself, which is forced onto those who would much rather work, but who cannot find work in the regular private or public sector job markets. Regardless of the fact free-market ideologues reject the concept of a Job Guarantee (JG) for anyone who wants to work, a re-callibrated CDEP/ JG job for aboriginal Australians ought to be given serious consideration.
5	The report would benefit from a clearer description of the roles and responsibilities of the various governments (federal, state, territory and local) in closing the gap.

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6	This is not a comment but a question: How is the gap defined and measured? What are the populations between which the gap exists? I have asked the minister, the opposition spokesperson and NIAA but none have responded.