



Priority Reform 1

Partnerships and shared decision-making



Priority Reform 1 commits governments to share decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through:



Five new policy partnerships.

Six new place-based partnerships.

Reviewing and strengthening existing partnerships.

When are governments sharing decision-making?

Governments have shown they can share decision-making when there is trust and a balance of power, including:

- In emergencies such as during COVID-19 when governments partnered with community-controlled organisations who were well prepared to meet their communities' needs.
- When Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups have pushed governments to 'come to the table' through co-investment or convening.
- In Victoria's Pathway to Treaty where legislation and political commitment enables parties to work together.

What do governments still need to do?

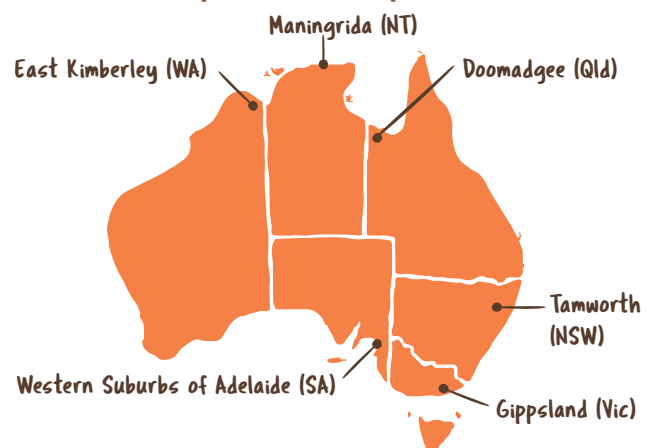
- Take time to properly listen to communities about their priorities instead of consulting with communities on predetermined outcomes.
- Engage earlier and more often with communities to build trust.
- Recognise the value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can bring to policy development and service delivery.
- Invest in partnerships with adequate time and funding.
- Transform their processes and systems to become better, more credible partners.

Policy Partnership Sectors

- Justice
- Early Childhood Care and Development
- Housing
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages

Overall, policy partnerships are acting more like forums, rather than a place where joint decision-making happens. It remains to be seen how they will drive change on policy matters.

Place-based partnership locations



The place-based partnerships are still new but Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities had a role in choosing the locations.

Have your say

Read the draft report

