



Priority Reform 2

Strengthening the community-controlled sector

Priority Reform 2 commits governments to strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled (ACCO) sector.

This would mean that all ACCOs could:

- Identify problems and co-design solutions.
- Provide culturally safe and high-quality services.
- Define success based on the needs of the communities they provide services to.

Governments need to:

- Recognise that ACCOs achieve better results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Take steps to strengthen the various sectors.
- Increase the number of services designed and delivered by ACCOs.
- Provide dedicated, reliable, and consistent funding.
- Change how services are designed, contracted, funded, delivered, and evaluated.

Sector strengthening

Four sector strengthening plans (SSPs) have been developed, but they lack detail and accountability. Since there is not much information on SSP progress available, it is unclear whether the SSPs will be effective in driving change.

For SSPs to be effective, governments need to be held to account for progressing the actions they have agreed on.

What is changing?

Some government departments are starting to:

- Provide flexibility by introducing longer term contracts.
- Prioritise funding to ACCOs in procurement, grant or program guidelines in sectors like child protection.
- Reduce reporting requirements.

These approaches show promise and could be used more widely.

Overall, progress has been slow, and many processes still follow a business-as-usual approach to policies and programs that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Have your say



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