

# National Federation Reform Council

## Indigenous Affairs Taskforce

### Terms of Reference

<b>Authority</b>	<p>On 29 May 2020, the Prime Minister announced that National Cabinet agreed to establish the National Federation Reform Council (NFRC) and a NFRC Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs.</p>
<b>Membership</b>	<p>The Taskforce consists of Commonwealth, state and territory ministers with responsibility for Indigenous affairs.</p> <p>It is chaired by the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Australians.</p>
<b>Relationship to the Joint Council on Closing the Gap</b>	<p>The NFRC Indigenous Affairs Taskforce (the Taskforce) acknowledges that there are pre-existing structures for national leadership, coordination, cooperation and reporting on Closing the Gap, in the form of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap (Joint Council). These arrangements are embedded for 10 years from 2020 as part of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Taskforce does not replace these arrangements.</p> <p>Taskforce members will continue to take part in the Joint Council to monitor performance against, and implementation of, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The Joint Council will continue to operate in line with the agreed Terms of Reference for the Joint Council.</p>
<b>Guest members</b>	<p>Reflecting the commitment of all governments to work in partnership with Indigenous Australians, the Chair of the Taskforce may invite Indigenous partners to attend meetings of the Taskforce including at the recommendation of Taskforce members. The partners will vary depending on the priorities for each meeting.</p> <p>Noting responsibility to improve outcomes for Indigenous Australians cuts across all portfolios, the Chair of the Taskforce may also invite other ministers to participate in specific meetings or items as appropriate.</p>

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<b>Operations and decision making</b>	<p>The Taskforce will meet at least twice a year and more frequently as determined by the Chair on advice of members. Meetings may be held in person or by telepresence or teleconference facility. The Taskforce may also conduct work out-of-session.</p> <p>The Taskforce will make decisions and agree common principles but there will be flexibility in implementation across the jurisdictions to account for each jurisdiction's unique circumstances.</p> <p>The Taskforce will also work in partnership with Indigenous Australians on the policies and programs that affect them.</p> <p>Other operational arrangements are to be made by the Taskforce and do not require NFRC endorsement.</p>
<b>Scope of Taskforce responsibility</b>	<p>The Taskforce will consider and drive work on national policy priorities related to improving outcomes for Indigenous Australians. This could include progressing specific Indigenous policy issues or actions which require in-depth focus, collaboration and agreement from the Federation.</p> <p>The Joint Council on Closing the Gap may also refer issues for consideration by the Taskforce.</p>
<b>Review and reporting</b>	<p>Each year, the Taskforce should discuss and set priorities for the coming year, informed by discussion at the previous NFRC meeting. The Taskforce will report to the NFRC annually on progress against its priorities.</p>