Australian Government

Secretaries Board Communique

Date: 18 November 2026

The Secretaries Board met today at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss the following matters.

Closing the Gap 2026 Implementation Plan Progress Report

The Board welcomed Donnella Mills, Coalition of the Peaks, who provided insights into the operation of the Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap from the Coalition's perspective.

The Board discussed the progress towards delivering the Australian Government's commitments under the Commonwealth's Closing the Gap 2026 Implementation Plan.

Regulatory Reform Agenda - Update

The Board noted the annual update from Clare Savage, Regulator Leadership Cohort Chair, and Liz Hefren-Webb, Regulator Leadership Cohort Deputy Chair, and agreed to identify ways to engage and support its priorities.

APS Bargaining

The Board received an update from Alison Stott, APS Chief Negotiator and Jacqui Curtis PSM, Australian Public Service Commissioner, on APS Bargaining.

CALD Strategy Update

The Board received an update from Jim Betts, Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sports and the Arts, on the Australian Public Service's CALD strategy.

Strategic Outlook

The Board discussed government priorities, strategic issues and emerging risks.

AGSVA Annual Update

The Board noted the AGSVA Annual Update.

Digital and Data Committee Biannual Update

The Board noted the biannual update from the Secretaries Digital and Data Committee.

Next meeting

The next Secretaries Board meeting is scheduled for 16 December 2026.