

# For languages to be strong, supported, and flourishing

## Identified priorities of the National Languages Policy Partnership

### Who we are and why we want to hear from you

Target 16 of Closing the Gap aims to increase and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages, and support communities. The Languages Policy Partnership is a group of community and government representatives guiding work under Target 16. We think the issues below are important and a priority, but we know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities know what is best for them, so we want to hear from you.

### Issues we think should be prioritised

#### Speaking and using languages

For languages to be strong and flourishing, they must be used every day, everywhere – in all the ways community wants them to be used.



#### More funding that goes where communities need it

To do the work, communities need more funding. All governments have a responsibility to work with communities and support this work. This includes increasing funding to existing Indigenous language centres and programs and expanding the language centre network.



#### Supporting the people, groups and organisations who work in languages

Our people, families, and future generations should always be able to work in languages. For languages to be strong, the people working in languages must be supported. There must be more opportunities, resources, and support for those working or wanting to work in languages.



#### Bringing language home to the people and communities

Language materials must be returned to their Country and people. Getting language materials back can be difficult for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people who are the rightful custodians. New ways and systems are needed so that communities can access and manage these materials themselves.



#### Languages legislation

Support and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages through laws. These laws should help all communities and create a safe future for languages.



#### Access to Country

Languages and Country are deeply connected. Languages carry and teach knowledge. Languages should be able to be taught, yarned, and sung on Country. Together with Country our languages will be strong.



#### Help people understand the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages

Raise awareness about the importance of and benefits of speaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and to the broader Australian public.



### Have your say! We want to hear from you

Please send us your thoughts and yarns on what you think is important to strengthen and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. You can fill out our survey here: <https://bit.ly/3GvIDD8> or via the QR code.

