

Remote Australia Strategies Implementation Plan - Extension

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON
NORTHERN TERRITORY REMOTE ABORIGINAL INVESTMENT -
EXTENSION

PART 1: PRELIMINARIES

1. This Implementation Plan is a schedule to the National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment – Extension (the Agreement) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement. The objective in the National Partnership is to increase access to interpreter services and job opportunities for adults.

PART 2: TERMS OF THIS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2. This Implementation Plan is for extending the Remote Australia Strategies Implementation Plan under the Agreement. The Implementation Plan will commence as soon as it is agreed between the Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Minister for Indigenous Australians, and the Northern Territory, represented by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
3. As a schedule to the National Partnership, the purpose of this Implementation Plan is to provide the public with an indication of how the project is intended to be delivered and demonstrate the Northern Territory's capacity to achieve the outcomes of the National Partnership with regard to improving the quality of and access to Aboriginal language interpreting services, through supporting an increasingly professional interpreter workforce and supporting a sustainable interpreting service delivery model.
4. This Implementation Plan includes the following Schedule:
 - a. Aboriginal interpreter service (extension) – 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2024.
5. This Implementation Plan will cease on completion or termination of the National Partnership, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against performance benchmarks or milestones.
6. This Implementation Plan and its Schedule may be varied by written agreement between the relevant Commonwealth and Northern Territory Minister responsible for it under the overarching National Partnership.
7. The Parties to this Implementation Plan do not intend any of the provisions to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to the plan and its full implementation.

PART 3: STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Relevant Northern Territory context

8. In developing this Implementation Plan consideration has been given to relevant Northern Territory context.
9. Additional investment in Aboriginal interpreter services allows for greater access to services across the Northern Territory, where more than 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects are spoken.

Schedule information

10. The Schedule to this Implementation Plan detail the estimated costs, programme logic, milestones, performance benchmarks and associated payments, risk management, reporting, and roles and responsibilities of each element.

Estimated costs

11. The maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory was \$171.115 million from 2015-16 to 2021-22 inclusive. Under the extension arrangements, the maximum financial contribution to be provided by the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory is \$7.584 million from 2022-23 to 2023-24 inclusive, payable in accordance with the milestones and performance benchmarks set out in the Schedules. All payments are exclusive of GST.
12. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 1. The budget is indicative only and the Northern Territory retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.
13. In addition to payments for the milestones and performance benchmarks set out in the relevant schedule, a one-off payment of \$3.976 million was made to the Northern Territory in 2015-16, for work completed under the former Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory National Partnership.

Table 1: Estimated financial contribution

| (\$ million) | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Total |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Expired Schedule 1: Housing | 48.024 | 46.196 | 47.421 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 141.641 |
| Expired Schedule 2: Asbestos removal from community buildings | 4.225 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4.225 |
| Schedule 3: Aboriginal interpreter service (extension) | 3.704 | 3.496 | 3.503 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 32.833 |
| Total estimated budget | 55.953 | 49.692 | 50.924 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 178.699 |
| Total Commonwealth contribution | 55.953 | 49.692 | 50.924 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 178.699 |

Review and Evaluation

- 14. This Implementation Plan will be reviewed in line with reviews of the overarching National Partnership.



Sign off

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

Signature  Date 14/07/2022
 The Honourable Selena Uiibo MLA
 Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by


 Signature  Date 14/9/22
 The Honourable ~~Ken Wyatt~~ AM MP
 Minister for Indigenous Australians

SCHEDULE 1: ABORIGINAL INTERPRETER SERVICE (EXTENSION)

Estimated Costs

15. The estimated overall budget (exclusive of GST) is set out in Table 2. The budget is indicative only and the Northern Territory retains the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.
16. The Commonwealth's contribution will be indexed annually by reference to the Wage Cost index 3.
17. The Commonwealth's contribution to the Aboriginal Interpreter Service (AIS) through the National Partnership is in addition to funding provided to the AIS through the Indigenous Advancement Strategy for the Cross-border Interpreter service and the Legal Interpreter Service.

Table 2: Estimated financial contributions

| (\$ million) | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | Total |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory activities | 1.857 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.857 |
| Aboriginal interpreter services | 1.847 | 3.496 | 3.503 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 30.976 |
| Total estimated budget | 3.704 | 3.496 | 3.503 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 32.833 |
| less estimated Commonwealth contribution | 3.704 | 3.496 | 3.503 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 32.833 |
| equals estimated balance of non-Commonwealth contributions | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Commonwealth contribution | 3.704 | 3.496 | 3.503 | 3.568 | 3.571 | 3.695 | 3.712 | 3.762 | 3.822 | 32.833 |

18. Funding for 2015-16 includes amounts for work completed under the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory. These payments were for the provision of Aboriginal Interpreter Services and for meeting the performance benchmark between 1 January and 30 June 2015.

Programme logic

19. The way in which the project element will contribute towards achieving the outcomes and objectives set out in the National Partnership is detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Programme logic

| Project elements | Outputs | Outcomes | Objectives |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Aboriginal interpreter services | <p>An increased supply of qualified Aboriginal interpreters in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Aboriginal interpreter services provided in the majority of language groups across all Northern Territory regions, including urban and remote locations.</p> <p>Increased Aboriginal interpreter services in communities.</p> <p>Aboriginal employment target: over 95% of staff in Aboriginal interpreter services.</p> <p>Training, pathways to certification and career development opportunities for the interpreting workforce.</p> | <p>Increased access to interpreter services and job opportunities through: Strengthened accessibility, availability and capability of Aboriginal language interpreting services in the majority of Aboriginal languages in the Northern Territory.</p> <p>Increased local Aboriginal employment across all levels of the interpreter workforce.</p> <p>A more sustainable service delivery model for Aboriginal language interpreting.</p> | <p>Increased access to interpreter services, and job opportunities for adults.</p> |

Risk management

20. A risk management plan is in place. Risks have been actively identified, entered into a risk log and categorised in terms of impact and likelihood.

Milestones and performance benchmarks

21. To qualify for the associated payment, the Northern Territory must meet the milestones and performance benchmarks as set out at Table 4 below.

Table 4: Milestones and performance benchmarks

| | Reporting Period | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Reporting Period | 2022-23 | 2023-24 |
|---|---|----------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|--|---------------|
| | Due date 2015-16 to 2021-22 | \$ millions | Maximum payment % of Financial Year funding | | | | | | 2022-23 to 2023-24 | Report due date Maximum payment % of Financial Year funding | |
| Milestone Provision of services and programs for interpreter services in the six month period. | 1 January to 30 June Report due 1 September | - | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 1 January to 31 December | 1 March 2023 | 1 May 2024 |
| | 1 July to 31 December Report due 1 March | \$0.463 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.5 | | | |
| Performance benchmark Percentage of interpreting hours provided by accredited/qualified interpreters* | 1 January to 30 June Report due 1 September | - | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 1 January to 31 December | 1 March 2023 | 1 May 2024 |
| | 1 July to 31 December Report due 1 March | \$1.389 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | | | |
| Total | | \$1.847 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | | 100 | 100 |

*Accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI); Certified Translator standard or completed the Diploma of Interpreting; or be deemed by the Northern Territory Government to have achieved the Aboriginal Interpreter Level 3 standard.

Reporting

22. As outlined in Table 4, the Northern Territory will report every 12 months during the operation of the overarching National Partnership to monitor and assess performance in the delivery of services, reforms and projects under this Implementation Plan. The final report will be for the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 and is due by 1 May 2024.
23. The following information will be included in the Northern Territory's monthly reports every 12 months, and will be used by the Commonwealth to monitor progress in meeting the milestones in Table 4:
 - a. the total hours of training undertaken by interpreters;
 - b. the number of interpreters with a Diploma of Interpreting and/or National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) certification; or be deemed by the Northern Territory Government to have achieved the Aboriginal Interpreter Level 3 standard;
 - c. demographic information on the age and gender of the interpreter workforce;
 - d. the number of languages interpreting can be provided in, including the number of interpreters per language and number of qualified interpreters per language;
 - e. the total hours and number of interpreting jobs by region, sector, client type;
 - f. the total hours of interpreting by language;
 - g. evidence of pathways and support for certification training which lead to interpreters' career progression; and
 - h. The number of individuals undertaking NAATI certification training and assessment or its equivalent as deemed by the Northern Territory Government.