

Far North Queensland Connect Project

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Queensland
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 31 May 2027.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule will support the delivery of the Far North Queensland (FNQ) Connect initiative to explore a model of integrating care and support services, strengthen local community workforces, and build inclusive communities across FNQ.</p> <p>The FNQ Connect initiative aims to increase successful NDIS plan utilisation, workforce capability and efficient integration of resources for the people of FNQ.</p> <p>Funding under the Schedule will support Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) of FNQ Connect with a final report including a business case for funding Stage 2 in years 3, 4, and 5 to be developed as part of project deliverables in year 2.</p> <p>The FNQ Connect initiative complements the Commonwealth's recent commitment to develop and pilot alternative approaches to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service commissioning in critically thin markets in partnership with First Nations representatives and remote communities.</p>
Strategic Alignment	<p>This Schedule is framed to align with all four Priority Reform areas and socio-economic Outcome 9 (Targets 9A and 9B), Outcome 13, and Outcome 14 set out in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>In entering into this Schedule, the Commonwealth and Queensland Government recognise their mutual commitment to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and the need to work together to achieve those outcomes.</p>
Outputs	<p>The outputs of this Agreement will be the implementation and evaluation of the FNQ Connect initiative and the three priority streams of projects outlined in the FNQ Connect project proposal (attached) and the final Business Case for Stage 2 (years 3, 4 and 5) based on the economic evaluation and detailed needs assessment.</p> <p>These outputs will be confirmed under the Workplan between the Queensland Government and FNQ Connect which will include the</p>

	<p>program implementation across 3 priority streams of work identified under the FNQ Connect initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Connected Care and Support • Priority 2: Local Workforce and services • Priority 3: Inclusive Communities 												
<p>Estimated financial contributions</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Queensland Government of up \$4,550,000.00 (GST exclusive) in respect of this Schedule.</p> <p>The Queensland Government will co-contribute in-kind departmental resourcing to oversee administration and management components of FNQ Connect initiative, including the grant and contract management arrangements with James Cook University (JCU), project governance, contract management activities, and monitoring project deliverables and reporting in line with performance benchmarks, milestones and regular contract reporting to the Queensland Government.</p> <hr/> <p>Table 1</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total budget</td> <td>4.55</td> <td>4.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estimated Commonwealth Contribution</td> <td>4.55</td> <td>4.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <hr/> <p>Having regard to the agreed estimated costs of the project, the Queensland Government will not be required to repay a refund to the Commonwealth under this Agreement, if the actual cost of the project is less than the original agreed estimated cost of the project.</p>	(\$ million)	2024-25	Total	Estimated total budget	4.55	4.55	Estimated Commonwealth Contribution	4.55	4.55	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0
(\$ million)	2024-25	Total											
Estimated total budget	4.55	4.55											
Estimated Commonwealth Contribution	4.55	4.55											
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0											

Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary			
Output (delete if the schedule has one output only)	Performance milestones	Report due	Payment
Agreement executed	Execution of Agreement.	On execution of this Schedule	\$1,200,000
Project Contract in place between the Queensland Government and FNQ Connect	<p>Contract signed between parties.</p> <p>The Project Contract workplan will confirm the Stage 1 scope of work across the three priority streams of work and the establishment of key project operational, governance and evaluation mechanisms. It will also outline Stage 1 project deliverables, milestones and timeframes and agreed reporting requirements.</p> <p>The workplan will include agreed public communications strategy for the commencement of the Project.</p>	90 business days after the signing of the Schedule by State and Commonwealth Ministers.	\$1,350,000
Project Report 1: Project Establishment, accepted by the Commonwealth	<p>Project Report 1: Project Establishment report will include overview of Stage 1 planning and implementation for the commencement of FNQ Connect including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 Implementation Plan for project deliverables, milestones, timeframes and project reporting for the two-year project in line with Workplan including project budget and strategic forecast. • Workforce Management Plan for recruitment of key roles including: FNQ Connect strategic leadership council, leadership team, implementation team, and monitoring and evaluation team. • Proposed engagement and stakeholder management approach for project establishment and implementation. • Evidence of operational FNQ Governance model commencement including project risk management plan. 	31 May 2025	\$2,000,000
Project Report 2: Implementation Report accepted by the Commonwealth	<p>Project Report 2: Implementation Report, outlining progress on implementation to date, any diversions from initial plans, and an adjusted forward plan and financial acquittal.</p> <p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the approach for the shared Measurement Platform/System. • Developmental Evaluation Plan including the • Proposed establishment plan for the central hub. 	31 October 2025	Nil

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Project Report 3: Economic Evaluation of FNQ Connect	Project Report 3: Draft business case based on comprehensive needs assessment for model of delivery and investment in Stage 2 of the project (years 3, 4 and 5).	15 February 2026	Nil
Project Report 4: Interim Project Report accepted by the Commonwealth	Project Report 4: Project report outlining Stage 1 implementation progress including progress against milestones, deliverables and financial reporting.	15 August 2026	Nil
Project Report 7: Final Project report accepted by the Commonwealth	Final report across implementation for first two years of delivery (Stage 1) detailing achievements against milestones, deliverables and including financial acquittal. The report should also provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final economic evaluation plan and Business case for Stage 2 (years 3, 4 and 5) Shared clinical governance model overview Key implementation learnings and insights from Stage 1 for potential replication of the FNQ Connect model Stage 1 final evaluation and recommendations for Stage 2. 	31 May 2027	Nil

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

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Bill Shorten MP
Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Minister for Government Services

5 / 9 / 2024

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by



The Honourable Charis Mullen MP
Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

16 / 9 / 2024