

# Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment 2025-31 – Remote Policing

## FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – AFFORDABLE HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND OTHER

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule	
Parties	Commonwealth Northern Territory
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 June 2031.
Purpose	<p>This Schedule supports the delivery of the remote policing investment priority under the <i>Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment: Investing in Aboriginal Self-determination to Close the Gap in the Northern Territory Partnership Agreement</i> (NTRAI Partnership Agreement).</p> <p>The NTRAI Partnership Agreement is between the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT).</p> <p>This Schedule recognises that continued investment in remote community policing is essential to supporting the achievement of Outcome 13 under the <i>National Agreement on Closing the Gap: Families and Households are Safe</i>.</p> <p>This Schedule aims to deliver on key objectives set out in the NTRAI Partnership Agreement, which are aligned to the Priority Reforms set out in the <i>National Agreement on Closing the Gap</i> (National Agreement), including:</p> <p><u>Priority Reform One</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a flexible partnership framework for joint design; planning; decision making; implementation; monitoring and evaluation; reporting and accountability of the remote service system; consistent with the strong partnership elements described in the National Agreement.</li> <li>• Align and strengthen the governance of the Commonwealth NTRAI investment in remote services within the NT's Closing the Gap governance framework.</li> <li>• Meet the contemporary needs expressed by communities.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Priority Reform Two</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tangible action and local jobs in remote communities in line with the Aboriginal employment target in the Additional Terms of this Schedule.</li> </ul> <p><u>Priority Reform Three</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the standard of remote services, including the design, management and delivery of high-quality, culturally responsive services.</li> <li>• Ensuring Aboriginal people living in remote communities have equitable access to mainstream services in a way that is relevant to their context.</li> <li>• Identifying and eliminating racism in mainstream organisations and institutions delivering services to remote communities.</li> <li>• Embedding and practicing meaningful cultural safety in government organisations delivering services to remote Northern Territory communities.</li> <li>• Delivering mainstream services for remote communities in partnership with remote communities and their organisations.</li> </ul> <p>Funding provided under this Schedule builds on previous Commonwealth investment in remote Aboriginal communities through the NTRAI and is intended to supplement service delivery in the Northern Territory. It is not intended to exclude or disadvantage the Northern Territory Government from accessing other funding sources, including from the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Acknowledging the supplementary nature of NTRAI investment, where the Northern Territory Government negotiates with the Commonwealth for new funding for services and programs within the scope of NTRAI, the Northern Territory will notify the Commonwealth of the funding being provided under NTRAI for those services and programs with appropriate records maintained.</p> <p><b>Remote policing</b></p> <p>This Schedule provides supplementary funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the delivery of remote policing services through a community policing model; and</li> <li>• enhance Aboriginal employment and leadership across the Northern Territory Police Force.</li> </ul> <p>Parties to this Schedule recognise the importance of cultural safety for Aboriginal people who interact with police, consistent with Priority</p>
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	<p>Reform Three – Transforming Government Organisations of the National Agreement. To align with this Priority Reform, this Schedule supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the delivery of cultural competency and Anti-Racism training for the NT Police Force, including alignment with the NT Police Force’s Anti-Racism Strategy and Action Plan.</li> <li>initiatives targeting Aboriginal employment and leadership development within NT Police Force.</li> </ul> <p>Whilst the majority of remote policing is funded by the Northern Territory Government, this Schedule provides supplementary Commonwealth investment to ensure Aboriginal people living in remote communities have equitable access to policing services that contributes to the safety and wellbeing of communities, is relevant to place, and enables formal partnership arrangements with Aboriginal communities and organisations. This is delivered through a community policing model for remote locations.</p> <p>The remote community policing model is a strategic approach to support a sustainable allocation of resources to remote communities. It seeks to ensure that police operations in remote areas across the Northern Territory are well supported, agile, have adequate staffing coverage, and includes remote service and engagement priorities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivering a culturally relevant and responsive model of community policing through maintaining a policing presence outside of Greater Darwin to service regional and remote areas;</li> <li>enabling formal partnership arrangements with Aboriginal communities and organisations;</li> <li>ensuring community views are heard, understood and considered in remote policing operations.</li> </ul>
Governance	<p>The NTRAI Partnership Agreement sets out the enduring shared decision-making arrangements to guide NTRAI investment and maximise alignment to Closing the Gap Priority Reforms, including establishing the NTRAI Joint Steering Committee (JSC). To facilitate shared decision-making, monitoring and oversight of NTRAI investment by the JSC, the NT Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare biennial plans to outline the strategic direction of outputs funded through this Schedule and submit these for consideration by</li> </ul>



	<p>the JSC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Biennial plans provide a mechanism for shared decision-making and oversight of investment and reform effort, not operational arrangements for service delivery. Plans do not establish additional requirements for the purpose of assessing performance against milestones for the provision of payments to the NT Government.</li> <li>● Prepare progress reports at 6-month intervals as per the due dates in Table 2 which will be submitted to the JSC for consideration.</li> </ul> <p>The JSC will provide advice to the Commonwealth delegate on the alignment of plans and progress reports with the Partnership Agreement and Closing the Gap Priority Reforms. This advice must be provided within 10 business days of the plan being tabled. The delegate will consider the JSC's advice in determining relevant milestone payments.</p> <p>If the JSC does not provide advice regarding alignment with the Partnership Agreement and the Closing the Gap Priority Reforms within 10 business days, the Commonwealth delegate will proceed with their consideration of relevant milestone payments.</p> <p>The parties acknowledge payment decisions are a matter for the Commonwealth delegate in line with the <i>Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations</i>. The Commonwealth will make payments subject to performance reports demonstrating relevant milestones have been met by the NT Government.</p> <p>Consistent with the NTRAI Partnership Agreement, the JSC will monitor the progress and outcomes of this Schedule to ensure this investment priority remains responsive to the evolving needs of remote NT Aboriginal communities. This may include recommending to the Ministers responsible adjustments to this Schedule over time.</p> <p>In accordance with Clause 14 of the NTRAI Partnership Agreement, the parties will work collaboratively through the JSC to embed Priority Reform 4 into the monitoring and evaluation of progress and outcomes relating to outputs delivered under this Schedule.</p>
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Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the Northern Territory of \$205.815m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table><tr><td>Table 1 (\$ million)</td><td>2025-26</td><td>2026-27</td><td>2027-28</td><td>2028-29</td><td>2029-30</td><td>2030-31</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Estimated total budget</td><td>31.819</td><td>32.773</td><td>33.756</td><td>34.769</td><td>35.812</td><td>36.886</td><td>205.815</td></tr><tr><td>Less estimated National Partnership Payments</td><td>31.819</td><td>32.773</td><td>33.756</td><td>34.769</td><td>35.812</td><td>36.886</td><td>205.815</td></tr><tr><td>Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td><td>0.0</td></tr></table>								Table 1 (\$ million)	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	Total	Estimated total budget	31.819	32.773	33.756	34.769	35.812	36.886	205.815	Less estimated National Partnership Payments	31.819	32.773	33.756	34.769	35.812	36.886	205.815	Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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Additional Terms	<p><b>Roles and responsibilities</b></p> <p>The Northern Territory is responsible and accountable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering policing services in the NT, including in remote communities and for managing associated financial and service delivery risks.</li><li>• Reporting on the delivery of outputs funded through this Schedule in accordance with the milestones at Tables 2 and 3.</li></ul> <p>The Commonwealth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is responsible for making payments under this Schedule to support the Northern Territory to deliver the agreed remote policing outputs.</li><li>• Commits to sharing relevant data aligned with outcomes identified in the NTRAI Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Framework to support its implementation.</li></ul> <p>The Commonwealth and Northern Territory are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Upholding FFA Principles, including demonstrating evidence of cost-effectiveness.</li><li>• Liaising with the JSC prior to the release of any media statements relating to the Schedule.</li><li>• Actively participating in the implementation of the overarching NTRAI MEAL Framework as described under the monitoring and evaluation section of this Schedule.</li></ul> <p><b>Reform Ambition</b></p> <p>Payments provided through this Schedule support essential service delivery to Aboriginal Territorians who live, or are from, remote NT communities. The parties agree a principle underpinning this Schedule</p>																																							

	<p>is ensuring the continuity of these services is maintained through certainty of funding flows and appropriate service delivery risk management.</p> <p>To support this continuity in service delivery, and in accordance with Clause 23 of the <i>Federation Funding Agreement – Affordable Housing, Community Services and Other</i>, the NT Government will report the minimum required, to demonstrate milestones have been met, as set out at Table 2 and Table 3.</p> <p>Acknowledging the shared reform ambition set out in the NTRAI Partnership Agreement the parties also commit to working towards the below aspirational targets over the six-year term of NTRAI investment for the Remote Policing investment priority.</p> <p>These targets reflect the shared aspirations of the parties to the NTRAI Partnership Agreement and are not intended to represent benchmarks for the purpose of assessing performance against milestones for the provision of payments to the NT Government under this Schedule.</p> <p><u>Cultural competency training</u></p> <p>Both parties aspire to all NT Police Force employees maintaining regular and contemporary cultural competency skills.</p> <p>This Schedule sets an aspirational target of 90% of NT Police Force employees undertaking formal cultural competency training.</p> <p><u>Aboriginal Employment</u></p> <p>NT Police Force have an aspirational target of 30% Aboriginal employment set out in the Corporate Plan 2024-27, which is supported by this Schedule.</p> <p>Previous NTRAI agreements have contributed to building the Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) workforce. This Schedule will continue to invest in growing the ALO workforce and building the cultural competency of the NT Police Force to support remote community policing.</p> <p><u>Community partnerships</u></p> <p>NT Police will work collaboratively with local Aboriginal people and communities to develop and implement local partnerships, acknowledging local Aboriginal peoples' culture, beliefs, languages and governance, in the delivery of policing services and enhancing community safety, which includes reducing the rate of Aboriginal adult and youth held in incarceration, and reducing the rate of family violence</p>
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	<p>and abuse of Aboriginal women and children, through community policing.</p> <p>Clause 31 and Clause 32 of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap will inform the approach of NT Police to establishing and formalising partnerships.</p> <p><u>Community led safety planning</u></p> <p>Community led safety plans are a mechanism for NT Police to work with and empower communities. NT Police provide the secretariat and coordination support for plans, minimising administrative burden on communities. Plans focus on collaborative partnerships between local police and individuals and organisations in communities, to identify root causes of crime and develop solutions beyond just responding to incidents. The parties commit to establish a framework for developing community-led safety plans, including governance arrangements and authorising environments within communities.</p> <p><b>Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning</b></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation will occur through the NTRAI MEAL Framework as outlined in the NTRAI Partnership Agreement, and the FFA Schedule – NTRAI Evaluation.</p> <p>The JSC will oversee the development of the overarching NTRAI MEAL Framework which will be underpinned by schedule specific 2-year plans, a contemporary program logic and a data matrix, to outline the intended links between the activities, outputs and outcomes supported by this Schedule and the broader outcomes and objective of the Partnership Agreement. The data matrix will outline the proposed measures, baseline data and indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress and outcomes achieved by the outputs funded through this Schedule.</p> <p>Through Clause 14.3 of the NTRAI Partnership Agreement the Commonwealth and Northern Territory commit to maximizing transparency in relation to broader funding commitments and allocations for remote service delivery in the NT. This requirement will be met by the parties through the NTRAI MEAL Framework.</p>
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NOTE: While this Schedule seeks to ensure Aboriginal people living in remote communities have equitable access to policing services, the Schedule recognises the Northern Territory Police Force delivers policing for the benefit of all peoples within remote areas of the Northern Territory.

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Table 2: Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary				
Output	Performance milestones	Reporting Period	Report due	Payment
Continued delivery of remote policing services  NOTE: The activity being reported for this milestone relates to the previous NTRAI 2024-25 Remote Policing FFA Schedule and is provided for continuity of information flows only.	Delivery of a final report. At a minimum, the report should include evidence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of sworn police operating outside of the Greater Darwin area.</li> <li>List of remote communities where a police facility is maintained, by location.</li> <li>Number and percentage of sworn police officers who identify as Aboriginal.</li> <li>The number and percentage of sworn police officers who complete cultural competency education, training and inductions.</li> <li>Offence report, demand report, arrest and alternate resolutions.</li> <li>Number of Aboriginal Liaison Officers, by location.</li> </ul>	1 January – 30 June 2025	30 November 2025	\$6,363,710
Remote community policing	<u>Milestone 1</u> Provision of a 2-year Plan for remote community policing services, in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 3 and tabled for consideration by the JSC and consistent with the arrangements set out in the Governance section of Table 1.	1 July 2025 – 30 June 2027	30 November 2025	\$1,590,928
		1 July 2027 – 30 June 2029	1 April 2027	\$1,638,655
		1 July 2029 – 30 June 2031	1 April 2029	\$1,738,450
	<u>Milestone 2</u> Provision of a 6 monthly progress report on the 2-year Plan, in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 3 and tabled for consideration by the JSC and consistent with the arrangements set out in the Governance section of Table 1. Micropayments associated with benchmarks for this output are as follows:	1 July – 31 December 2025	1 April 2026	Up to \$19,091,131
		1 January – 30 June 2026	1 October 2026	Up to \$11,470,588
		1 July – 31 December 2026	1 April 2027	Up to \$11,470,588

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	Benchmarks for this output				1 January – 30 June 2027	1 October 2027	Up to \$13,502,521
	Reporting Milestone Due date	Maintain a minimum of 550 sworn officers outside the Greater Darwin region.	15 community partnerships by 30 June 2027.	Delivery of compulsory cultural competency training for 100% of new recruits	1 July – 31 December 2027	1 April 2028	Up to \$13,502,521
	1 April 2026	\$9,545,565	\$4,772,783	\$4,772,783	1 January – 30 June 2028	1 October 2028	Up to \$12,169,146
	1 October 2026	\$4,915,966	\$3,277,311	\$3,277,311	1 July – 31 December 2028	1 April 2029	Up to \$12,169,147
	1 April 2027	\$4,915,966	\$3,277,311	\$3,277,311	1 January – 30 June 2029	1 October 2029	Up to \$14,324,825
	1 October 2027	\$6,751,261	\$3,375,630	\$3,375,630	1 July – 31 December 2029	1 April 2030	Up to \$14,324,824
	1 April 2028	\$6,751,261	\$3,375,630	\$3,375,630	1 January – 30 June 2030	1 October 2030	Up to \$14,754,569
	1 October 2028	\$5,215,349	\$3,476,899	\$3,476,899	1 July – 31 December 2030	1 April 2031	Up to \$14,754,569
	1 April 2029	\$5,215,349	\$3,476,899	\$3,476,899			
	1 October 2029	\$7,162,412	\$3,581,206	\$3,581,206			
	1 April 2030	\$7,162,412	\$3,581,206	\$3,581,206			
	1 October 2030	\$7,377,285	\$3,688,642	\$3,688,642			
	1 April 2031	\$7,377,285	\$3,688,642	\$3,688,642			
Aboriginal employment and leadership development	<u>Milestone 3</u> Provision of a 2-year Plan, in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 3 and tabled for consideration by the JSC and consistent with the arrangements set out in the Governance section of Table 1.				1 July 2025 – 30 June 2027	30 November 2025	\$1,590,928
					1 July 2027 – 30 June 2029	1 April 2027	\$1,638,655
					1 July 2029 – 30 June 2031	1 April 2029	\$1,738,450
	<u>Milestone 4</u>				1 July – 31 December 2025	1 April 2026	\$3,181,855

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	<p>Provision of a 6 monthly report on the 2-year Plan, in accordance with the requirements set out in Table 3 and tabled for consideration by the JSC and consistent with the arrangements set out in the Governance section of Table 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain a minimum of 51 Aboriginal Liaison Officers.</li></ul>	1 January – 30 June 2026	1 October 2026	\$3,277,311
		1 July – 31 December 2026	1 April 2027	\$3,277,311
		1 January – 30 June 2027	1 October 2027	\$3,375,630
		1 July – 31 December 2027	1 April 2028	\$3,375,630
		1 January – 30 June 2028	1 October 2028	\$3,476,899
		1 July – 31 December 2028	1 April 2029	\$3,476,899
		1 January – 30 June 2029	1 October 2029	\$3,581,206
		1 July – 31 December 2029	1 April 2030	\$3,581,206
		1 January – 30 June 2030	1 October 2030	\$3,688,642
		1 July – 31 December 2030	1 April 2031	\$3,688,642

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Table 3: Milestone requirements	
Report	Key deliverables
2-year Plans	<p>Plans should outline the strategic direction of outputs funded through this Schedule over a 2-year period, including how the delivery of outputs is intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• align with the NTRAI Partnership Agreement and the Priority Reforms outlined in the Purpose section of this Schedule.</li><li>• meet relevant performance milestones; and</li><li>• strive to achieve the reform ambition as set out in the Additional Terms section of this Schedule.</li></ul> <p>For the <i>Remote Community Policing</i> output the plan must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of the contemporary remote policing model.</li><li>• Planned community partnerships between NT Police Force and Aboriginal communities and organisations.</li><li>• An overview of cultural competency and anti-racism training activities planned for new and existing workforce, including any updates to the training as part of broader efforts to address Priority Reform 3.</li><li>• Update against the construction of the Maningrida Police Complex.<sup>1</sup></li></ul> <p>For the <i>Aboriginal Employment and Leadership Development</i> output the plan must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an overview of the Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) workforce</li><li>• planned recruitment and retention efforts to support ALO workforce.</li></ul>
6 monthly Progress Reports	<p>6 monthly progress reports must demonstrate progress or achievement of milestones and provide an update on the elements within the 2-year plan.</p> <p>For the <i>Remote Community Policing</i> output the report must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A minimum of 550 sworn officers reported as an Average Staffing Level (ASL) outside the greater Darwin area. Include a breakdown by community where a police presence is maintained.</li><li>• Progress towards a minimum of 15 partnerships by 30 June 2027, and maintaining those partnerships. Reporting must include a summary of the partnerships by location, including the purpose and parties involved.<sup>2</sup></li><li>• Delivery of compulsory cultural competency training for 100% of new recruits</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> There is no funding tied to this reporting element, reporting relates to close out of funding previously provided to the Northern Territory under the now ceased National Partnership on Northern Territory Remote Aboriginal Investment for the construction of a police facility in Maningrida.

<sup>2</sup> Partnerships must be documented with clear roles for the parties and should outline the purpose and objectives for the partnership, aligned to the purpose of this Schedule.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proportion of NT Police Force employees who have undertaken cultural competency or anti-racism training within the last 2 years.</li><li>• Update against the construction of the Maningrida Police Complex (if applicable).</li></ul> <p>For the <i>Aboriginal Employment and Leadership Development</i> output the report must include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain a minimum of 51 ALOs over the reporting period, reported by location and gender.</li></ul>
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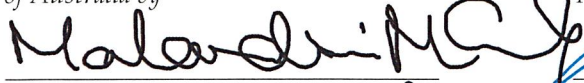
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The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by



Senator the Honourable Malarndirri  
McCarthy  
Minister for Indigenous Australians

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern  
Territory by



The Honourable Lia Finocchiaro MLA  
Minister for Police

Date: 14 November 2025

Date: 16 December 2025

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