



Ministerial Aboriginal Partnership Group (MAP Group) 10th March 2026 Communiqué

The Ministerial Aboriginal Partnership (MAP) Group met in person on Tuesday 10th March 2026 on Gadigal Country. On the agenda were updates on the Minister's nine commitments from the Aboriginal Child Safety and Wellbeing Forum 2023, a discussion on quarterly data, Family Group Conferencing, Prenatal Reform and the NSW Government's Out-of-Home Care Strategy.

Minister Washington provided updates on her nine key commitments, which included a discussion on the NSW Government's restoration reform. The MAP Group advised the NSW Government that an Aboriginal Community-led approach to restoration will best support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities. The MAP Group also led a discussion on the case management transition of Aboriginal children to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

The MAP Group noted the resignation of Associate Professor BJ Newton, and thanked her for her leadership and participation.

Alignment of sector investment strategies through the Department of Communities and Justice and Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations was discussed, including through Aboriginal-led Commissioning and ACCO Comprehensive Support Package implementation.

The MAP Group discussed feedback from the Family Group Conferencing Facilitator Forum Report, including considerations of racism, and the report's reform proposals. Minister Washington and MAP Group members agreed to further engagement on policy reforms.

The MAP Group discussed prenatal policy reform and practice. Minister Washington and the MAP Group members agreed to revisit the ongoing reform work in subsequent MAP Group meetings. MAP Group members emphasised Community-led approaches oriented towards access to prevention services. MAP Group members also discussed new and emerging research associated with the Birthing on Country model and the Replanting the Birthing Trees research from the University of Melbourne.

Minister Washington led a discussion on the Out-of-Home Care Strategy, noting her commitment to the wellbeing of Aboriginal children, families and communities. MAP Group members welcomed the NSW Government's commitment to accountability and offered insight into opportunities to strengthen accountability across the child protection and out-of-home care systems for Aboriginal communities. Minister Washington discussed the intention for DCJ to consult Aboriginal communities on detailed elements of reform.



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Members noted that the Minister's commitment to transition reflects an understanding that Aboriginal communities and their organisations are uniquely positioned within the child protection system. MAP Members advised that reforms should be clearly directed towards a family and kin, and prevention-focused system, and consistent with self-determination principles.

The Secretary provided the MAP Members with an update on changes to DCJ's organisational structure, incorporating Transforming Aboriginal Outcomes Unit staff into departmental divisions responsible for reform. The MAP Group advised the Secretary on opportunities to strengthen Aboriginal leadership within the Department of Communities and Justice and through partnership with Aboriginal communities through Closing the Gap.

