

Closing the Gap Working Group Report August 2021

1. Meeting of members of the Closing the Gap Working Group

The CTG working group held its first meeting on 4 August 2021.

The meeting was an introductory one, aimed at better understanding the CTG process and where the Working Group may be able to be most effective in advancing its aims.

Sarah Hopkins provided the meeting with a very useful overview of process against the 5 CTG priority reform areas: 4 being national (shared decision making, building the ACCO sector, transforming government, shared access to data) and 1 being NSW specific (employment and business growth). There is one working group for each priority reform, in addition to a working group for each justice target, and a process for community engagement to encompass goals of each working group. Each working group is developing a plan to then be signed off at Deputy Secretary, then Secretary and Ministerial level. Each working group is aiming to have a plan ready by November 2021 in time for NSW budget process.

In terms of the justice targets, these will go through an implementation process, which includes the following phases: (1) Research and Analysis, (2) Consultation, (3) Implementation Plan Co-Design, (4) Review and Evaluation.

2. Next steps

It is clear that the CTG process is an ambitious one, with tight timeframes and a significant load for the ALS as a lead agency. The group agreed that we would concentrate on supporting the work of the ALS with research and data. The Terms of Reference for the group will be amended to reflect this.

We may seek to engage with other agencies such as BOCSAR, Police and Corrections as required.

**Jonathon Hunyor, CEO Public Interest Advocacy Centre
Chair**

31 August 2021