

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

ATTACHMENT AS-3 TO STATEMENT OF ANGELA MAREE SINGH

Date of document: 16 July 2015
Filed on behalf of: State of Victoria
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This is the attachment marked '**AS-3**' produced and shown to **ANGELA MAREE SINGH** at the time of signing her Statement on 16 July 2015.

Before me: ...

**An Australian Legal Practitioner within
the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)**

Attachment AS-3

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS REFORM AGREEMENT

What is the content of the Agreement?

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) signifies the importance all governments place on Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. While not separately funded, the NIRA is underpinned by five funded National Specific Purpose Payments in the areas of health, schools, skills and workforce development, housing and disabilities.

The NIRA captures the objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance measures and benchmarks that all governments have committed to achieving through the various National Agreements (NAs) and National Partnership (NP) Agreements to achieve the six Council of Australian Government (COAG) targets. The six COAG Closing the Gap targets are:

- to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation;
- to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade;
- to ensure all Indigenous four-year olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education within five years;
- to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade;
- to halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 equivalent attainment by 2020; and
- to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

It also provides an overarching summary of action being taken against the Closing the Gap targets as well as the impact on Indigenous disadvantage of the mainstream NAs in health, schools, skills and workforce development, disability services and housing and several NPs.

What will the impact of the Agreement be?

The NIRA is a living document that links to those NAs and NPs agreed by COAG which include elements aimed at Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. The NIRA, like other NAs, may be amended as necessary with the agreement of affected States and Territories (the States), to reflect changes to existing Agreements or as COAG agrees new Agreements.

The NIRA will also ensure that all relevant information is publicly available, so that governments can be held accountable for their funding decisions in relation to meeting Indigenous needs.

What are the benefits that will flow from the Agreement?

The NIRA will be a mechanism for improved accountability by governments for performance against the Closing the Gap targets.

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The NIRA will also be useful for governments and the public in understanding the relationship of the various COAG Agreements to the six Closing the Gap targets.

COAG recognises that strategies aimed at achieving improvements in any particular area will not work in isolation. To assist in bringing together policy ideas and providing a framework for understanding reforms, the NIRA is framed around seven Building Blocks recognised by COAG as supporting the reforms aimed at Closing the Gap against the six COAG Targets. The Building Blocks endorsed by COAG are:

- early childhood;
- schooling;
- health;
- economic participation;
- healthy homes;
- safe communities; and
- governance and leadership.

In the context of the Building Blocks framework, COAG has commenced the task of addressing Indigenous disadvantage across each of the strategic platforms. However, this is an ongoing process.

What will change?

A key feature of the new NAs will be enhanced reporting against specified indicators. COAG has agreed to reporting arrangements which will see many indicators disaggregated by Indigenous and non-Indigenous status. This will facilitate close examination by COAG and the public of progress towards Closing the Gap and will complement other reporting mechanisms, such as the COAG-sponsored *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Key Indicators Report*.

The objectives, outcomes, outputs, performance indicators, and performance benchmarks noted in this and other Agreements will be used by the COAG Reform Council to assess progress on Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage. An attachment detailing how this will be measured will be included in the NIRA.

Taken together, these reforms, and the increased focus on performance, will ensure the Commonwealth and the States work together with renewed vigour on Closing the Gap in Indigenous disadvantage.