First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 1

Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group had its first meeting on Wednesday 18 January. The meetingwas in Adelaide on Kaurna Country.

At the meeting were:

- The Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland
- members of the Advisory Group
  - Ms Dorothy West OAM
  - Ms Talei Elu
  - Professor Bronwyn Carlson
  - Associate Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker
- the Digital Inclusion Expert Panel:
  - Dr Daniel Featherstone
  - Dr Scott Winch
  - Mr Che Cockatoo-Collins
  - Ms Lauren Ganley
  - Mr Neil Turner
  - Professor Ellie Rennie
- members of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications andthe Arts (to watch and support the group).

The Minister for Communications gave the first speech to the Advisory Group. She said that First Nations digital inclusion is a high priority for the Government.

The Minister said she wanted the Advisory Group, her office and the department to keep talking. She wants them to talk across government and with industry and community to find new ways to address First Nations digital inclusion.

Closing the Gap on digital inclusion

There is a gap in digital access for First Nations peoples compared to other Australians. Closing this gap will involve better access to services people need such as:

- online banking
- telehealth
- websites like myGov.

Digital inclusion will also improve First Nations people's access to information to help them make decisions about their own lives.

Stakeholder engagement and communications

It is vital that the Advisory Group engages with stakeholders well and in a way that:

- is culturally appropriate
- draws on expertise held at the community level.

This will bring in different views and perspectives between communities, including those in remote, regional and city areas.

To plan for future policy effort to support digital inclusion, the Advisory Group will also engage closely with:

- industry
- the not-for-profit sector
- states and territories.

Next steps for the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group thought about how to be an effective advocate on First Nations digital inclusion in:

- giving useful and practical advice to the Minister for Communications
- aiding leadership by First Nations people and communities.

The Advisory Group named priorities to think about and take action on soon:

- working out how to improve the national collection and use of data on First Nations digital inclusion
- looking into ways to build digital skills and technical expertise in remote communities
- supporting communities to know and name local digital inclusion issues and ways to address localbarriers.

The Advisory Group will hold its next meeting online in late February.

For more information email FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au.