

First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 4

Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group held its fourth meeting on Tuesday 11 July, 2023. The meeting was held on Dharug Country, in Sydney.

Attendees included the Hon. Michelle Rowland MP, Minister for Communications, members of the Advisory Group and Digital Inclusion Expert Panel, and representatives from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Department of Social Services, and the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

Minister's Update

Minister Rowland attended the first part of the meeting and provided an update on the First Nations Digital Inclusion Plan. The Minister thanked the Advisory Group for its input and noted its release will help to raise public visibility of the importance of digital inclusion for First Nations Australians.

The Minister also updated the Advisory Group on her decision to direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority to make an enforceable industry standard to ensure appropriate support is provided to telecommunications customers experiencing financial hardship.

The Minister advised the Group that the application period for current combined rounds of the Regional Connectivity Program and Mobile Black Spot Program had been extended to close on 11 August.

Interim Report

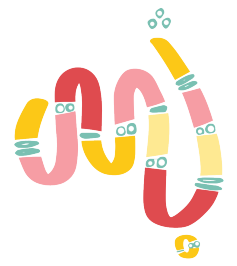
The focus of this meeting was to finalise the recommendations of the Advisory Group's interim report.

The initial report will make a number of recommendations based on three key themes:

- delivering targeted measures to support the three elements of digital inclusion
- addressing the lack of data on digital inclusion levels for First Nations Australians
- genuine engagement and collaboration with First Nations Australians in addressing the digital divide.

The recommendations reflect on the Advisory Group consultations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Industry, NGO's, government and stakeholders, its understanding of the best available evidence and data, and their own observations and experience.





Next Steps

The Advisory Group will commence a series of stakeholder workshops, meeting with representatives of the telecommunications sector and Indigenous tech sector in Sydney on 12 July. It is expected to hold its next meeting in November.

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

