# First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group – Meeting 2

## Communique

The First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group had its second meeting on Monday 20 February. The meeting was held online.

At the meeting were:

- Members of the Advisory Group
  - Ms Dorothy (Dot) West OAM
  - Ms Talei Elu
  - Professor Bronwyn Carlson
  - Associate Professor Lyndon Ormond-Parker
  - Ms Naomi Moran
- Members of the Digital Inclusion Expert Panel:
  - Ms Lauren Ganley
  - Dr Daniel Featherstone
  - Ms Gillian Mailman
  - Dr Scott Winch
  - Mr Che Cockatoo-Collins
  - Professor Ellie Rennie
  - Mr Neil Turner
- A representative from the Nations Indigenous Australians Agency; and
- Members of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

The Advisory Group met to discuss digital inclusion for First Nations Australians, including how the Advisory Group can best engage with stakeholders and communities to work out how digital inclusion can be improved in those communities.

### The Digital Inclusion Expert Panel

The Digital Inclusion Expert Panel (the Expert Panel) supports the Advisory Group in ascertaining best practice solutions for improving digital inclusion for communities.

At the meeting, the Advisory Group discussed the role of the Expert Panel and how it could best support the Advisory Group. This will include providing technical information relating to media, broadcasting and telecommunications, as well as exploring the data that is currently available and how gaps in that data can be addressed.

The Expert Panel will not participate in the formal decisions made by the Advisory Group but will attend Advisory Group meetings and be part of the discussion.

The Advisory Group has asked the Expert Panel to consider proposals to improve longitudinal data collection on First Nations digital inclusion in line with Closing the Gap target 17[1], and on digital mentoring for First Nation communities. The Panel will report back to the Advisory Group at its next meeting.

## Stakeholder engagement and communications

The Advisory Group discussed the best way to engage with First Nations people in a way that is effective and appropriate. This might include travelling to regional and remote areas to meet with local organisations.

The Advisory Group considered how it can use social media and a new website to make sure people know about its work and provide feedback and comments.

They also talked about the way in which access to the internet can support people to access other benefits, such as using telehealth for medical care, accessing government services or to learn and study online.

## Digital inclusion in Alice Springs

The Central Land Council had reached out to the Advisory Group to provide a briefing on digital inclusion in Central Australia. The Advisory Group agreed that it will meet with the Central Land Council to discuss digital inclusion and to considered how better access to the internet could help people in Alice Springs and surrounding communities.  The Advisory Group welcomed further discussions.

## Next Steps for the Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is likely to meet again in April. It will reflect on what it has heard from stakeholders to help make sure its advice to the Government is based on communities led solutions.

For more information please feel free to email FirstNationsDigitalInclusion@infrastructure.gov.au

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[1] Target 17: By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion