



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MS19-000697

13 MAR 2019

Ms Patricia Turner
Convener
Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Peak Organisations
PO Box 130
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Dear Ms Turner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat', written over the name 'Ms Turner'.

It is an honour to be sending you this letter, as Convener of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations, requesting you co-sign the attached Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement. This historic Agreement delivers on the commitment COAG made in December 2018 to establish a formal partnership between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, through their representatives, to finalise the Closing the Gap refresh.

As partners we recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians must play an integral part in making the decisions that affect their lives, and will embed shared decision making into the design, implementation and monitoring of the Closing the Gap framework.

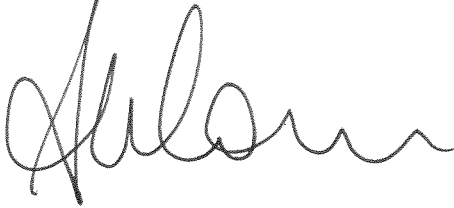
The Joint Council on Closing the Gap, included in the partnership, represents a significant step forward in the practical working relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and governments. I understand the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion, will host the first meeting of the Joint Council on Wednesday 27 March 2019. The refreshed Closing the Gap framework and targets will be finalised through the Council by mid-2019 ahead of endorsement by COAG.

I know you join me in anticipating a productive start to the Council's important work, as governments and Indigenous representatives work together to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Please pass on my invitation to attend this historic first Joint Council to your nominated representatives.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Coalition of Peaks. My Department will be in touch with you shortly about a joint communication strategy on the finalisation of this partnership.

I have also written to premiers, chief ministers and the President of the Australian Local Government Association asking them to sign the agreement as a priority, and copied these letters to Minister Scullion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Morrison', written in a cursive style.

SCOTT MORRISON