

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIOR TO HEARING

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Hon Wilson Tucker MLC asked:

1) In the absence of current ABS survey data for digital inclusion in Aboriginal communities, particularly remote Aboriginal communities, how will the Government improve digital inclusion for Aboriginal people as part of its obligations under the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*?

Answer: The inclusion of a target for digital inclusion in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap was agreed by the parties in February 2021. The WA Government's approach to meeting the target will be set out in its refreshed jurisdictional implementation plan in 2022, drawing on data available on the National Closing the Gap dashboard.

The WA Government's approach to digital inclusion more broadly, which includes digital inclusion for Aboriginal people, is set out in the *Digital Strategy for the Western Australian (WA) Government 2021-25*. This Strategy articulates the WA Government's commitment to being digitally inclusive so that all Western Australians can easily access and use digital technologies. The WA Government will be working with industry, community services and WA communities to implement initiatives that address key barriers to digital inclusion – connectivity, affordability, digital skills, and design. These initiatives will particularly aim to support more vulnerable communities, including remote Aboriginal communities, who face significant challenges to accessing stable and affordable internet services, digital skills training and digital services.



Minister Initial

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Hon Wilson Tucker MLC asked:

3) In the absence of up to date ABS data on which to rely, will the State Government commission or conduct its own surveys on Aboriginal digital inclusion?

Answer: Under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, Parties are collaborating on a Data Development Plan to be considered by the Joint Council on Closing the Gap by July 2022. Australian Government data holders, including the ABS, are contributing to the development of this work. The Data Development Plan will identify data gaps and seek to prioritise data development actions to support improved reporting and understanding of all of the socioeconomic targets, including to support understanding of progress against the digital inclusion target.

After the Data Development Plan is endorsed by the Joint Council, Parties will be responsible for undertaking the data development work including – if required by the Data Development Plan – developing new surveys on Aboriginal digital inclusion.



Minister Initial