

# Closing the Gap in emergency management

All Australian governments are committed to the **National Agreement on Closing the Gap**, but none are reporting progress against the commitment to close the gap in emergency management.

Clause 64 is a clear commitment from all governments at the federal, state, territory and local level to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in emergency management.

Analysis presented in National Indigenous Disaster Resilience's [Preparedness Scorecard](#) showed that federal, state, territory and local governments are not meeting this commitment.

**Closing the Gap in emergency managements means closing the gap between commitments and action.**

## CLAUSE 64

The Government Parties also commit to engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives *before, during, and after* emergencies such as natural disasters and pandemics to make sure that:

- government decisions take account of the impact of those decisions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not disproportionately affected and can recover as quickly as other Australians from social and economic impacts.

## Why Close the Gap in emergency management?

Governments and Indigenous organisations invest time, money and energy to address the entrenched disadvantage created by government policies that have excluded Indigenous peoples.

All governments should meet their commitment to closing the gap in emergency management because:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are disproportionately impacted by disasters.
- Disasters have distinct impacts on the targets set out in the National Agreement, eg. health, housing, land and water rights, culture and justice.
- Indigenous organisations step in to meet the needs of disaster impacted communities, often without recognition or support from government.

**All governments play a role in recognising, partnering with and investing in this Indigenous-led capability to close the gap in emergency management.**

The agreed Priority Reforms provide governments the most comprehensive pathway yet to support Indigenous disaster resilience.

### PRIORITY REFORM ONE

Formal partnerships and shared decision-making

### PRIORITY REFORM TWO

Building the community-controlled sector

### PRIORITY REFORM THREE

Transform government organisations

### PRIORITY REFORM FOUR

Shared access to data and information at a regional level

## Immediate actions for government

Fully integrate the reporting requirements under Priority Reform 3 into annual reporting for emergency management agencies

Establish a \$20 million stream under the Disaster Ready Fund to build capability in the community-controlled sector.

Build formal partnerships to share decision-making and support self-determination.

