

# 2025 Federal Election Priorities

## Focusing on equity and accountability

In the lead-up to the 2025 Federal Election, Lowitja Institute is calling on the incoming Australian Government to prioritise health equity and take action to ensure better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Lowitja Institute is calling on government to commit to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and embed accountability mechanisms to ensure government upholds commitments to progressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

Lowitja Institute is seeking action in the following key priority areas:

### Priority 1

Sustained effort and increased investment and innovation in closing the gap

### Priority 2

Support the growth of the Aboriginal community controlled sector

### Priority 3

Establish independent accountability mechanisms

### Priority 4

Take steps to combat racism within Australia

### Priority 5

Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leadership

### Priority 6

Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in climate change decision-making

## Priority 1

Sustained effort and increased investment and innovation in Closing the Gap

- Reaffirm governments commitment to the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* and the implementation of the four Priority Reform Areas.
- Continue to invest in the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, with a particular focus on the following areas:
  1. Child and family care and support services.
  2. Effort to reduce incarceration and youth detention rates.
  3. Social and emotional wellbeing policies and programs.
  4. Improved and culturally safe healthcare in hospitals.

## Priority 2

Support the growth of the Aboriginal community controlled sector

- Implement the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's 2024 *Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap*, and commit to long term, needs-based funding which strengthens the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sectors.
- Engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sector in negotiating and making decisions around funding allocation to ensure a consistent and coordinated national approach which accounts for community priorities and is focused on delivering measurable improvements.

## Priority 3

Establish independent accountability mechanisms

- Work to establish an independent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led mechanism with the remit of hold governments accountable for commitments, including accountability on how funding is allocated and what outcomes it is achieving.
- Commit to long-term reform in the way governments design and deliver programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which embeds a sustained and robust accountability framework that is not influenced by changing governments.

## Priority 4

Take steps to combat racism within Australia

- Adopt the *National Anti-Racism Framework* from the Australian Human Rights Commission and invest in its implementation, including the establishment of a National Anti-Racism Taskforce.
- Invest in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research agenda for health and wellbeing, with a focus on the impacts of systemic racism in health systems.
- Work to improve the standards of care experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and create culturally safe services.

## Priority 5

Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leadership

- Invest in infrastructure to support the development of a skilled workforce of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers. This should include a focus on developing relevant qualifications around data collection, management and analysis to support the advancement of Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
- Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led data development which embeds control and ownership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and population data by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Priority 6

Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement in climate change decision making

- Invest in the implementation of the *National Health and Climate Strategy* released by the Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Invest in the establishment of an on-going Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition on Climate and Health, which would work in partnership with government to develop effective and meaningful policies and impacts.
- Strengthen international climate change engagement, with a focus on elevating First Nations voices and strengthening partnership across the Pacific region.