



Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement



Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand share a close, long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship. Both governments acknowledge our respective indigenous peoples – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, and Māori, tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand.

The Governments of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand establish this Collaboration Arrangement (the Arrangement) in recognition of the unique role of our indigenous peoples in the identity of our respective countries, their rich cultures and languages, as well as their ancestral, spiritual and continuing connections to the land and sea.

The Arrangement seeks to:

- **Deepen** cultural and people-to-people relationships among Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities, businesses and organisations;
- **Provide** a mechanism for collaboration and consultation on areas of mutual interest; and
- **Enable** sharing of information between governments and indigenous peoples to inform the development of policies that affect indigenous peoples.

Our collaboration will be based on, and guided by, principles of:

- **Partnership** – we will implement the Arrangement using a partnership approach, including meaningful and timely engagement with our respective indigenous peoples;
- **Indigenous-led, government-enabled** – collaboration through this Arrangement will be informed and guided by the aspirations of our respective indigenous peoples;
- **Diversity** – we acknowledge and value the rich diversity of traditional knowledge, cultures, customs, languages and histories of our respective indigenous peoples; and
- **Respect** – all engagement under this Arrangement will be undertaken with due respect to each other and our indigenous peoples.

Our collaboration will be led by annual meetings between our respective Ministers, which will be taken forward at an annual dialogue between the heads of our agencies and guided by priorities as set out in the Schedule and a work plan, as may be mutually arranged from time to time. Our collaboration will be guided by the following four themes and associated sub-themes:

- **Agency** – leadership, education, recognition and autonomy;
- **Culture** – heritage, identity, language, land and the arts;
- **Economy** – businesses, trade, procurement, policy, development and capability; and
- **Wellbeing** – health, custodianship, housing, youth and environment.

Our two governments commit to a continuing indigenous collaboration relationship, as friends and partners. Signed in Sydney, Australia on 28 February 2020.

For the Government of New Zealand

For the Government of Australia

The Hon Nanaia Mahuta, MP

Minister for Māori Development
Associate Minister for Trade and Export Growth

The Hon Ken Wyatt, AM, MP

Minister for Indigenous Australians

SCHEDULE

Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement

Context

1. Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand share a close, long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship. Both governments acknowledge our respective indigenous peoples – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, and Māori, tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand.
2. The Governments of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand establish this bilateral Indigenous Collaboration Arrangement (the Arrangement) in recognition of the unique role of our respective indigenous peoples in the identity of our respective countries, their rich cultures and languages, as well as their ancestral, spiritual and continuing connections to the land and sea.
3. This Arrangement is signed in the context of a continuing journey of truth-telling about the history of our respective indigenous peoples. Our nations are both taking important steps towards healing and reconciliation. Truth-telling acknowledges the positive stories, as well as injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and Māori peoples throughout our shared history. Truth-telling also celebrates our respective indigenous peoples' contributions and excellence by reflecting on their important roles in shaping our modern nations.
4. Both governments acknowledge the aspirations of all indigenous peoples and support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The implementation of this Arrangement supports the development of good practices for the social, economic, cultural and political rights of the indigenous peoples of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand. In New Zealand's unique case, the Arrangement also acknowledges the role of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the preservation indigenous rights.
5. In implementing this Arrangement, the Governments of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand seek to harness the unique knowledge and experience of our indigenous peoples and other stakeholders to jointly determine areas of collaboration.

Partners to the Arrangement

6. The partners to this Arrangement are the Governments of Australia and of Aotearoa-New Zealand (the partners).

Objectives

7. The Arrangement seeks to promote the economic, social and cultural advancement for our respective indigenous peoples. The Arrangement has the following objectives:
 - a. Deepen cultural and people-to-people relationships between Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori communities, businesses and organisations;
 - b. Provide a mechanism for collaboration and consultation on areas of mutual interest; and
 - c. Enable sharing of information between governments and indigenous peoples to inform the development of policies that affect indigenous peoples.

Underlying Principles

8. This Arrangement is underpinned by the following principles:
- a. **Partnership** – we will implement the Arrangement using a partnership approach, including meaningful and timely engagement with our respective indigenous peoples, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia, and Māori, tangata whenua of Aotearoa-New Zealand;
 - b. **Indigenous-led, government-enabled** – collaboration through this Arrangement will be informed and guided by the aspirations of our respective indigenous peoples;
 - c. **Diversity** – we acknowledge and value the rich diversity of traditional knowledge, cultures, customs, languages and histories among the indigenous peoples of Australia and Aotearoa-New Zealand; and
 - d. **Respect** – all engagement under this Arrangement will be undertaken with due respect to each other and our indigenous peoples.

Collaboration Themes

9. This Arrangement is intended to be non-prescriptive and non-exhaustive. We intend to use four themes and associated sub-themes to guide collaboration. As partners, we will consult with our respective indigenous peoples on specific areas for collaboration and will regularly review the themes. The themes and sub-themes are:
- a. **Agency** – leadership, education, recognition and autonomy;
 - b. **Culture** – heritage, identity, language, land and the arts;
 - c. **Economy** – business, trade, procurement, policy, development and capability; and
 - d. **Wellbeing** – health, custodianship, housing, youth and environment.

Engagement

10. We will undertake engagement at multiple levels to ensure that the interests and views of our respective Ministers and indigenous peoples are incorporated into the dialogues and work plan.
11. Our collaboration will be led by annual meetings between our Ministers, which will inform annual dialogues between the heads of our agencies and guided by priorities and a work plan as may be mutually arranged from time to time. These meetings would complement existing dialogues held between senior officials, ministers and indigenous leaders.
12. The partners acknowledge the mutual benefits gained from exchanges of officials and mutually consent to exchange on a regular basis. The primary intent for the exchange of officials and/or Indigenous and Māori personnel is to help develop capability and provide opportunities to share knowledge in areas of priority as mutually determined during annual dialogues and workshops.

Other country participants

13. The partners recognise the value of learning from the experiences of other governments and their indigenous peoples. We therefore intend for this Arrangement to be a living document and open to collaboration with other countries in future.

Review of the Relationship and Work Program

14. This Arrangement will remain in effect unless terminated with immediate effect by either partner (or such other notice period as jointly decided). Te Puni Kōkiri and the National Indigenous Australians Agency will be the lead coordinating agencies for the relationship.
15. As partners we will jointly arrange to review our collaboration activities, priorities and work program at minimum once every year at the officials meeting. As part of this review, officials may consider participation by third party governments and their indigenous peoples. The review would also consider the strength of our relationship and discuss ways to improve collaboration.
16. This Arrangement may be amended by the mutual written consent of the partners.
17. Any difference between the partners arising out of the interpretation or application of this Arrangement will be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the partners.