

Blak Strength: Insights from First Nations NATSIFACP Regulation Support Hub team

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**NATSIFACP Support Hub
Webinar | 22 September 2026**



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Acknowledgement

We acknowledge Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of our land and its waters. Ninti One Limited and CDCS wish to pay respects to Elders, past and present, and to the youth, for the future. We extend this to all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people reading this document.



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Welcome to today's session

- ☐ Opening / acknowledgement
- ☐ Context and overview
- ☐ Blakness – what is it, community engagement and why it matters in the NATSIFACP context
- ☐ Cultural Safety and Statement of Rights
- ☐ National Priority Reforms
- ☐ Two-way governance – lack of capacity building
- ☐ Floor discussion – Q & A



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Why Blak – what is it?

- ❑ 'Blak' is a deliberate First Nations Australian spelling of Black, not a misspelling
- ❑ Blak Strength signals Indigenous self-determination, pride, resilience and a political-cultural identity shaped by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people themselves
- ❑ Blak Strength is more than individual toughness
- ❑ It is grounded in culture, kinship, country, community leadership, survival through colonisation and the continuing capacity to define our own futures





“Cultural safety means the understanding of one’s own culture and the impact that your culture, thinking and actions may have on the culture of others through ongoing critical self-reflection. Gaining such truthful insight about oneself is critical for ensuring access to a culturally safe, respectful, responsive and racism free aged care system providing for the optimal safety, autonomy, dignity and absolute wellbeing of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Elders and individuals accessing funded aged care services and their families. **Only the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who is the recipient of a service or interaction can determine whether it is culturally safe**”

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing and Aged Care Council



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CULTURAL SAFETY THAT MEETS WITH THE STATEMENT OF RIGHTS IN AGED CARE

3. The Aged Care Quality and
Safety Commission's - Statement
of Rights worker resources

2. The Department of Health and
Ageing "Statement of Rights - Practice
Alignment Tool for aged care workers

1. The New Aged Care Act
- embedding rights with
practice module set

CULTURAL SAFETY



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National Priority Reforms

Priority Reform 1

Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as formal partners in decisions that affect them – national, state/territory and local/regional

Priority Reform 3

Transforming Government Organisations

Systemic change in mainstream agencies to improve accountability and responsiveness to First Nations priorities

Priority Reform 2

Building the Community-Controlled Sector

Growing a sustainable, robust community-controlled sector to deliver services under the National Agreement

Priority Reform 4

Shared Access to Data and Information

Local access to and control over data that supports community-led decision making, evaluation and program design



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National Priority Reforms

Priority reforms are designed as an interdependent package, not four silos – exactly the point of Jumbunna Review and Productivity Commission Reports say is most often missed in implementation.



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Jumbunna Independent Review of Closing the Gap 2025

“Building true partnership capacity means rethinking policy cycles, timelines and success measures, making space for Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and leading.

It also means **recognising that community-controlled organisations hold cultural authority and deep local knowledge**, and ensuring all parties understand each other’s worldviews and have the ability to find ways to work together towards success under Closing the Gap”
p.7



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ABS submission to select committee on measuring outcomes for First Nations communities – February 2025

Implementation of APS Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data

The ABS has commenced implementing the APS Framework for Governance of Indigenous Data, supporting Closing the Gap and Indigenous self-determination.

The Framework sets out four guidelines for agencies to build strong governance over Indigenous data holdings:

- ☐ Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- ☐ Build data-related capabilities
- ☐ Provide knowledge of data assets
- ☐ Build an inclusive data system

Guided by the principles of Indigenous Data Sovereignty (ABS submission, p9)



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On Data

- ☐ Data literacy (capacity building agenda)
- ☐ Whose data?



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Built by Mob, for Mob.**



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Q&A and key references

Questions and comments

We welcome any questions or comments

Key references

- ☐ Coalition of Peaks – Independent Review of Closing the Gap
- ☐ Kowa Collaboration – Wathaga



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Thank you!



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