1. In June 2017, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committed to refreshing the Closing the Gap agenda and developing targets in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
2. COAG further agreed in February 2018 that all governments would undertake community consultations on the refresh, ahead of COAG agreeing to a new Closing the Gap framework, national and state targets, performance indicators and accountabilities. The Queensland Government continues to work with the Commonwealth Government to finalise the Closing the gap refresh.
3. The Queensland Government has a significant array of commitments, policies, programs and activities underway to deliver improved outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
4. Queensland’s approach to the Closing the Gap refresh is informed by the national Special Gathering of Indigenous leaders in Canberra in February 2018, which presented a Statement to COAG that the existing targets should be retained and critically reviewed and the following priority areas added: families, children and youth; housing; justice, including youth justice; economic development; culture and language; healing; and eliminating racism and systemic discrimination. The Statement agreed the next phase of the Closing the Gap agenda must be guided by principles of empowerment and self-determination.
5. Additionally, the Closing the Gap refresh is informed by community consultations undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in rural, regional and urban areas of Queensland to seek input on how government can work with communities to achieve future priorities and move from surviving to thriving.
6. Cabinet approved the public release of Queensland’s 2018 Closing the Gap Report Card.
7. *Attachments*
* [Queensland’s 2018 Closing the Gap Report Card](Attachments/Report.PDF)