Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Committees, groups and panels as at 30 June 2026

Our committees, panels and groups provide ways for people and organisations to help us develop policies and provide advice on specific issues

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group

This group shares decisions with all Australian governments in implementing Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established in 2016, under the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020*.	The Group remains active, meeting several times a year, both individually and as part of broader governance bodies for Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021-2031 (Safe and Supported).	Several times a year	Refer below tables	Refer below tables

Costs directly associated with the operation of the group (in millions)

Financial Year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Grant to SNAICC - National Voice for our Children - Secretariat Services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group *	$0.321	$1.340	$0.651	$0.665	$0	$0.665
Sitting fees and travel	NA	$0.002	$0.047	$0.080	$0.053	NA
Total	$0.321	$1.342	$0.698	$0.745	$0.053	$0.665

Sitting fees and costs (if applicable)

Meeting and preparation duration	Up to 1 hour	Between 1 and 2 hours	Between 2 and 3 hours	3 hours or more, inclusive of official travel time
Sitting fee	$151.80	$303.60	$455.40	$759.00

Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group

The Child Support Stakeholder Consultation Group gives advice on how to improve the Child Support Scheme.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established in June 2023.	Ongoing	The group meets twice a year.	Nil	Nil

Commonwealth National Plan Implementation Committee

This committee ensures senior executive leadership and accountability across key Commonwealth agencies responsible for the effective delivery and implementation of the National Plan.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established in January 2026	Ongoing – as required to support the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032 (National Plan).	Every 4-6 weeks	N/A	N/A

Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee

The Committee provides independent advice to government before each Budget on economic inclusion and tackling disadvantage.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
In November 2022, the Australian Government announced the establishment of the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee. On 8 December 2023, the *Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Act 2023* (Cth) received Royal Assent, establishing the committee in legislation.	Ongoing	Monthly	$800,000 a year of departmental funding to support the Committee to commission its own research and undertake consultation. $1.4 million a year for the department to ensure ongoing provision of secretariat and other support	*Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Act 2023* states that members are not paid. Members are paid a travel allowance for official business in accordance with the *Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee Regulations 2024.*

Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting

We perform the duties of the Australian Central Authority under the Hague Convention. There is also a central authority for each state and territory. Responsibility for intercountry adoption is shared across these central authorities.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
The Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting was established in 2008 under the Commonwealth-State Agreement for the Continued Operation of Australia's Intercountry Adoption Program. Members meet to address issues affecting Australia's intercountry adoption programs.	Ongoing	Annually or biannually as needed.	Nil	Nil

National Leadership Group

The group is a cross-sector advisory body that supports the implementation of the Stronger Places, Stronger People initiative.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established 14 February 2020	End 30 June 2026	N/A	Up to $25,000 a year for travel associated with one face to face meeting, often in a Stronger Places, Stronger People community	Nil

Parents and Carers Reference Group

This group provides parents and carers with the opportunity to share their experience and knowledge. This helps inform policy, programs and services for families.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established in 2024	End 30 June 2029	The PCRG will meet at least 3 times per year and hold additional meetings as needed. Members may also be asked to review materials, provide feedback or participate in engagement activities between meetings.	The Department absorbs the costs of the PCRG. This includes Secretariat functions, as well as sitting remuneration for eligible members, and travel (flights, accommodation, out of pocket) and support requirements for members. Details of the conditions of payment to members is set out in the Terms of Reference.	The PCRG will meet at least 3 times per year and hold additional meetings as needed. Members may also be asked to review materials, provide feedback or participate in engagement activities between meetings.

Partnership Priorities Committee

The committee helps steer better policy and delivery outcomes by embedding partnerships and co design.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established February 2023	Ongoing	The Committee is expected to meet at least four times per year. The Committee may consider matters out-of-session, as appropriate.	None.	None.

Chief Counsel Social Security and Family Assistance Legal Forum

The forum provides a valuable mechanism for senior-level engagement across the portfolio. It ensures alignment on significant legal risk issues and relevant legislative reform.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established 6 May 2026	Ongoing	Quarterly	N/A	N/A

Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Sector Strengthening Plan (SSP) Working Group

The working group is made up of Commonwealth, state and territory governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives. They are developing a Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Sector Strengthening Plan.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established 28 August 2025	At the end of drafting of the sector strengthening plan currently scheduled for end of 2026.	Monthly or as needed	The funding for secretariat duties for the co-secretariat First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence are being provided by NIAA.	N/A

National Redress Scheme Inter-jurisdictional Committee

The committee provides support to the Minister's Redress Scheme Governance Board. They identify emerging issues and make decisions under the National Redress Scheme during its period of operation. The committee is consultative and advisory in nature. The committee, chaired by a Commonwealth representative, consists of senior state and territory officials responsible for redress.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established 1 July 2018	Operational end date of the National Redress Scheme.	Quarterly or as needed.	N/A	N/A

Blueprint Expert Reference Group (BERG)

This group was established to develop the Not-for-profit Sector Development Blueprint.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established February 2023.	In line with its Terms of Reference, the BERG held its last meeting in June 2025.	During its term, BERG met monthly.	Nil	Nil

Community Services Advisory Group (CSAG)

CSAG provides strategic advice to government that supports improvements to the sustainability and efficient operation of the community sector.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
The Community Services Advisory Group (CSAG) was established in July 2015 as the key community sector stakeholder engagement group for the Department of Social Services.	Ongoing	Quarterly	Nil	Nil

Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) Steering Committee

The LSIC Steering Committee is the principal body overseeing the Longitudinal Studies of Indigenous Children. Membership is by appointment and includes representatives from Commonwealth (represented by the Department of the Social Services and NIAA)

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established October 2003	Ongoing	Half yearly	The Committee meets twice a year, and non-DSS members are eligible to be paid sitting fees for their services. They are also entitled to claim costs for travel and accommodation. Sitting fees for 2026-27 were $20,000. Travel costs were around $35,000.	Outlined in the *Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office) Determination 2025 Compilation No. 6*.

National Standards for Men’s Behaviour Change Working Group

The National Standards Working Group is made up of Commonwealth, state and territory government officials to support development of National Standards that are fit-for-purpose and complement related work that is either existing, or underway. This includes work to support the development and agreement of an Implementation Strategy that outlines a clear roadmap for embedding the National Standards into current systems and practice, and facilitates future reporting and evaluation of the National Standards.

Established	Ongoing / Planned End date	Meeting Schedule	Costs of Group (GST inclusive)	Sitting Fees for Members / Attendees (GST inclusive)
Established June 2026	This group will cease when National Standards are endorsed.	As required	N/A	N/A