

First Nations Economic Partnership

Employment and Career Pathways Working Group – Work Schedule

Phase	Activity	Timeframe	Responsibilities
Phase 1: Governance December 2025- February 2026	Co-Chairs nominated	February	Each Partner to provide details to Treasury
	Work Schedule developed	February	Co-Chairs drafting, Operational Committee providing feedback
	Working Group funding is confirmed	February – NIAA to confirm	Co-Chairs to develop a funding proposal with support from NIAA
	Members contacted	February-March	Co-Chairs to discuss and provide details to Treasury
	Meeting schedule developed	March	Secretariat drafting, Co-Chairs to provide feedback
	Partnership confirmation of Co-Chairs, membership and Work Schedule	18 February Partnership meeting or out-of-session	Economic Partnership
Phase 2: Designing funding programs to grow secure employment in the community-controlled sector – initial policy advice February-April 2026	Rapid review of existing evidence around gaps and opportunities for growing employment in the community-controlled sector. Develop initial advice and recommendations for the Partners and Commonwealth Government on one or more new policy proposals to improve outcomes, including for the long-term unemployed, that can be taken forward in the 2027-28 Commonwealth Budget	April, for consideration by the Partnership out-of-session	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. Policy and data review to be a joint effort between NIAA and the Coalition of Peaks (subject to funding).

Phase	Activity	Timeframe	Responsibilities
Phase 3: Designing funding programs to grow secure employment in the community-controlled sector March – July 2026	Review of data around outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across metropolitan, regional and remote regions in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher education and training • employment 	March-April	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. NIAA and Peaks (subject to funding) to provide policy advisers to conduct analysis and drafting support.
	Review of existing community engagement materials and evidence around key gaps and challenges, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Report of the Coalition of Peaks on “Informing a partnership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development” • Reports and data from the ABS, Productivity Commission, Jobs and Skills Australia, Workforce Australia and State/Territory sources • Engaging the community-controlled sector (including national Peaks and employment service providers) focussing on lived experience of what works 	March-April	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. NIAA and Peaks (subject to funding) to provide policy advisers to conduct analysis and drafting support.
	Convene two meetings of the Working Group	April	NIAA Secretariat
	Develop further policy advice and recommendations for the Partners and Commonwealth Government on one or more new policy proposals to grow employment opportunities and career pathways in the community-controlled sector.	May Partnership meeting	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. NIAA and Peaks (subject to funding) to provide policy advisers to conduct analysis and drafting support. Report and recommendations to be agreed by the members of the Working Group.

Phase	Activity	Timeframe	Responsibilities
Phase 4: Economic Inclusion Zones May – December 2026	Building on the review of data and evidence in Phases 2 and 3, undertake targeted community engagements to inform the design of Economic Inclusion Zones. This may include roundtables or calls for submissions.	May to June	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. Consultations to be undertaken or facilitated by the Coalition of Peaks (subject to funding)
	Convene two meetings of the Working Group	May to June	NIAA Secretariat
	Develop an initial report for the Economic Partnership. The initial report will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • outline the research, policy analysis and engagements undertaken by the Working Group • scope Economic Inclusion Zones at a high level, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the issues to be addressed and outcomes sought, consistent with Clause 10 ('Scope') of the Partnership Agreement ○ a proposed delivery model or options for implementation, having regard to learnings from previous or existing place-based initiatives e.g. Empowered Communities, and the Closing the Gap place-based partnerships. ○ funding considerations ○ an initial list of potential zones and community-controlled organisations to lead delivery 	July Partnership meeting	Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. NIAA and Peaks (subject to funding) to provide policy advisers to conduct analysis and drafting support. Report and recommendations to be agreed by the members of the Working Group.
	Convene two meetings of the Working Group	August to November	NIAA Secretariat

Phase	Activity	Timeframe	Responsibilities
	<p>Prepare a final report to the Economic Partnership on Economic Inclusion Zones.</p> <p>The report will identify proposed zones, a delivery model including the community-controlled organisation to lead implementation in each zone, and costings and recommendations for implementing the priority.</p>	December meeting	<p>Co-Chairs to provide strategic direction. Commonwealth Government and Peaks (subject to funding) to provide policy advisers for policy analysis and drafting of report</p> <p>Report and recommendations to be agreed by the members of the Working Group.</p>