



Secretaries Board Communique

Date: 13 November 2023

The Secretaries Board met today at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to discuss the following matters.

Closing the Gap

The Board held a strategic discussion with Ms Catherine Liddle, acting convenor of the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Peak Organisations (the Coalition of Peaks) on delivery of Closing the Gap targets.

Developing and delivering legislative priorities

Secretaries discussed processes to ensure efficient use of legislative drafting resources for bills on the Government's legislative program.

Economic and Budget Update

Ms Jenny Wilkinson PSM, Secretary of the Department of Finance, and Dr Steven Kennedy PSM, Secretary of the Treasury, provided an economic and budget update.

Foreign Interference Threats and Mitigation

Ms Stephanie Foster PSM, Acting Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs provided an update on activities to raise awareness of the espionage and foreign interference threat to Australia.

APS Integrity Taskforce Report Implementation

The Board agreed to publish the report of the APS Integrity Taskforce and noted implementation of the recommendations will be led by relevant agencies.

APS Hiring and Centralised Recruitment Practices

The Board noted the next steps for improving hiring and centralised recruitment practices, including the use of merit lists in the APS, to strengthen diversity, skills and talent across the APS and promote mobility opportunities for APS employees.

Next Meetings

The next Secretaries Board meeting is scheduled for 6 December 2023.