



## Supplementary Estimates – CEO Opening Statement 1 December 2025

**National Indigenous Australians Agency, CEO, Julie-Ann Guivarra**

Good morning Chair and Senators,

I begin by acknowledging the Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and I pay my respects to the Ngambri people and other families with connections to the region.

I extend my respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and to First Nations Senators and witnesses appearing here today.

When we appeared before you at Supplementary Estimates in October, I outlined several major initiatives we have delivered this year. We are continuing to build on these to make a positive impact for community.

Since our last appearance we have tabled our annual report.

In September, the Government signed the First Nations Economic Partnership with the First Nations Economic Empowerment Alliance and the Coalition of Peaks, with the first official meeting held in October – a significant milestone in advancing economic empowerment, focused on growing employment and skills in community-controlled organisations.

In November, we launched the Remote Australia Employment Service, which will support job seekers in remote communities and further strengthen pathways to economic empowerment.



We have expanded the Indigenous Rangers Program, with outcomes of the second and final round announced in November. The expanded program is aiming to create another 900 jobs, as part of the Government's commitment to double the number of Indigenous rangers to 3,800 by 2030.

We are also driving critical work to support remote communities to access cheaper food through the Low-Cost Essentials Subsidy Scheme, which is already making a real difference to communities, with 107 stores participating. This scheme and other key initiatives remain crucial in our efforts to strengthen food security, especially during the higher-risk weather season.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to delivering on Closing the Gap, including through the November meeting of Joint Council, where the focus was on the response to the Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led review, in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks.

Looking ahead, there is still much work to do, but our ambition is clear: to accelerate real progress on Closing the Gap, strengthen governments' accountability, and deliver targeted, effective investments which improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We will continue to work with our Commonwealth partners to ensure their mainstream and First Nations policies and programs are aligned with community need and aspiration, to contribute to meaningful change in 2026 and beyond.

Thank you. I welcome your questions.