FIRST NATIONS DIGITAL INCLUSION ADVISORY GROUP

Who we are:

First Nations Digital Inclusion Advisory Group

- Ms Dot West OAM (co-chair)

- A/Professor Lyndon Ormond Parker (co-chair)

- Ms Talei Elu

- Ms Naomi Moran

- Professor Bronwyn Carlson

- Dr Heron Loban

Digital Inclusion Expert Panel

- Ms Gillian Mailman

- Ms Lauren Ganley

- Dr Scott Winch

- Mr Che Cockatoo-Collins

- Mr Neil Turner

- Professor Ellie Rennie

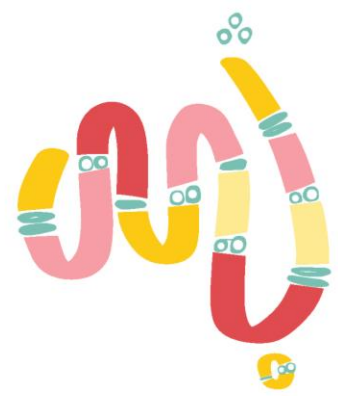- Dr Daniel Featherstone

- Ms Cheryl Bailey

- Mr Dan Lloyd

What is Target 17?

Target 17:

By 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have equal levels of digital inclusion

Outcome 17:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to information and services enabling participation in informed decision making regarding their own lives

Why is it important:

Digital inclusion is not about forcing everyone online, it's about ensuring all Australians can share the benefits of being connected and not be excluded from an increasingly digitised world.

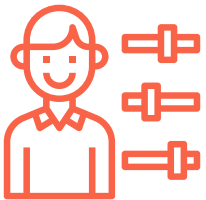# The Index is based on three dimensions

Access
How often, and through how many services and devices people are connecting to and using the Internet
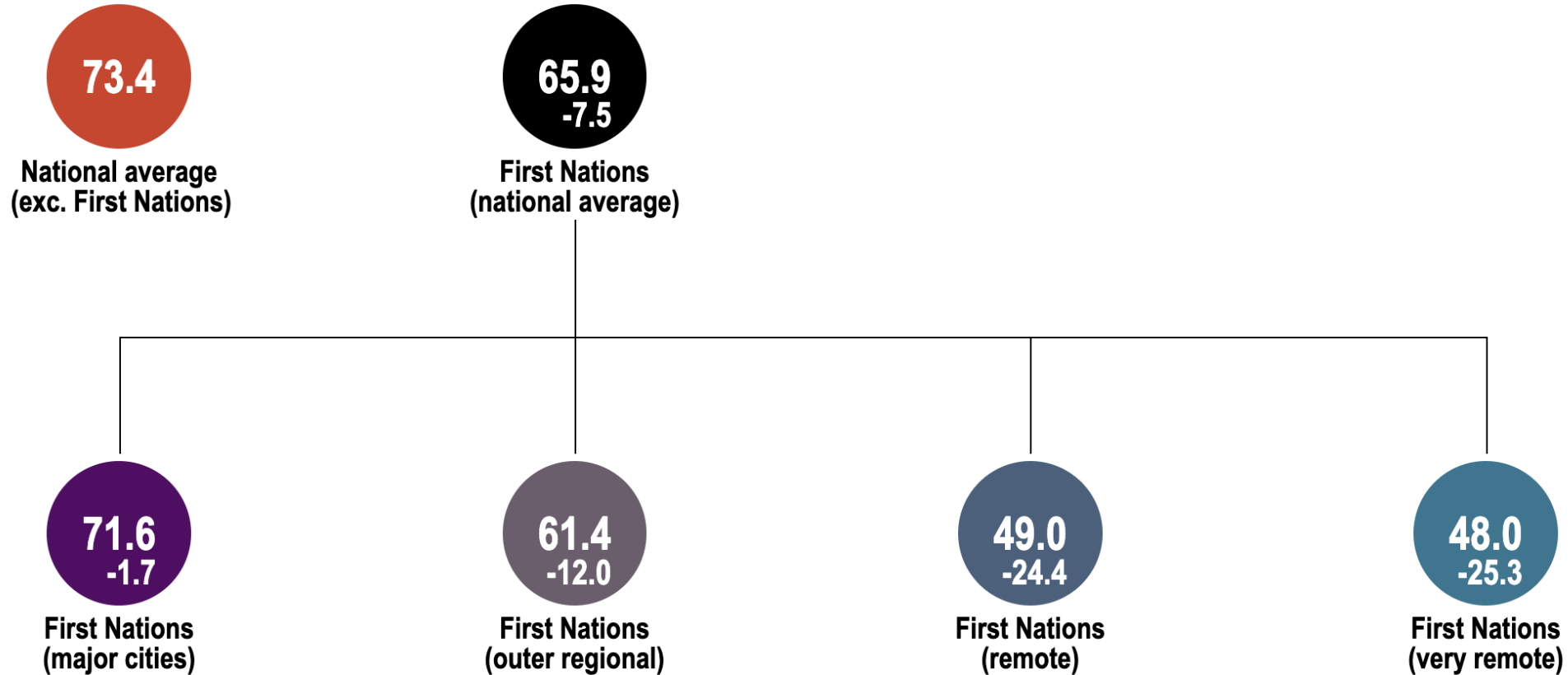
Affordability
The percentage of household income required to gain a good quality service with reliable connectivity

Digital Ability
What people can do online, and their confidence in doing it

First Nations digital gap snapshot

73.4
National average
(exc. First Nations)

65.9
-7.5
First Nations
(national average)

71.6
-1.7
First Nations
(major cities)

61.4
-12.0
First Nations
(outer regional)

49.0
-24.4
First Nations
(remote)

48.0
-25.3
First Nations
(very remote)

Key milestones to date

- Initial report, published Oct 2023 calling for:

  - targeted action to improve all elements of digital inclusion

  - addressing the lack of data on digital inclusion levels for First Nations Australians

  - genuine engagement and collaboration with First Nations Australians in addressing the digital divide

- First Nations Data Map, launched Oct 2023

- Stakeholder and community engagement across Australia

- $68 million in funding for community wi-fi, digital mentors and a support hub, and improved data

- Advocacy across government, including letters, meetings with Ministers, and submissions
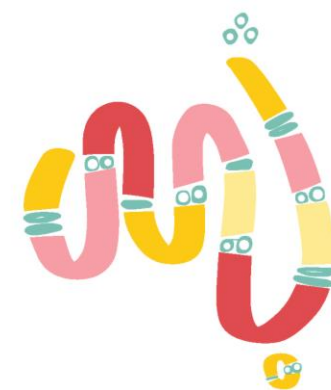

FIRST NATIONS
DIGITAL INCLUSION
ADVISORY GROUP

INITIAL REPORT
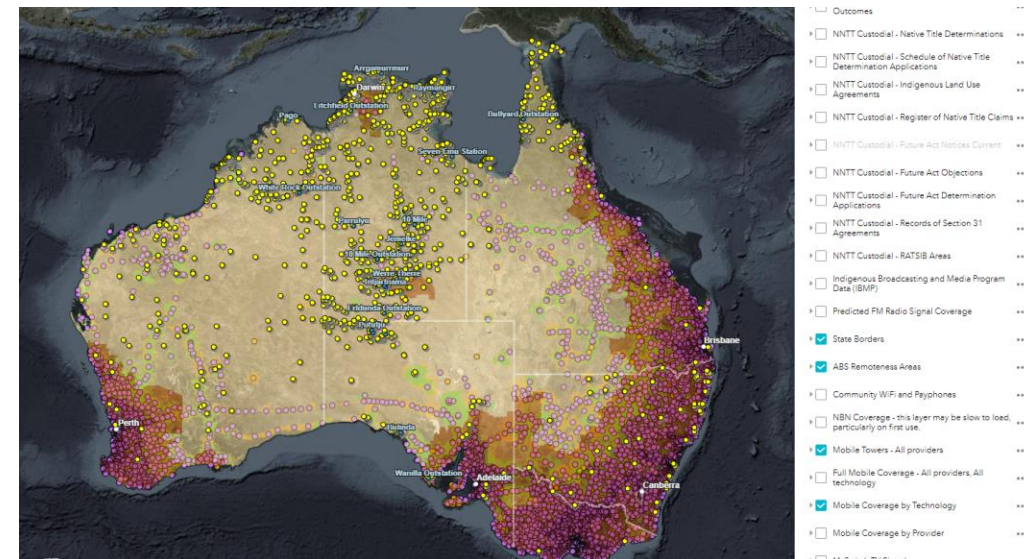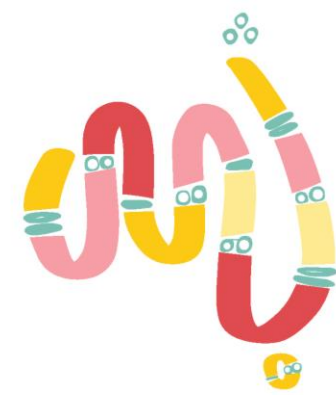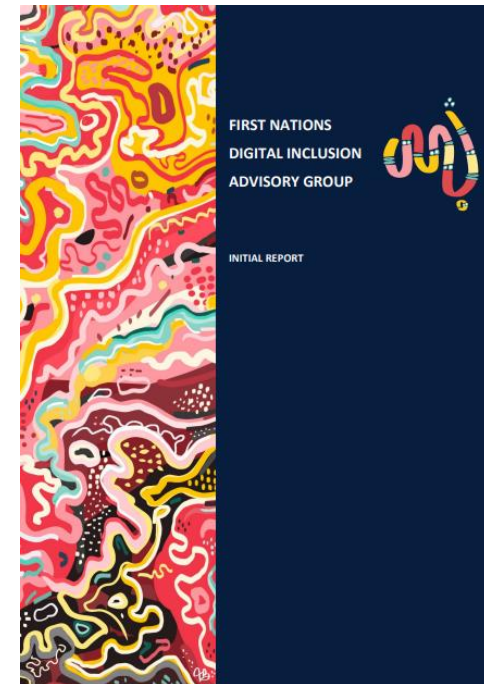
A roadmap to First Nations digital inclusion

- We are currently developing our long-term roadmap towards **First Nations digital inclusion**

Key Principles for the Roadmap:

- the importance of **place-based** approaches

- moving from closing the gap to **innovation** and **excellence**

- First Nations **representation**

- remaining **technology-agnostic**

- centering First Nations **consumer preferences**

infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/roadmap-first-nations-digital-inclusion

A roadmap to First Nations digital inclusion

Access

Affordability

Digital ability
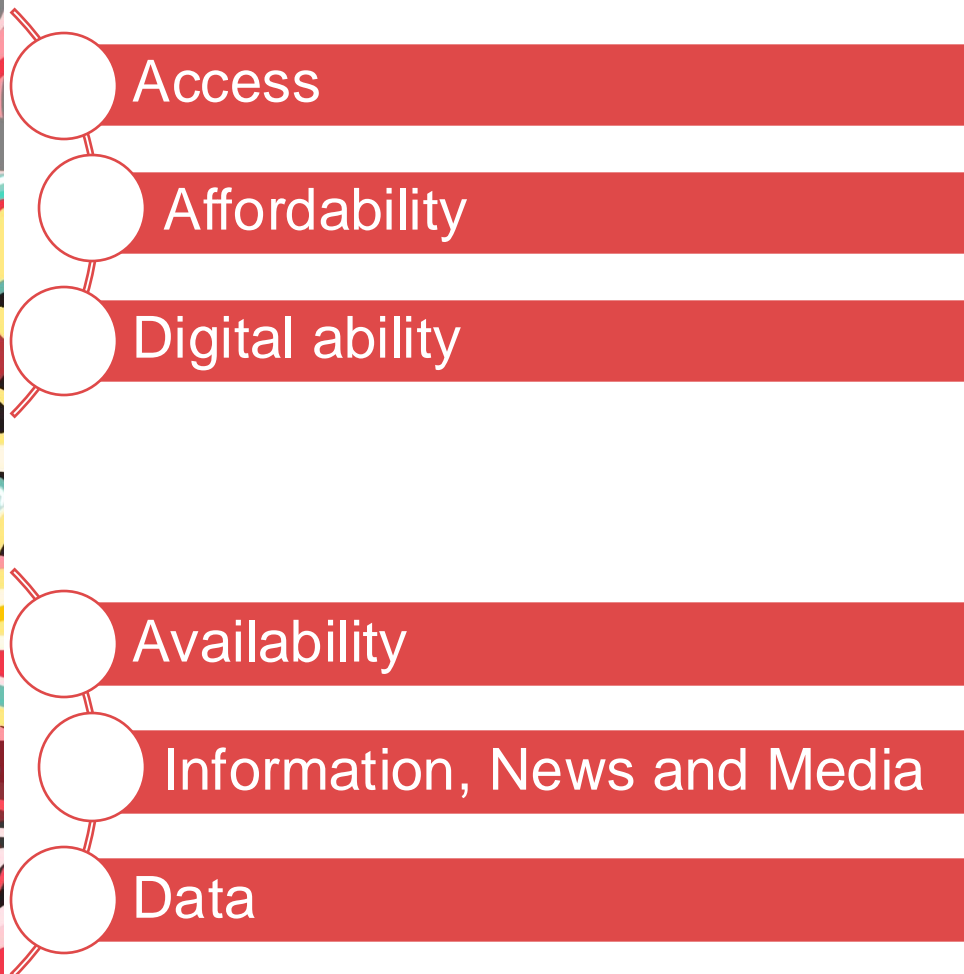
Digital inclusion: consumers

Availability

Information, News and Media

Data

Digital inclusion: provision of services

Digital inclusion and spectrum

- Critical to achieving Outcome 17, **access to spectrum** provides opportunities for First Nations people to have greater access to telecommunications and broadcasting services.

- Spectrum allocations should be considered from a position of place-based solutions and in consultation with community.

- First Nations communities could be more appropriately supported to understand and engage with spectrum matters.

- The allocation of spectrum and licenses for First Nations community radio stations in Canberra, Adelaide and Hobart should be considered a priority.
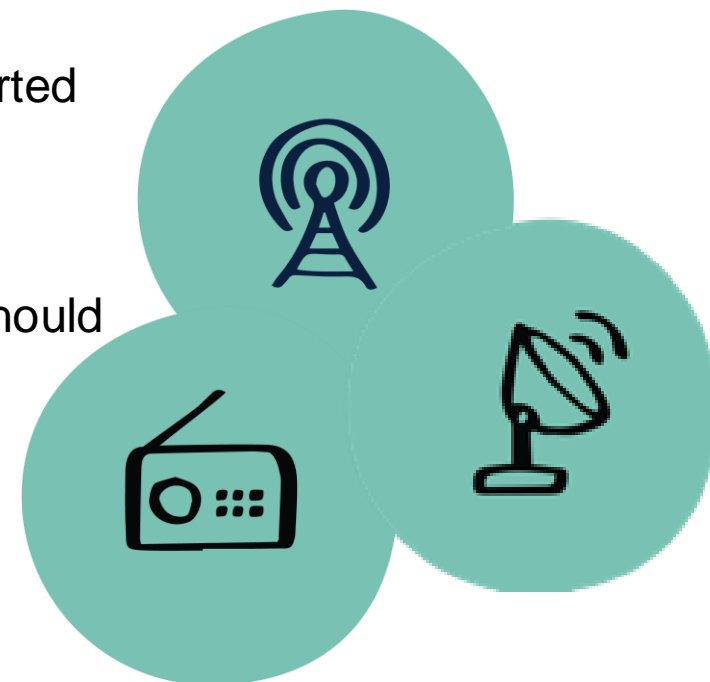
Hearing from you and working together

- Sharing knowledge and data

- Digital initiatives must not leave Northern Australians behind

- No Australian is disadvantaged, unfairly treated or unable to access emergency and essential services

- Recognise digital inclusion as an enabler of jobs and economic opportunity

- Ensure basic consumer protections that can adapt with new technologies

- Communities, government, industry and organisations need to work together to close the gap.

Mapping the Digital Gap Co-researcher Audrey Shadforth doing a survey with Tyresha Gore in Djarindjin

www.digitalinclusion.gov.au

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