



Board Communiqué

Issue 2: August 2026

The AMSANT Board acknowledges the Arrernte people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which this meeting was held in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), and pays respects to Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the Northern Territory.

The AMSANT Board met on 11 August 2026. Key updates from the meeting are outlined below.

Updates included in this communiqué are:

- Accelerated Pathways to Community Control (AP2CC)
- Economic Impact Assessment and Cost Modelling Projects
- AMSANT Education Advocacy Strategy
- Members' Needs and Priorities Project
- AMSANT Research Strategy
- National Health Reform Agreement - Schedule B
- People's Health Movement Australia
- AMSANT representation on the NT Aboriginal Health Forum
- Closing the Gap and Partnership Reform
- NACCHO Director Elections

The next meeting of the AMSANT Board of Directors will be held on 10 November 2026 in Garramilla (Darwin).

Accelerated Pathways to Community Control (AP2CC)

The Board received an update on the Accelerated Pathways to Community Control (AP2CC) project and endorsed the draft AP2CC Framework to enable further consultation and consideration through the NT Aboriginal Health Forum (NTAHF). The Board reaffirmed its commitment to accelerating transitions to community control while ensuring transition processes are community-led, appropriately resourced and grounded in the established Aboriginal community controlled comprehensive primary health care model. Board members provided feedback on the guiding principles and steps to transition and will have a further opportunity to provide input into the framework through an upcoming information session. The framework will continue to be refined before being presented to the Board and NTAHF for final endorsement later this year.

Economic Impact Assessment and Cost Modelling Projects

The Board received an update on procurement processes underway to support two major strategic projects:

An Economic Impact Assessment of the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector in the Northern Territory.

Cost modelling work to support implementation of AP2CC.

The Economic Impact Assessment will include analysis of health benefits, avoided costs and broader social and economic impacts generated by Aboriginal community-controlled health services in the Northern Territory. This work will strengthen the evidence base for future advocacy, policy development and investment in the sector.

Education Advocacy Strategy

Recognising the strong relationship between education and health outcomes, the Board endorsed AMSANT's Education Advocacy Strategy. The strategy provides a framework for AMSANT's advocacy to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people and to promote an education system that is culturally responsive, equitably resourced and accountable for outcomes. The Board noted the opportunities presented through the Better and Fairer Schools Agreement and the importance of ongoing engagement to ensure Aboriginal communities benefit from future education reforms and investments.

Members' Needs and Priorities Project

The Board considered the draft final report from the Members' Needs and Priorities Project. The project has highlighted opportunities for AMSANT to strengthen support to member services through practical assistance, greater collaboration and approaches that reduce administrative burden across the sector. The Board acknowledged

that responding to these priorities will require a sustained shift in how AMSANT delivers support to members and require continued engagement with members to ensure AMSANT remains responsive to evolving sector needs.

AMSANT Research Strategy

The Board provided strategic input into the development of AMSANT's Research Strategy and supported its direction. Discussions focused on strengthening Aboriginal community control over research priorities, governance and decision-making, improving accountability within the research system, and ensuring research responds to community and member service priorities. The Board also highlighted opportunities to strengthen Aboriginal oversight of research ethics processes and build Aboriginal research workforce capacity, while emphasising the importance of a strengths-based approach to the final strategy.

National Health Reform Agreement - Schedule B

The Board received an update on implementation of Schedule B of the National Health Reform Agreement and the opportunities it presents to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people accessing hospital services. Discussions focused on strengthening the interface between hospitals and ACCHSs including improvements to admission, discharge, follow-up care and care coordination. The Board welcomed opportunities for member services to continue contributing ideas and priorities as implementation planning progresses.

People's Health Movement Australia

The Board endorsed AMSANT becoming an organisational member of People's Health Movement Australia. Membership will strengthen connections with a broader network of organisations, researchers and advocates working to address health inequities and promote health equity nationally and internationally.

Representation

The Board reaffirmed the strategic importance of the NTAHF as the principal and most strategic Aboriginal health decision making forum in the Northern Territory. The Board considered AMSANT's representatives to NTAHF and discussed measures to strengthen participation, continuity and accountability in AMSANT's engagement with the Forum.

Closing the Gap and Partnership Reform

The Board discussed ways to strengthen partnership arrangements relating to Closing the Gap implementation in the Northern Territory. Directors reaffirmed the importance of genuine partnership with Aboriginal leadership and organisations, and AMSANT's commitment to advancing community control and shared decision-making.

NACCHO Director Elections

The Board considered the new NACCHO Director election process and endorsed arrangements for AMSANT to coordinate the Northern Territory election process on behalf of NT NACCHO member services. The process will include nomination verification, distribution and management of ballots, and independent oversight of vote counting to ensure a transparent and robust election process.