



Position Title:	Senior Policy Advisor - APO NT	Position No:	DS51
Group:	Governance, Strategy and Communications	Service Area	Strategy and Advocacy
Classification Level:	Senior Officer Grade B – SOGB		
Reports to:	Strategy and Advocacy Manager	Direct Reports:	Nil
Special Measures:	<i>Yes - Priority Consideration Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Positions</i>		
Location:	Darwin	Date Approved:	September 2026

POSITION OVERVIEW

The Senior Policy Advisor, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT), provides strategic leadership in the development of policy, advocacy and reform initiatives that advance the interests of Traditional Owners (TOS) and Aboriginal people across the Northern Territory (NT). The role leads the provision of evidence-based advice on complex policy issues and works collaboratively with APO NT member organisations, governments and key stakeholders to influence policy development and systemic change.

A key responsibility of the position is driving policy and advocacy efforts that support the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, with a particular focus on priority reforms and strengthening Aboriginal community control on community services and policy. The role contributes to organisational and sector-wide policy positions, represents the NLC at APO NT and other high-level forums, and fosters collaborative approaches to addressing shared priorities and emerging issues.

Operating with a high degree of autonomy, the Senior Policy Advisor provides expert advice and strategic insights to senior leadership and Council, supports informed decision-making, and contributes to achieving meaningful and sustainable outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities across the NLC's region.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES

LEADERSHIP

- Provide strategic leadership in the development of evidence-based policy positions, advice and advocacy initiatives that advance organisational priorities and support the objectives of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Lead and coordinate the NLC's policy development activities in support of APO NT priorities, preparing high-quality briefing papers, submissions, and strategic advice for consideration by senior leadership and Council.
- Provide leadership through proactive engagement with internal stakeholders, driving collaboration, continuous improvement, and adherence to organisational policies and governance requirements to enhance program effectiveness and constituent outcomes.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Build and maintain relationships with Traditional Owners (TOs), APO NT member organisations, government agencies and key stakeholders to support program deliverables.
- Collaborate with the APO NT policy network to develop coordinated policy positions and advocacy approaches.
- Represent the organisation in relevant forums, committees and working groups aligned with Closing the Gap priorities.
- Build and maintain relationships with all relevant government agencies and other internal and external stakeholders to ensure compliant and effective delivery of program deliverables.
- Engage effectively across internal teams to support coordinated policy outcomes.



PROGRAM OPERATIONS

- Lead the internal coordination of policy matters relevant to APO NT priorities, partnering with NLC operational and corporate service areas to ensure a connected, strategic and organisation-wide approach to policy development, advocacy, and reform.
- Analyse complex policy issues and provide recommendations to support reform in areas such as economic development, land and sea rights, housing and essential services.
- Monitor progress against Closing the Gap targets and contribute to reporting and compliance requirements.
- Undertake research and develop discussion papers, briefing notes and policy positions for a range of audiences.
- Raise awareness of the interests of Aboriginal people through effective communication.
- Support interdisciplinary policy work across the organisation and contribute to continuous improvement of policy processes.
- Follow all NLC policies and procedures to make sure work is carried out to the right standards.
- Take on other reasonable tasks within your role, classification, service area, and skills when needed.
- Follow the NLC Code of Conduct, working in a professional, respectful, and collaborative way with your team and the wider organisation.
- Take part in performance reviews and any learning and development needed for your role.
- Look after your own health and safety and make sure your work does not put others at risk.
- Report any hazards or incidents to your supervisor straight away and complete any required reports on time.

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POSITION REQUIREMENTS

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor level qualifications in Public Policy, Law, Economics, Social Sciences or related discipline or equivalent experience within government or Aboriginal organisations or related sectors.
- Minimum of four (4) years' experience in policy analysis, research and advocacy.
- Strong understanding of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and related policy areas including economic development, land and sea rights, water, housing and essential services in the Northern Territory context.
- Highly developed written communication skills and ability to prepare clear policy advice.
- A high level of cross-cultural competency, interpersonal and verbal communication skills with an ability to effectively liaise, engage and coordinate across an array of stakeholders (internal and external) to build productive working relationships.
- Sound ICT literacy and the ability to use a variety of systems including database management systems, including TRIM or an ability to rapidly acquire knowledge for such systems
- Ability to manage competing priorities and work independently.
- A current drivers' licence, with the ability and willingness to undertake remote travel in a manual 4wd vehicle or light aircraft.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS

- Knowledge and understanding of the relevant legislation affecting Aboriginal land and sea management including the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth.) and the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth.)
- Demonstrated understanding of, and interest in, the lived experiences of Aboriginal people in the NLC region.
- Understanding of APO NT's strategic priorities and current key policy issues relating to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory context.