

HIPPY

First Nations Providers – Meeting #1

Questions, answers, comments & responses

1 April 2026



Brotherhood of St Laurence
Working for an Australia free of poverty

**Let's make
change
that lasts**

Attendees at meeting #1

First Nation Providers Representatives

Fallon Roberts

Grace Hollin

Irene Hayden

Kelsey Muhl

Kim Munns

Krystal Dally

Max Brockley

Melissa Griffith

Michael Currie

Mikeey Fraser

Moonaboola

Mykol Paulson

Somma Cozzi

Delaney

Tatiana Bosma

Trina Stoddart

Michelle Snowball

Kerri Rodwell

Weny Kee

BSL

Julie Ware

Rebecca Pinney

Meddings

Annie Kent

Clare Sneddon

Melinda Moore

Facilitator

Mark Yettica-Paulson

Meeting #1 Q & A

Following the BSL presentation meeting **participants were asked to share their comments, responses and questions.** The following information is a summary of that part of the meeting.

Question: What will the structure look like for ACCOs?

Answer: BSL has no pre-determined view of the future structure. We are happy to stay involved for as long as it takes to support the work through the process. BSL will continue to advocate for funding hopefully in parallel to this group. In the longer-term BSL would still be alongside the First Nations group as a co-licensee and working with the other HIPPY sites. There is potential for us to learn from each other and work in collaboration. BSL is genuine in wanting to transition governance and leadership of the First Nations sites.

Questions: In your view what will be the impact of the FaC reform on this process. Will it interrupt this process?

Answer: HIPPY has traditionally been separated from the other FaC activities because of the license. Conversations with the DSS Secretary have indicated that he has confidence in the program. It will need to be worked through over coming months as it becomes the direction of the FaC reform becomes clearer.

Comment

We will need to be assured that if we put in effort and we engage in this process that it will be respected by DSS.

Meeting #1 Q & A (cont.)

Question: If the model is moving to a First Nations organisation what is the agreement that BSL will share the 'backbone' funding?

Answer: BSL receives funds to provide the backbone support functions to the HIPPIY Network. BSL is committed to working through this and sharing funds with the First Nations organisation.

Question: If the program is transferred to First Nations what is the scope for a more 'decolonised' model? What are the constraints of the current model and license?

Answer: This is a journey we would go on together. We can take steps toward understanding how the license may need to look to respond to the needs of the First Nations group. Fundamentally the model is about the child and parent who are the centre of the work and if that is the focus there is considerable flexibility in how it can be delivered. It will be important for us to be able to articulate what and how we want innovation to look.

Comment from SNAICC

We have had the opportunity to yarn with HIPPIY International, and they seem to be interested in how they can adapt and it may be one of the easier steps in this process. We believe if a group can form and there is consensus to transition most of the issues will be worked through. SNAICC will walk alongside BSL and the First Nations group. Our focus is on cultural leadership and responsibility to culture in the model.

Meeting #1 Q & A (cont.)

Comment

It will be important for the First Nations group to meet directly with DSS. It will be very powerful to have us in the room with BSL. We will be able to weave through the cultural elements and showcase the strength in how we work. A collective approach is going to be better.

Comment

A collective voice to DSS by us.

Response: BSL wants the First Nations group to be in the room with DSS and hearing directly from you without BSL as a filter. We offer a genuine opportunity to work together. We recognise you all have your own relationships with DSS so we also encourage you to share your experiences when you meet with DSS and government leaders.

Comment

Lots of HIPPIY sites are already being innovative around culture. I am worried that if BSL steps back what will happen to the support structures like HIPPIY site advisors and COPs? This sort of support is needed particularly in remote sites where there are limited technical and programmatic supports.

Response: BSL want to support the transfer of an intake support model. We also would like to explore what the kind of supports are needed. We will not run and leave but stay and share our knowledge until the First Nations group is set up and ready.

Meeting #1 Q & A (cont.)

Comment

Communities and ACCOs are all very different so whatever is set up can't be set in stone but will need to be flexible.

Comment

When the First Nations sector gets funding, it doesn't compensate for the years of funding that has gone to non-Indigenous Organisations which allowed them to build up the infrastructure needed to run big programs. BSL is a big organisation and HIPPOY has benefitted from being housed in the organisation. These things like IT, research and development all cost so government needs to compensate for that past funding and the subsequent strength built up in the mainstream sector. We will need to consider that.

Some questions and comments came in **over the Teams Chat**. The following information is provided by BSL in response to those questions and comments:

Comment: I was thinking SNAICC consultation as this is quite huge and would need representative relationships with DSS.

Response : This is a very big and complex process that will need to be explore careful. SNAICC have committed to walk alongside BSL and the First Nations group and part of that maybe supporting representation to DSS.

Meeting #1 Q & A (cont.)

Question: Is a two license model sustainable and scalable in the way HIPPY is delivered currently?

Answer: BSL believes that a two license model in Australia can work. In fact, it may strengthen our opportunities to share innovative research, learning and developments. It will likely increase our lobbying power on a policy and funding level. We also think the current arrangements could be reconsidered to take into account any changes, improvements and ways to achieve efficiencies.

Question: Could we identify if individual licenses can be an option? Or the development of a grassroots place-based option as an alternative solution?

Answer: The pros and cons of this approach would be a good topic to explore in our in person meeting in May.

Question: Can we get a figure for the current administration costs

Answer: Yes - BSL will provide a breakdown of administrative costs to the group when we meet in May.

Comment

‘Capacity transfer planning’ from BSL with ACCOs would be essential in successful transition.

Response: BSL agrees that careful planning is needed and will work with ACCOs to make sure we all have a shared understanding of capacity and timing.

Meeting #1 Q & A (cont.)

Comment: Transition planning overtime at the community pace will be critical.

Response: Yes - BSL agrees that pace is very important. We learned this while working through the transition in 2025. We will follow your advice and lead in relation to timing.

Question: Is it envisaged that one ACCO will hold the contract with DSS and the license with BSL on the transition has been worked through – or is it too early for this question to be answered?

Answer: Yes- it is probably too early to answer this question. We believe the group will need to explore a number of potential Options and arrangements prior to deciding on the most appropriate for the future.

Comment: Transitional resourcing will need to be a consideration which may require a phased approach in periods of concurrent Transition activities.

Response: We agree that there may be concurrent transition activities occurring and the First Nations group members may have multiple priorities that need their attention and resourcing. It will be important when we develop our approach to Take these priorities into consideration so the organisations are not overwhelmed.