

# Statement of intent

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) is a single, nation-wide scheme for registered health practitioners. The scheme ensures that all regulated health professionals are registered against consistent, high quality, national professional standards and can practise across state and territory borders without having to re-register in each jurisdiction.

This is a statement of intent – between the 15 national health practitioner boards (the [National Boards](#)), the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency ([AHPRA](#)), [accreditation authorities](#) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations.

## We share a joint commitment to the following vision and values:

### Vision

Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is the norm. We recognise that:

- patient safety includes the inextricably linked elements of clinical and cultural safety, and
- this link must be defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

### Values

- commitment, accountability, shared priorities, collaboration and high-level participation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and voices in the National Scheme
- reciprocity, which is two-way learning and the benefit of our work and outcomes, and
- self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

#### Cultural safety

Cultural safety is defined here as the individual and institutional knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies needed to deliver optimal health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We acknowledge that there is currently no nationally agreed definition of cultural safety.

## Our intent

We will work together to achieve equity in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australians to close the gap by 2031.

We share a commitment to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have access to health services that are culturally safe and free from racism so that they can enjoy a healthy life, equal to that of other Australians, enriched by a strong living culture, dignity and justice. We also commit to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are actively leading the design, delivery and control of health services.

### We commit, using our leadership and influence, to realising our vision including through our application of the National Law<sup>1</sup> to ensure:

- a culturally safe health workforce supported by nationally consistent standards, codes and guidelines across all professions in the National Scheme
- using our leadership and influence to achieve reciprocal goals
- increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's participation in the registered health workforce
- greater access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to culturally safe services of health professions regulated under the National Scheme, and
- increased participation across all levels of the National Scheme.

#### Scope of the National Scheme

The National Scheme regulates more than 700,000 registered health practitioners and over 150,000 registered students. It also accredits over 740 approved programs of study delivered by over 330 education providers.

## We acknowledge that this work is long-term and involves substantive reform.

'Non-Indigenous Australians must learn to appreciate the discomfort that is a daily experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. You can't experience what we feel every day, but you can accept it is real. You can sit with, and use this, experience of discomfort in this learning to enable much-needed change. Change oneself, and then apply those principles to work in policy development and service delivery.'

*Rod Little, Co-Chair of the Congress of Australia's First Peoples*

1 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

# We are:

**Dr Kali Hayward**

President, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

**Ms Tania Dalton**

Chair, The Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association

**Mr Ben Gorrie**

President, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

**Ms Nicole Turner**

Chairperson, Indigenous Allied Health Australia

**Ms Pat Anderson AO**

Chairperson, The Lowitja Institute

**Mr John Singer**

Chairman, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

**Ms Josslyn Tully**

Chairperson, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association

**Mr Michael Gorton AM**

Chair, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency Management Committee

**Ms Renee Owen**

Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

**Professor Charlie Xue**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

**Dr Wayne Minter AM**

Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia

**Dr John Lockwood AM**

Chair, Dental Board of Australia

**Dr Joanna Flynn AM**

Chair, Medical Board of Australia

**Mr Mark Marcenko**

Chair, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

**Associate Professor Lynette Cusack RN**

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

**Ms Julie Brayshaw**

Chair, Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

**Mr Ian Bluntish**

Chair, Optometry Board of Australia

**Dr Nikole Grbin**

Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia

**Associate Professor Stephen Gough ASM**

Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia

**Mr William (Bill) Kelly**

Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia

**Dr Charles Flynn**

Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia

**Ms Catherine Loughry**

Chair, Podiatry Board of Australia

**Professor Brin Grenyer**

Chair, Psychology Board of Australia

**Adjunct Professor Elaine Duffy**

Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee

**Dr Meeuwis Boelen**

Chair, Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

**Dr Kristin Grace**

Chair, Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia

**Conjoint Associate Professor Deborah Cockrell**

President, Australian Dental Council

**Associate Professor Jillian Sewell AM**

President, Australian Medical Council

**Professor Marilyn Baird**

Chair, Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee

**Ms Ann Kinnear**

Chair, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council

**Associate Professor Lynne Adamson**

Chair, Occupational Therapy Council (Australia and New Zealand) Ltd

**Associate Professor Peter Hendicott**

Chair, Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

**Mr Brett Vaughan**

Chairperson, Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council

**Associate Professor Sue Kirsa**

President, Australian Pharmacy Council

**Associate Professor Shane Patman**

Chair, Australian Physiotherapy Council

**Dr Rolf Scharfbillig**

Chairperson, Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council

**Professor Caroline Hunt**

Chair, Australian Psychology Accreditation Council