

Communiqué

February 2024 meeting of the Cultural Safety Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development (ACPD) Working Group

The National Scheme in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group committed to the [National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) (the Strategy).

The Strategy aims to improve the patient safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by eliminating racism from the health system and making cultural safety the norm for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. This includes recognising that patient safety includes the inextricably linked elements of clinical and cultural safety, and that this link must be defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

A key deliverable of the Strategy is to develop a multi-year National Accreditation and Continuous Professional Development and upskilling Framework and Strategy for the registered health practitioner workforce.

This deliverable is co-designed by a sub-committee of the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group](#), called the Cultural Safety Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development (ACPD) Working Group with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consultancy, [Weenthunga Health Network](#).

The Cultural Safety ACPD Working Group is chaired by Yawuru woman and Ahpra Board member, Tanya McGregor. The working group met for the first time virtually on Thursday 29th February 2024.

The working group issues a communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference sets out the working arrangements for the working group with vital information about the purpose, chair and membership, meeting schedule, level of administrative support, and dispute resolution processes. It clarifies how decisions will be made and critical governance information including who the working group will report to on deliverables and the key stakeholders

A Terms of Reference was endorsed by the working group with ratification required by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group.

The working group provides strategic input to the Weenthunga Health Network and Ahpra through the working group secretariat and has decision-making authority in relation to the development of the multi-year National ACPD Framework and Strategy.

The project has four key deliverables:

- 1) Literature review (March 2024)
- 2) Market Analysis (April 2024)
- 3) First draft of the Cultural Safety ACPD Framework and Strategy (June 2024)
- 4) Final Cultural Safety ACPD Framework and Strategy (November 2024)

Literature review

Sam from Weenthunga Health Network provided an outline of the literature review and members shared links to include in published or grey literature

Market analysis

The market analysis will identify and map the proposed demand and an analysis of the market availability of existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suppliers of cultural safety training providers as a training requirement and as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) registration standard including the accreditation status.

Weenthunga Health Network have begun to map the market analysis and sought members input regarding resources and ideas that will inform the work.

Publications and research

Publishing and research are a crucial part of sharing the knowledge and the way we collectively come together to create and design this strategy and framework as well as reflecting on the different milestones that we go through as we progress forward.

Members discussed the importance of capturing the methodologies and the approach the working group has taken to create this change.

Information sharing

A process is underway to determine how best to communicate progress throughout the development of the project. The secretariat will publish monthly public communiqués, develop a project landing page on the Ahpra website and issue a media release outlining the co-design and partnership between the Cultural Safety ACPD working group and Weenthunga Health Network.

Members also agreed to establish an issues log to capture relevant items and opportunities that may be outside the project's scope but are important to record and/or act upon.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually on 21st of March 2024.

More information

Questions about the project may be directed to the secretariat via email to hsu@ahpra.gov.au

Members

Ms Tanya McGregor (Chair)	Ahpra Board member
Ms Margaret Banks	Director, National Standards Program, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Dr Ngaree Blow	Director at the University of Melbourne
Mr Karl Briscoe	Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP)
Ms Melissa Browning	Program Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit, Ahpra
Dr Ali Drummond	Chief Executive Officer, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)
Ms Jayde Fuller	National Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit, Ahpra
Ms Belinda Gibb	Manager, Indigenous Policy and Programs, Australian Medical Council

Ms Donna Murray	Chief Executive Officer, Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA)
Dr Olivia O'Donoghue	National Clinical Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Training, National Medical Education, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
Ms Rachel Phillips	Chair, Psychology Board of Australia and Forum of National Chairs
Dr Simone Raye	President, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
Rachel Stringfellow	Senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit, Ahpra
Helen Townley	National Director, Policy & Accreditation, Ahpra
Kevin Yow Yeh	Associate Lecturer, Carumba Institute, Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Consultants

Sam Paxton	CEO of Weenthunga Health Network
Ashley Paxton	SEWB and VAHENonline Spaces Lead of Weenthunga Health Network
Erin McKinnon	Chief Operations Officer of Weenthunga Health Network