



Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Practice
Chinese Medicine
Chiropractic
Dental
Medical
Medical Radiation Practice
Nursing and Midwifery
Occupational Therapy
Optometry
Osteopathy
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy
Podiatry
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

Communique

16 June 2017

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group

Next steps for a National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health strategy

National Boards, AHPRA and accreditation authorities have committed to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health strategy with the vision of: *Patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's health system is the norm, as defined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*

In February 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and representatives from accreditation authorities, National Boards, AHPRA and the Chair of AHPRA's Agency Management Committee met to discuss how best to start this important work.

On 16 June 2017, the group reconvened to continue the development of the strategy. The session was facilitated by Associate Professor Gregory Phillips.

The goal of the workshop was to identify the next steps for the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) in building a strategy that ensures patient safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's health system.

Decisions

1. The draft terms of reference were discussed and amended. It was agreed that this group should be co-chaired by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and a non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations agreed to caucus and return with a nominee for Co-Chair. Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia, was nominated as Co-Chair and agreed to accept the nomination.

2. The group agreed that our strategy should utilise the available levers of the National Scheme, including the:
 - Accreditation Systems Review
 - National Law, and
 - Codes of Conduct review.
3. It was agreed that cultural safety training and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health training were both vital parts of the strategy. A working group was established with the role of determining the best approach for providing this training to individuals across the National Scheme.
4. Following discussion about proposed amendments to the National Law to reflect the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health, it was agreed to form a working group to develop a clear statement of intent for the Scheme that reflects our vision and goals. The statement of intent will be prepared for all National Scheme bodies and our Indigenous partner organisations to consider and sign off on. It was seen as important to provide early advice to Accreditation Systems Review about this work given the timing of their review and reporting back to Ministers.

5. AHPRA will continue to coordinate the development of the strategy, with clear measurable objectives, in partnership with the strategy group; in particular with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders.

Next steps

AHPRA, with input from the working groups, will develop a draft plan outlining future work for the National Scheme, to be presented for input to the strategy group at its next meeting. There will also be discussion with the Forum of NRAS Chairs and the Agency Management Committee.

The plan will include:

- statement of intent for the strategy
- investigating what baseline statistics and information is already available on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, patients and registered health workforce, and what can be further investigated
- measurable objectives
- engagement with National Boards, Board chairs and accreditation authorities
- approach to supporting greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on National Boards
- looking at ways in which cultural safety capability can be developed within the National Scheme including future reviews in areas such as health professions' codes of conduct
- a draft Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA, and
- finalised terms of reference.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in late 2017.

Attendees

Strategy Advisor

- Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, PhD, CEO, ABSTARR Consulting

External participants

- Mr Trevor Pearce, Director of Education and Training, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Ms Katie Smith, Education and Training, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Mr Romlie Mokak, CEO, Lowitja Institute
- Dr Sabine Hammond, Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project, Australian Psychological Society
- Ms Narelle Mills, CEO, Australian Dental Council, Ms Hayley McQuire, Research and Policy Officer, Indigenous Allied Health Australia
- Mr Karl Briscoe, CEO, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association
- Ms Karen Oldfield, Company Secretary, Australian Medical Council
- Ms Tania Dalton, Chairperson, Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association
- Mr Craig Dukes, CEO, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
- Professor Roianne West, Professor of First Peoples Health, Griffith University
- Ms Janine Mohamed, CEO, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives

The following invitees were unable to attend

- Professor Alex Brown, Director Aboriginal Health, SA Health and Medical Research Institute
- Ms Donna Ah Chee, CEO, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress
- Ms Colleen Gibbs, Senior Policy & Research Officer, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
- Ms Jill Gallagher AO, CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Dr Kali Hayward, President, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
- Associate Professor Mark Wenitong, Director Medicine and Public Health, Apunipima Cape York Health Council
- Professor Ngiare Brown, Professor of Indigenous Health and Education, University of Wollongong
- Professor Noel Hayman, Clinical Director, Inala Aboriginal Health Centre of Excellence
- Professor Pat Dudgeon, Professor and Research Fellow in the School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia and Vice Chair, Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association
- Ms Pat Turner, CEO, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Ms Bronwyn Vincent, Senior Policy Officer, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- Ms Theanne Walters, Deputy CEO, Australian Medical Council and Deputy Chair, Health Professions Accreditation Council's Forum
- Professor Sandra Eades, Domain Head of Aboriginal Health, Baker IDI
- Mr Allan Groth, Policy Officer, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association
- Ms Donna Murray, CEO, Indigenous Allied Health Association
- Ms Nicole Turner, President, Indigenous Allied Health Association
- Ms Anna Leditschke, Policy and Workforce Manager, Indigenous Allied Health Association

AHPRA National Board and Committee participants

- Mr Michael Gorton, Chair, Agency Management Committee, AHPRA
- Dr Jo Flynn, Chair, Medical Board of Australia and Co-Convenor, Forum of NRAS Chairs
- Ms Barbara Kent, Community member, Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Ms Renee Owen, Practitioner member, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia
- Mr Michael Piu, Community member, Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Ms Julie Brayshaw, Chair, Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
- Ms Jacqui Gibson, Community Reference Group, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- Ms Marion Hale, Community member, Psychology Board of Australia

AHPRA staff

- Mr Martin Fletcher, CEO, AHPRA
- Mr Chris Robertson, Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, AHPRA
- Ms Helen Townley, National Director, Policy and Accreditation, AHPRA
- Mr Jit Patel, National Director Professional Services and Transformation, AHPRA
- Ms Anita Rivera, National Director, Communications, AHPRA
- Ms Eliza Collier, Northern Territory Manager, AHPRA

- Mr Gilbert Hennequin, National Manager, Strategy, AHPRA
- Dr Vanessa Oelkers, Policy and Project Officer - Accreditation, AHPRA
- Ms Tess Humann, Acting Communications Coordinator, Media Relations, AHPRA