

WA ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

"Working Together to Improve Outcomes for Aboriginal Western Australians"

Sustainable Health Review (WA)

December 2017

INTRODUCTION

The WA Aboriginal Health Partnership Forum ('Partnership Forum') welcomes the opportunity to inform the Sustainable Health Review (WA) 2017 ('Review') of the purpose of the Partnership Forum to support a collaborative and coordinated approach to delivering effective health services.

BACKGROUND TO THE WA ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The Partnership Forum has been in existence for over a decade, meeting quarterly. It brings together high-level key stakeholders from across the health sector including representatives from the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA), Australian Government Department of Health and the Western Australian Department of Health. The Forum also extends membership to associate members, such as the WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The primary purpose is to work in partnership with a spirit of goodwill, commitment to co-operation and effective communication in order to effect real and sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA.

It exists to:

- Act in an **advisory capacity** and offer a balanced, considered and evidence based view of the health issues and priorities in their jurisdiction.
- Provide advice on **implementation and partnership** working arrangements to ensure that the multiple elements of the agreement work together in a coherent, integrated and collaborative manner to enhance the health outcomes of Aboriginal communities, families and individuals in Western Australia.
- Make recommendations or advise on **ways to strengthen cross sector partnerships** for improving the social, economic and environmental determinants of health inclusive of the whole of government approach.
- **Discuss, monitor and identify possible issues, programs and initiatives** that may provide the best means to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.
- Discuss and **share information** on initiatives, programs being planned or undertaken to increase their effectiveness and reduce duplication.
- Facilitate the development of accessible, accurate and affordable **data collection and information systems** that support an evidence-based approach to planning, delivery and evaluation of Aboriginal health improvement planning approaches.
- Provide a **forum where community issues to be raised**, enabling enhanced strategic planning and policy making by executives within the health sector.

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DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH AND WELLBEING 2015-2020

A significant outcome from the Partnership Forum has been the development of a *Framework Agreement on Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing 2015-2020* ('Agreement'). The Agreement is between the Australian Government, the Western Australian Government and AHCWA.

The aim of the Agreement is for all Partners to work effectively and collaboratively in a transparent and collective manner, in partnership with local communities, to improve health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia by addressing agreed jurisdictional priorities.

It has been founded upon the principles of collaboration, respect, need, commitment and recognition.

For further information relating to the Agreement, please find it attached as *Appendix 1*.

STRENGTHENING AND LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS OUR HEALTH SYSTEM IS ESSENTIAL IN IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES

Within the context of the Review, the Partnership Forum reaffirms the need for partnerships to be continually strengthened across the health sector, to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The Partnership Forum continues to facilitate relationships and collaboration between the State and Commonwealth government, AHCWA/ACCHSs, WAPHA, community and non-government organisations. The work of the Partnership Forum enables health planning and strategy development to support a better health system for Aboriginal people, through increasing integration and reducing duplication.

Leading into the future, the Partnership Forum remains committed to enhancing joint-planning, investment and collaboration in the design, commissioning, and evaluation of services across the sector.

The Partnership Forum encourages that partnerships continue to be built across the health system in WA, to ensure that Aboriginal health is everybody's business.

- National Framework for Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families
- National Continuous Quality Improvement Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care
- National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Drug Strategy
- National Anti-Racism Strategy
- National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework
- Fourth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Blood Borne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Strategy 2014–17
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan Implementation Plan 2013–2023
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework 2011–2015
- Indigenous Australian Health Programme Guidelines
- Indigenous Advancement Strategy
- NACCHO 10 Point Plan 2013–2030.

State:

- WA Health Strategic Intent 2015-2020;
- WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 – 2030;
- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Strategic Plan;
- WA Footprints to Better Health Strategy 2014-2018;
- WA Health Aboriginal Workforce Strategy 2014-2024; and
- The Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025.