

# NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement 2015-2025

## PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT

- The NSW Government, through the Health Portfolio and
- The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales, representing the non-government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector.

## PREAMBLE

"Aboriginal health means not just the physical wellbeing of an individual but refers to the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the whole Community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being thereby bringing about the total wellbeing of their Community. It is a whole of life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life." (1)

The NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership (the Partnership) is now in the 20th year of its existence, and has enjoyed bipartisan support throughout that period.

The aim of the Partnership remains the same, namely "to ensure that the expertise and experience of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector is brought to the health care processes." (2)

Aboriginal community controlled health services are the embodiment of Aboriginal people's right to self-determination and are widely recognised as the preferred vehicle for delivering holistic, culturally appropriate, primary health care to Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales, as the representative body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, is in a unique position to:

- ensure effective application of the guiding principles of the Aboriginal Health Partnership as a result of the position of trust and cultural respect that it holds as peak body for the members of the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW
- facilitate development of strong partnerships between Local Health Districts and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services at the local level and
- advance the vision and principles of the *NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023*.

## THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

- Reflects the ongoing commitment of the NSW Government, through the Health Portfolio, to work in Partnership with the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales as the peak Aboriginal health organisation in NSW representing the non-government, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector.
- Acknowledges that the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales and the NSW Government, through the Health portfolio, are equal parties in this Partnership.

- Confirms the shared vision of improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples across New South Wales.
- Confirms the role of the Partnership
  - To ensure that Aboriginal health retains a high priority required in order to close the gap in Aboriginal health inequity
  - To integrate Aboriginal health as a core element in all NSW Health policies and services.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Partnership adheres to the principles espoused in the *National Aboriginal Health Strategy 1989* and continued in the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health - A Framework for Action by Governments*. In particular, the parties commit themselves to the practical application of the principles of Aboriginal people's self-determination, a partnership approach and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration (3).

## OVERARCHING POLICY CONTEXT

- *NSW State Health Plan*
- *NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023*
- *NSW Statement of Commitment to Close the Gap 2010*
- *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007*
- *Previous Partnership Agreements 1995-2013*
- *National Aboriginal Health Strategy 1989*
- *Report to the Minister for Health, Hon. L.J. Brereton of the New South Wales Task Force on Aboriginal Health, September 1983.*

## PROCESS

- Partnership meetings will be co-chaired by the NSW Ministry of Health and the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales
- Meetings of the Partnership will be scheduled as agreed between the parties
- Agendas will be jointly determined by the CEO of the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales and the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Secretarial support for the Partnership meetings will be the responsibility of the Centre for Aboriginal Health, NSW Ministry of Health.

## FOOTNOTES

- 1) NAIHO definition Aboriginal Health, restated in National Aboriginal Health Strategy [NAHS] 1989 <http://www.naccho.org.au/definitions/abhealth>
- 2) NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement 1995, 1997, 2001-2007, 2008-2013
- 3) Op cit

## SIGNATORIES TO THE AGREEMENT

Signed for and on behalf of the New South Wales Government by the Honourable Jillian Skinner MP, Minister for Health:

*Jillian Skinner* 28.10.15  
Signature Date

*[Signature]*  
In the presence of

Signed for and on behalf of the New South Wales Government by the Honourable Pru Goward MP, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Medical Research, Assistant Minister for Health, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:

*Pru Goward* 28/10/15  
Signature Date

*[Signature]* 28/10/15  
In the presence of

Signed for and on behalf of the New South Wales Ministry of Health by Dr Mary Foley, Secretary:

*Mary Foley* 30/10/15  
Signature Date

*[Signature]*  
In the presence of

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales by the Chairperson, Ms Christine Corby OAM:

*[Signature]* 28/10/15  
Signature Date

*[Signature]* 28/10/15  
In the presence of

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales by the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sandra Bailey:

*[Signature]* 28.10.15  
Signature Date

*[Signature]* 28/10/15  
In the presence of

