Communique

9 November 2017

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group

Development of 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 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.*

To lead this important work, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health strategy group (strategy group) has been developed. Strategy group members include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector leaders and organisations, and representatives from Accreditation Authorities, National Board, and AHPRA.

The strategy group is co-Chaired by Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO of ABSTARR Consulting and Dr Joanna Flynn AM, Chair of the Medical Board of Australia.

The group met for the third time on 9 November 2017 to continue the development of the strategy.

The goal of the meeting was to finalise key documents and report to the strategy group on initiatives and working groups that have been active since the last meeting.

Decisions

1. The draft terms of reference, statement of intent and vision and values were discussed and refined. It was agreed that this group will clear the final copies of these key documents out of session so that they can be distributed to key stakeholders for feedback.
2. Members were updated on the feedback provided to the Accreditation Systems Review by members of the strategy group working group.
3. It was agreed that a working group be developed to provide advice for jurisdictional representatives on the potential inclusion of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples within the National Law. Members acknowledged the significance of this piece of work and how few legislative drivers there are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the opportunity these amendments have to elevate and codify this work.
4. Members discussed cultural safety training learning principles and endorsed the discussion paper developed by the working group. Members discussed the context for the learning and agreed that there should be a nationally consistent model and framework but this should then have input from the local context.
5. The group discussed how they could use their networks to support greater representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on National Boards.

Next steps

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

The work before the next meeting includes:

* finalising statement of intent
* finalising vision and values
* finalising terms of reference
* advising on the potential inclusion of cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples within the National Law
* investigating best approach for promoting the National Board vacancies through the networks of partner organisations
* engagement with National Boards, Board chairs and accreditation authorities
* procurement of cultural safety learning model, and
* a draft Reconciliation Action Plan for AHPRA

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in February or March 2018.

Attendees

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| **External to the National Scheme**  |
| Member organisations |  |
| 1. Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
 | Ms Siani Iglewski, Policy and research manager (proxy) |
| 1. Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)
 | Mr Kris Rallah-Baker, Vice-President (proxy) (via teleconference) |
| 1. Australian Psychological Society (Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project)
 | Dr Sabine Hammond, Executive Manager, Science, Education and Membership |
| 1. Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives
 | Ms Janine Mohamed, CEO (via teleconference) |
| 1. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association (NATSIHWA)
 | Ms Helen Culliver, Policy Officer (proxy) |
| 1. The Lowitja Institute
 | Mr Romlie Mokak, CEO |
| 1. Indigenous Allied Health Association (IAHA)
 | Mr Allan Groth, Chief Operating Officer (proxy) |
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| Member individuals |  |
| 1. Professor Alex Brown, Director Aboriginal Health, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
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| 1. Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, CEO, ABSTARR Consulting
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| 1. Professor Noel Hayman, Clinical Director, Inala Aboriginal Health Centre of Excellence
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| 1. Professor Roianne West, Professor of First Peoples Health Griffith University
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| Jurisdictional representatives (non-members, teleconferencing in regarding possible National Law amendments) |
| 1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Section, Department of Health, Australian Government
 | Mr Brenton Rodgers |
| 1. Manager, Workforce Regulation, Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria
 | Ms Anne-Louise Carlton |
| 1. Principal Policy Advisor (Legislative Reform), Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria
 | Ms Kym Daly |
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| **Internal to the National Scheme**  |  |
| Member National Scheme representatives  |  |
| 1. Chair, AHPRA Agency Management Committee
 | Mr Michael Gorton AM, Chair |
| 1. Co-Chair, Forum of NRAS Chairs
 | Dr Jo Flynn AM, Chair, Medical Board of Australia |
| 1. Chair or nominee of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia
 | Ms Renee Owen, Presiding member |
| 1. Chair or nominee of the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
 | Ms Julie Brayshaw, Chair |
| 1. Chair or nominee of the Chiropractic Board of Australia
 | Dr Ailsa Wood, Practitioner member |
| 1. Chair or nominee of the Pharmacy Board of Australia
 | Mr Michael Piu, Community member |
| 1. Chair or nominee of the Psychology Board of Australia
 | Ms Marion Hale, Community member |
| 1. Member, Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
 | Ms Narelle Mills, CEO, Australian Dental Council Ms Theanne Walters, Deputy CEO, Australian Medical Council  |
| 1. Member, Community Reference Group (as nominated by the Community Reference Group),
 | Ms Jacqui Gibson |
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| Member AHPRA staff |  |
| 1. Chief Executive Officer
 | Mr Martin Fletcher |
| 1. Executive Director, Strategy and Policy
 | Mr Chris Robertson |
| 1. Executive Director, Regulatory Operations
 | Ms Kym Ayscough |
| 1. Executive Officer, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice
 | Ms Jill Humphreys |
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| AHPRA staff (regular observers)  |
| 1. National Director, Communications
 | Ms Anita Rivera |
| 1. National Director, Professional Services and Transformation
 | Mr Jit Patel |
| 1. Executive Officer, NRAS
 | Mr Nick Lord |
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| AHPRA Secretariat  |  |
| 1. Policy & Project Officer - Accreditation
 | Dr Vanessa Oelkers |
| 1. Program Manager, National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy
 | Mr Gilbert Hennequin |
| 1. Communications Coordinator
 | Ms Tess Humann |
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| Apologies |  |
| Northern Territory Manager | Ms Eliza Collier |
| Australian Indigenous Doctor’s Association  | Mr Craig Dukes, CEO |
| Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) | Kali Hayward, President |
| Professor Ngiare Brown, Professor of Indigenous Health and Education, University of Wollongong |
| Professor Pat Dudgeon, Vice Chair, Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association |
| National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation | Ms Pat Turner, CEO |
| Indigenous Allied Health Australia | Ms Donna Murray, CEO |
| Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association | Ms Tania Dalton, Chairperson  |
| Associate Professor Mark Wenitong, Director Medicine and Public Health, Apunipima Cape York Health Council |
| National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers’ Association | Mr Karl Briscoe, CEO |