

Communiqué: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Reference Group

September 2025

On 26 September 2025, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group for Psychology met in Sydney. Members agreed to convene as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Reference Group.

Establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PRG

The Psychology Board of Australia (the PsyBA) under the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) have been asked by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) to provide recommendations for a redesign of the psychology higher education pathway.

At the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group for Psychology meeting, the PsyBA Chair gave an overview of progress to date on the HD Redesign Project and proposed that rather than establishing a separate Project Reference Group (PRG) for the Redesign project, the existing Strategy Group would assume this role, specifically acting as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PRG.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group for Psychology gave in-principle endorsement to this proposal to form an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Project Reference Group.

Role

The role of the PRGs is to:

1. Provide a forum for engagement between the Ahpra/PsyBA (Project Owner) and key stakeholders about the HD redesign project.
2. Provide the opportunity for key stakeholders/groups/members to give timely and considered feedback to the Ahpra/PsyBA (Project Owner) about the:
 - a. current psychology education training context, burden, blockers and levers for change.
 - b. development of the proposed options for redesigning the higher education pathway.
 - c. potential impacts and views about proposed options for redesign.
3. Encourage their respective stakeholders/groups/members to participate in stakeholder forums or webinars and to provide timely feedback to formal consultation papers.
4. Work collaboratively together towards developing a clear vision for redesign of the higher education pathway to becoming a registered psychologist in Australia.

Membership

The anticipated membership will include representatives from

September 2025 Communiqué

HD Redesign: Professional Association Project Reference Group

- Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)
- Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project (AIPEP)
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- Psychology Board of Australia (PsyBA)

Next meeting

It was agreed that the members who were apologies would be contacted to seek feedback and discuss the role of the PRG moving forward.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PRG will meet as part of the next Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group for Psychology meeting on 7 November 2025.