

ABORIGINAL HEALTH CULTURAL SAFETY PLAN

January 2019 – December 2021

The following is a summary of objectives and key actions that underpins our Western Health's strategic direction to improve Aboriginal Health outcomes by providing a culturally respectful, high quality, safe, collaborative and holistic health care organisation.

OBJECTIVE 1

Western Health will improve communication and create a safe and welcoming environment that recognises the importance of the cultural beliefs and practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Build an Aboriginal Health communication strategy informing internal and external stakeholders, cultural safety initiatives, news and events
- Support clinical departments to deliver and better understand cultural safety through cultural safety audits
- Develop systems and processes to seek and gain feedback about our services from Aboriginal consumers
- Re-naming of Aboriginal Health Unit in consultation with local Aboriginal Groups
- Explore opportunities to create an external environment that is culturally safe and welcoming – gardens, flying flags

OBJECTIVE 2

Western Health to have a culturally reflective staff and volunteer workforce.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Review and update content of training and development programs and activities. Introduce a tiered system to support delivery of regular on-line and face to face learning opportunities
- Continue to build on supporting school visits, health pathways and school based traineeships
- Evaluate and refresh current Western Health Aboriginal Employment Plan 2016-19
- All staff and volunteers have the opportunity to participate in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural events to foster greater understanding of social and cultural issues

OBJECTIVE 3

Western Health has evidence of Aboriginal Health quality improvement, planning and research.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that our policies and procedures support cultural safety
- Build effective partnerships to enhance Aboriginal Health research and funding opportunities

OBJECTIVE 4

Western Health will improve access to culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Explore programs that support Aboriginal consumers accessing outpatient services
- Continue, expand and extend 'Aboriginal Identification' training to improve identification at all entry points
- Identify regional partnerships and how we can deliver culturally responsive support services care and needs

EVALUATING AND REPORTING

Measuring and evaluating on the progress and success of this plan will occur through a variety of reporting mechanisms via:

- Western Health Executive
- Western Health Aboriginal Health Steering Committee
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community