



# Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy

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## 1. Purpose

The purpose of the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy (the policy) is to strengthen and embed the approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in Western Australia as outlined in the *WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030* (Framework).

This policy mandates the use of the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (Action Plan) and the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report (Annual Report) as the instruments through which Health Service Providers must demonstrate they are undertaking the planning and reporting required to achieve the six strategic directions of the Framework.

The Department of Health has developed the [Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#) to inform the application of the Framework and the development of Action Plans by Health Service Providers.

This policy is a mandatory requirement for Health Service Providers under the Clinical Services Planning and Programs Policy Framework pursuant to section 26(2)(d) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with [MP 0065/17 Aboriginal Cultural eLearning Policy](#), [MP 0097/18 Aboriginal Workforce Policy](#), [MP 0160/21 Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration](#), and [MP 0111/19 Performance Management Policy](#).

## 2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers, excluding Health Support Services, PathWest and the QuadCentre.

## 3. Policy Requirements

### 3.1 Action Plan requirements

Health Service Providers must:

- prepare and implement an Action Plan which addresses all six strategic directions of the Framework for the period 2022 - 2025.
- use the [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan Template](#).
- consult with their Aboriginal Health Strategy Units during the development of the Action Plan.
- have the Action Plan endorsed by the health service provider's Chief Executive.
- provide a copy of the endorsed Action Plan to the Department of Health – Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate via [aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au) by 30 June 2022

for the 2022 – 2025 period or within 6 months of the health service provider’s establishment, whichever is later.

- review their respective Action Plan annually and ensure it continues to support the achievement of the performance indicators and targets relating to Aboriginal people outlined in their respective Health Service Performance Report and embedded within the Framework.

### 3.2 Annual Report Requirements

Health Service Providers must:

- develop an Annual Report to report against the Action Plan.
- outline the actions taken and results achieved against the specified measures for the previous financial year using the [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report Template](#).
- have the Annual Report endorsed by the health service provider’s Chief Executive.
- provide a copy of the endorsed Annual Report to the Department of Health – Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate via [aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au) by 31 August each year.

## 4. Compliance Monitoring

The System Manager, through the Department of Health Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate, will review the endorsed Action Plan and Annual Reports to ensure compliance with this policy.

The System Manager may also:

- carry out compliance audits, assurance and reporting including updates to the Director General and other relevant persons regarding the findings of compliance monitoring activities.
- evaluate the effectiveness of this policy in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA.
- examine alignment to the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030.
- respond to performance against the Aboriginal specific indicators.

## 5. Related Documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this policy:

- [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan Template](#)
- [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report Template](#)

## 6. Supporting Information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this policy:

- [WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030 Monitoring and Reporting Plan](#)
- [Build the Foundations: An Evaluation of the First Five Years of the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#)

## 7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this policy.

Term	Definition
Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan	A plan aligned to the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 - 2030 for the period 2022 - 2025. The plan should identify strategies, actions and measures for focus areas relevant to individual Health Service Providers, against each of the six strategic directions.
Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report	A plan aligned to the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 - 2030 and the health service provider's Action Plan for the period 2022 - 2025.
Focus Area	Located under each of the Strategic Directions in the Implementation Guide, Focus Areas are groups of strategies that concentrate effort towards a particular theme or topic.
Health service provider	Health service provider means a health service provider established by an order under section 32 of the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> . For this policy, the term Health Service Providers refers to East Metropolitan Health Service, North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service and WA Country Health Service.

## 8. Policy Contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Director, Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate

Directorate: Public and Aboriginal Health

Email: [Aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au)

## 9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Effective from	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0071/17	4 October 2017	04 October 2017	October 2020	Original version
MP 0071/17 v.2.0	17 February 2022	17 February 2022	February 2025	Policy review and amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete policy review was undertaken, a new review cycle will now commence.</li><li>• Deleted reference Health Service Performance report.</li><li>• Updated Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Annual Report due dates.</li><li>• Action Plan Template (Related Document) updated to provide examples</li><li>• Obsolete Supporting information documents removed, and additional current Supporting information documents included.</li></ul>				

MP 0071/17 v.3.0	9 October 2023	9 October 2023	February 2025	Policy amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose section amended to clarify the instruments that must be used by Health Service Providers to demonstrate compliance.</li> <li>• Applicability section amended to exclude QuadCentre.</li> <li>• Policy Requirements section amended to clarify requirements on the development of an Action Plan, along with the endorsement and submission of Annual Reports using the Annual Report Template. The endorsee for the Action Plan has changed from the Board Chair to the Chief Executive Officer.</li> <li>• Compliance Monitoring section reviewed and refined to reflect policy requirements.</li> <li>• Inclusion of the Annual Report Template in the Related Documents section.</li> <li>• Minor formatting amendments to the policy.</li> </ul>				

## 10. Approval

<b>Approval by</b>	Rebecca Brown, Acting Director General, Department of Health
<b>Approval date</b>	02 October 2017

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