



# 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 and Reporting Tool as the instrument through which Health Service Providers must demonstrate they are undertaking the planning and reporting required to achieve:

- Strategic direction 3 of the Framework – A culturally respectful and non-discriminatory health system
- Strategic direction 5 of the Framework – A strong, skilled, and growing Aboriginal health workforce
- Assigned recommendations of the WA Aboriginal Health Executive Roundtable Report (Roundtable Report)

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 and Planning 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](#), [MP 0190/25 Aboriginal Data Governance Policy](#) and [MP 0111/19 Performance Management Policy](#).

## 2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers, excluding the QuadCentre-Quadriplegic Centre.

## 3. Policy Requirements

### 3.1 Action Plan Requirements

Health Service Providers must:

- prepare and implement an Action Plan to address strategic directions 3 and 5 of the Framework and their assigned recommendation/s from the Roundtable Report for the period 2026 - 2030.

- use the [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Reporting Tool](#).
- 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 31 July 2026 for the 2026 – 2030 period.
- 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:

- report annually on actions taken and results achieved in accordance with the [Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Reporting Tool](#).
- have reporting endorsed by the Health Service Provider's Chief Executive.
- provide a copy of the endorsed Action Plan and Reporting Tool 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 July each year. In 2026, the Action Plan for 2026-2030 and annual reporting for the 2025-2026 financial year will be submitted concurrently, due on 31 July 2026.

The Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate will:

- add new reporting columns, annually, to each Health Service Provider Action Plan and Reporting Tool to enable streamlined reporting.
- populate reporting fields for data available in the WA Aboriginal Health Dashboard, and Health System Performance Reports.

## 4. Compliance Monitoring

The Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate, on behalf of the System Manager, will review the endorsed Action Plan and Reporting Tool 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 and Reporting Tool](#)

## 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](#)
- [Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#)
- [Build the Foundations: An Evaluation of the First Five Years of the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#)
- [WA Aboriginal Health Executive Roundtable Report](#)
- [WA Health Workforce Strategy 2034](#)

## 7. Definitions

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

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Reporting Tool	The instrument through which Health Service Providers must demonstrate appropriate action planning and annual reporting. The tool will be used to monitor implementation and compliance.
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.
System Manager	The term used to describe the Department CEO's role in managing the WA health system to the extent necessary to provide stewardship, strategic leadership and direction and to allocate resources for the provision of public health services in the State under section 19 of the Health Services Act 2016.
Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate (AHPD)	The Department of Health directorate responsible for developing statewide Aboriginal health policy and facilitating a collaborative and coordinated approach within the WA public health system, to improve health outcomes for all Aboriginal people living in Western Australia. AHPD monitors compliance with this policy.
Health Service Provider	A Health Service Provider established by an order made under section 32(1)(b) of the Health Services Act 2016 and may include North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS), South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS), Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS), WA Country Health Service (WACHS), East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS), PathWest, Quadriplegic Centre and Health Support Services (HSS).

## 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	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0071/17	4 October 2017	October 2020	Original version
MP 0071/17 v.1.0	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.2.0	9 October 2023	February 2025	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 the 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>			
MP 0071/17 v.3.0	8 January 2026	January 2028	Policy review and amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose section refined for clarity and to reduce reporting requirements. Inclusion of reporting on strategic directions 3 and 5 of the Framework, and Health Service Provider led Roundtable Report recommendations.</li> <li>• Applicability section: expanded to include Health Support Service and PathWest.</li> <li>• Policy requirements refined and new requirements for the Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate.</li> <li>• Related document: Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Reporting Tool updated – template and reporting dates.</li> <li>• Supporting information: Inclusion of Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030; WA Aboriginal Health Executive Roundtable Report and WA Health Workforce Strategy 2034</li> <li>• Definition section: Inclusion of the following definitions Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Reporting Tool, System Manager and Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate. Updated Health Service Provider definition.</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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Ensure you have the latest version from the [Policy Frameworks](#) website.  
Compliance with this document is mandatory.

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