



Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy (the Policy) is to ensure a consistent approach for actioning the strategic directions within the [WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#) (the Framework).

This policy will also assist to achieve the targets for performance measures and indicators relating to Aboriginal people contained in other policies and embedded within the Framework.

The Policy specifies the mandatory requirements that all Health Service Providers must comply with to strengthen and embed the approach to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in Western Australia.

The Department of Health has developed the [Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#) (the Implementation Guide) to inform the application of the Framework by Health Service Providers and the development of their Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plans (Action Plans). The Implementation Guide is a how-to manual for taking meaningful and measurable actions towards improvements in Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes across Western Australia.

This Policy is a mandatory requirement 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 the MP 0111/19 *Performance Management Policy*, MP 0097/18 *Aboriginal Workforce Policy*.

2. Applicability

This Policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers, excluding Health Support Services and PathWest.

3. Policy requirements

- Health Service Providers must prepare and implement an Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (Action Plan) aligned to the Framework for the period 2022-2025.
- Health Service Providers must use the Action Plan Template when preparing their Action Plan. Action Plans must address each of the six Strategic Directions of the Framework.

Ensure you have the latest version from the [Policy Frameworks](#) website.

- Health Service Providers must consult with their Aboriginal Health Strategy Units during the development of the Action Plan.
- Action Plans must be endorsed by the Health Service Provider Board Chair and a copy provided to the Department of Health – Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate via aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au by 30 June 2022 or within 6 months of the Health Service Provider’s establishment, whichever is later.
- Chief Executives must review their respective Health Service Provider Action Plan annually and provide a report to their Board on the progress of the Action Plan’s implementation. The annual report must also be provided to the Department of Health Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate by 31 August each year via aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au.
- Health Service Providers must remain informed about the implementation of the Framework, including keeping up-to-date with supporting documents as they become available.

4. Compliance monitoring

Health Service Providers are required to monitor their compliance with the Policy.

The System Manager through the Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate will measure compliance with the Policy through completion of an endorsed Action Plan for each Health Service Provider and an annual report on the Action Plan’s implementation to each Health Service Providers Board.

The System Manager may also seek further information in support of Policy compliance from Health Service Providers to:

- evaluate policy compliance;
- examine alignment to the [Implementation Guide](#);
- respond to performance against the Aboriginal specific indicators; and
- determine the effectiveness of this policy in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA.

5. Related documents

The following documents are required to give effect to this policy (i.e. the documents included are mandatory):

- [Action Plan Template](#)

6. Supporting information

The following documents support and inform the implementation of the mandatory requirements of this policy:

- [WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 – 2030](#)
- [Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015 – 2030](#)

- [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](#)
- [MP 0097/18 Aboriginal Workforce Policy](#)

7. Definitions

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

Term	Definition
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.
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.

8. Policy contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Director, Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate
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9. Document control

Version	Published date	Effective from	Review date	Effective to*	Amendment (s)
MP0071/17	04 October 2017	04 October 2017	October 2020	January 2022	Original version
MP007/17 v. 2.0	17 February 2022	17 February 2022	February 2025	Current	Policy review and amendments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete policy review was undertaken, a new review cycle will now commence. • Deleted reference Health Service Performance report. • Updated Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Annual Report due dates. • Action Plan Template (Related Document) updated to provide examples • Obsolete Supporting information documents removed and additional current Supporting information documents included. 					

10. Approval

Approval by	Rebecca Brown, Acting Director General, Department of Health
Approval date	02 October 2017

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