



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker – Maternal, Child and Youth Health Network

Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network

What is the Network?

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker – Maternal, Child and Youth Network (under the auspice of the Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network) encompasses the statewide Steering Committee and 5 local Cluster Network Groups.

The Steering Committee will:

- provide strategic cultural expertise, direction, advice and ongoing strategies to the Queensland Child and Youth Clinical Network in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers – Maternal, Child and Youth Health workforce challenges.
- foster collaboration, provide ongoing leadership, content expertise and advocacy for the Health Workers.
- build workforce capacity through education and training to enable better health outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and contribute to improving Closing the Gap.
- consultative mechanism: provide strategic, evidence-based advice and recommendations for guidelines and strategies to the QCYCN (and other departments).
- oversee the coordination and strategic activities of the Cluster Network Groups.
- contribute to the development of best practice service models.
- build cultural capacity/capability within the systems on all levels within maternal, child and youth health.
- ensure strong alignment with Queensland Health’s strategic policies and initiatives aimed at improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Cluster Network Group	Hospital and Health Services
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cairns and Hinterland • Torres and Cape
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North West • Mackay • Townsville • Central West
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Qld • Wide Bay • Sunshine Coast
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South West • Darling Downs
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West • Metro South • Moreton • Children’s Health Qld • Gold Coast • Metro North

Cluster Network Groups provide a local forum to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers – Maternal, Child and Youth Health workforce together to:

- act as local expert cultural group informing Steering Committee of local priorities
- foster collaboration and improve information exchange including areas of best practice and innovation
- provide an open and supportive environment
- identify local workforce needs and implement strategies to combat workforce challenges
- celebrate achievements and facilitate peer support, mentoring and professional development.

What has happened so far?



During statewide consultation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Youth Health Workers have conveyed a spectrum of issues that impact upon their roles and responsibilities:

- feel isolated
- undervalued
- limited training opportunities
- few opportunities to share experiences and communicate with one another
- limited support
- limited networking
- lack of ability to influence

(Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Network Project Report, June 2015).

A recommendation from the forum with key stakeholders was to establish a statewide governance model to foster collaboration, drive workforce culture change and ultimately lead to better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young adults and families.

Through the leadership of the Steering Committee in 2018/19 a comprehensive role description review was completed to develop a clear and consistent definition and role requirements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal, child and youth health workers Statewide. Standardised role descriptions for OO4-OO7 are now available for use across Qld. 2019/20 focus is to develop statewide service model/s of care that supports implementation of revised role descriptions.

What are the benefits to the Maternal, Child and Youth Health Workers?

- Improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and their communities.
- Culturally capable mechanisms that enable better support and stronger voice.
- Enhance collaboration between health workers, services and HHSs.
- Avenues for increased networking, education and training opportunities.
- Better promotion of valuable work being undertaken.

Contact Us

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