

NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2008 - 2013



NSW HEALTH

PART I: PREAMBLE

Guiding Principles

- The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) and the NSW Government, through its health portfolio, are equal members of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership (Partnership) established in 1995.
- The Partnership adheres to the principles espoused in the *National Aboriginal Health Strategy* 1989 and continued in the *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health – a Framework for Action by Governments*. In particular, the parties commit themselves to the practical application of the principles of Aboriginal peoples' self-determination, a partnership approach and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration.
- The Partnership is also informed by the *Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs* between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales; the *NSW State Plan*, the *NSW State Health Plan* and the *NSW Aboriginal Affairs Plan Two Ways Together*.
- The Partnership acknowledges the principles in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the national targets for closing the gap in life expectancy, child mortality and other aspects of health inequity.
- While acknowledging that the NSW Government will consult and engage with a wide range of community organisation representatives and stakeholders, the aim of the Partnership is to ensure that the expertise and experience of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector is brought to health care processes. This expertise comprises knowledge of Aboriginal culture and health care, and clinical service provision of the AH&MRC's constituent services.
- The NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership will enhance and support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and NSW Health in health service provision to the Aboriginal people of New South Wales.
- The NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee will provide leadership and ongoing advice on general health policy, strategic planning, service issues and equity in allocation of resources wherever appropriate.

PART II: STATE LEVEL

The Parties to the Agreement

At the State level, the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership is between the AH&MRC, representing the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector of New South Wales, the Minister for Health, representing the NSW Government, and the Director-General, NSW Department of Health.

Role of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership at State level

At State level, the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership seeks to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people through:

- Developing agreed positions relating to Aboriginal health policy, strategic planning, services and equity in allocation of resources.
- Ensuring that Aboriginal health retains a high priority in the health system overall; that it is integrated as a core element in all NSW Health policies and their implementation; and that effort is sustained.
- Promoting a partnership approach at all levels within the health system.
- Keeping Aboriginal health stakeholders and community informed about the outcomes of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership.

Composition of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee

The primary mechanism for giving expression to the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership at State level is the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee. Members of the Committee are those participants specifically nominated in this Agreement. Other participants may be co-opted to attend meetings as agreed. Current NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee members are:

NSW Health Department: The Deputy Director-General, Population Health; Director, Centre for Aboriginal Health; and two other members, nominated by the Director-General.

Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW: Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson; Chief Executive Officer; and one other member nominated by the AH&MRC Chairperson.

Alternate representatives, appropriately nominated by the respective parties, shall apply in the event of inability to attend.

Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement will come into effect from the date of signing by all parties and shall continue in force for a period of five years unless the parties agree to terminate the agreement or execute a further agreement in substitution.

Both parties agree to begin working towards signing a new Agreement at the start of the fifth year.

Status of Attachments

The attachments to this Agreement are to be read as provisions of this Agreement. [Attachment 1]

PART III: AREA LEVEL

The parties to this Partnership Agreement will support the development of Partnership agreements between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and/or their Consortia, recognizing their expertise and experience in Aboriginal health, and Area Health Services to give effect to the Partnership at the Area level, acknowledging that Areas will consult and engage with a wide range of Aboriginal community organisation representatives and stakeholders. .

SIGNATORIES TO THIS AGREEMENT

Signed for and on behalf of the NSW Government by the Honourable Reba Meagher MP, Minister for Health:

Signature: Reba Meagher

Date: 30 April, 2008.

In the presence of: Deborah

Signed for and on behalf of the NSW Department of Health by Professor Debora Picone AM, Director-General:

Signature: Debora Picone

Date: 30 April 2008

In the presence of: Deborah

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales by the Chairperson, Ms Christine Corby:

Signature: Corby

Date: 30 April

In the presence of: Deborah

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales by the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sandra Bailey:

Signature: Sandra Bailey

Date: 30 April

In the presence of: Deborah

STATE LEVEL NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

Processes

- Meetings will occur at least three times a year.
- Meetings will be co-chaired as determined by the parties.
- The agenda will be set by the Chief Executive Officer of the AH&MRC together with the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health.
- Secretarial support for the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership meetings will be the responsibility of the Centre for Aboriginal Health, NSW Department of Health.
- Standards for minutes of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership meeting will be as follows:
 - Agenda will be circulated fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.
 - Draft minutes of meetings to be distributed to members within fourteen (14) days of the meetings.
 - Comments to be returned within seven (7) days of draft minute distribution.
 - Co-chairs are to meet and resolve any issues prior to final minutes being distributed.
 - Final copy of minutes to be distributed to all members of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee within twenty-eight (28) days of the meeting.
- The NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee will maintain a calendar of meetings.