



Collaboration Agreement

**Collaboration Agreement between
Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA)
and Australian Council of Pro-Vice-
Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences
(ACPDHS)**

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Preamble

This is the second Collaboration Agreement between Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and the Australian Council of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences (ACPDHS).

IAHA and ACPDHS are committed and responsive to the allied health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in the allied health workforce, fostering a community centred and priority driven allied health research agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and strengthening the cultural capability of allied health graduates.

IAHA and ACPDHS assert that in order to positively affect the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right “to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”¹ as per Article 24(2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). This right is in addition to the basic right to health for all described within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and knowledge must be privileged across teaching pedagogy and research activities;
- Allied health education providers have a responsibility to ensure their graduates attain the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to deliver culturally responsive care. This includes providing clinical experiences that expose them to the unique needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations; and
- The current and future allied health workforce must have both cultural and clinical capabilities.

Allied health professionals operate within widely diverse settings, from clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, laboratories, schools, long-term care facilities, Aboriginal Medical/Health Services, community health centres to home healthcare agencies. Therefore a workforce mix that includes allied health professionals as key players across health, education and community sectors will be essential to address the social, historical, political and cultural determinants that negatively impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Goal:

Contribute to improving the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through allied health education, research and workforce development.

Objectives:

IAHA and ACPDHS will collaborate and share knowledge, information, experience and resources to:

1. Lead, influence and inform Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health education, research and workforce development initiatives;
2. Increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff into allied health programs; and
3. Drive curriculum reform to enhance the cultural capability of the allied health workforce.

¹ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf accessed 11 September 2013



Activities:

Activities undertaken between IAHA and ACPDHS may include, but not be limited to, joint meetings, policy papers, media statements, presentations, strategy development, research and funding submissions. Activities may address areas such as:

- developing allied health career pathways and student recruitment initiatives
- supporting implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework
- showcasing good practise case studies addressing culturally safe and responsive teaching and learning environments
- identifying data sources to enable reporting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student, graduate and staff participation trends

Output:

IAHA and ACPDHS will report annually on mutually-agreed priorities for the calendar year.

Longer Term Outcomes:

- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health graduates.
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health student enrolments.
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in academic and non-academic roles in allied health programs
- Increased cultural capability of allied health students and improved awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing needs.
- Increased cultural capability of staff within allied health schools and faculties.

Duration of Agreement:

This agreement is for the duration of two years from the date of signing, with an annual review.

Relationship between Parties:

Nothing in this document shall be construed as constituting a joint venture, partnership or formal business arrangement of any of the parties or of appointing either party as an agent of the other.




SIGNATURES OF PARTIES:

SIGNED by)
)
for IAHA)
in the presence of)



for IAHA




witness

SIGNED by)
)
for ACPDHS)
in the presence of)



for ACPDHS



witness