

Who we are

We are the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (the Board).

Most of us on the Board, like myself, are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners. We know that employers make their practices and hospitals more culturally safe by employing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners.

The Board's role is to protect the people in our communities when receiving health services from registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, using the same regulatory system as doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and the other regulated health professions.

The Board, along with the 15 other regulated health professions, has a commitment to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have access to health services that are culturally safe and free from racism so that they can enjoy a healthy life, equal to that of other Australians, enriched by a strong living culture, dignity and justice



Renee Owen

Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

Yorta Yorta-Taungurung

www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au

Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners be identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This is a very important part of the profession.

Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners are qualified to perform a broad range of responsibilities. They provide culturally safe support in a variety of settings and have access to MBS item numbers.

As the Board, we do not say what a registered health practitioner can and cannot do. If you, as an employer, think someone is able to do a particular set of duties in their role as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner it's up to the Health Practitioner to make sure that they maintain their competence and that they do courses or continuing professional development to upskill if their scope of practice is expanded by you, the employer.

Value to the health system

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People need access to culturally safe, preventative health care and treatment services to get the most out of their healthcare, wherever they are. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners are unique among health professionals. Their work is bridging the gap between traditional and Western healthcare.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners build trust and bring an understanding that is central to providing culturally safe services, which we know will strengthen health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Employing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner can improve how an organisation engages with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to deliver health services.

Health services

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners provide a broad range of services to their communities. Depending on state or territory and type of government/non-government organisation, these services may include:

- primary health
- clinical services (e.g. immunisations, vaccinations, diabetes care)
- assessment and screening of physical, social and emotional wellbeing
- health promotion
- providing healthcare according to care plans and/or treatment protocols
- administering and supplying medications/vaccinations
- supporting clients in self-management, including the safe use of traditional and Western medications
- planning, delivering and evaluating population health programs
- advocating for clients, including interpreting and translating language
- providing advice, support and training on providing culturally safe health services to other health professionals, policy makers, researchers and educators
- management activities
- education and training of health workers and other health professionals, and
- team care arrangements.



When you employ a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner, you can be sure that person is qualified and competent to practise safely.

Here's the pathway to be registered as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner:

That's because to be registered with the Board they must:

- ✓ be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
- ✓ have completed an approved program of study
- ✓ do a criminal history check
- ✓ maintain continuing professional development and recency of practice, and
- ✓ renew their registration every year.

Using the register

You can always check if someone is registered with us by searching the free online public register at www.ahpra.gov.au:

1. Find the heading 'Check your health practitioner is registered'.
2. Type their family name or registration number.
3. Select 'Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner' from the drop down menu.
4. Search. If the name is there, they are registered

Get in touch

Website

www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au

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The Board is supported by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra).

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Why you should employ **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners**

