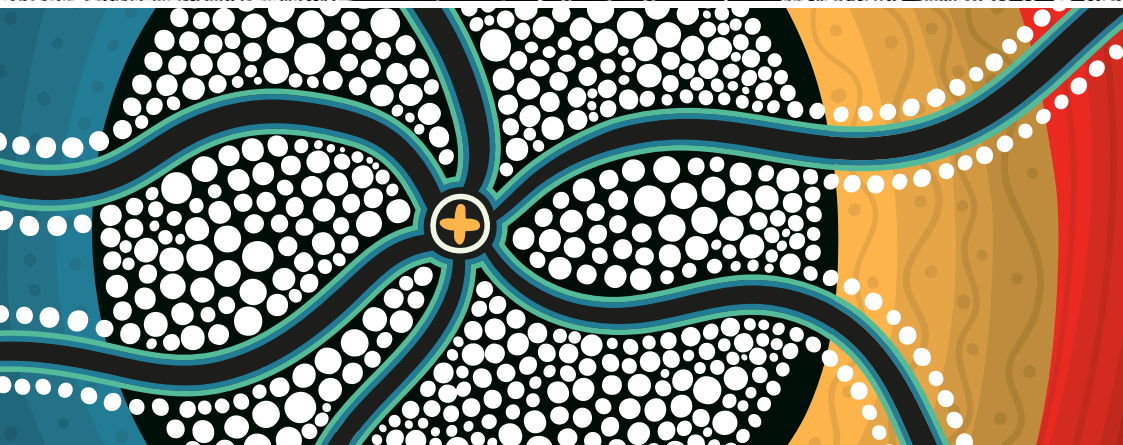




RACGP

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health





What we do

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health undertakes a range of activities to help improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These include:

- developing guidelines and resources for GPs and health professionals
- delivering education and training
- advocating on issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and achievements by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs, registrars and students.

Guidelines and resources

- An introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health cultural protocols and perspectives
- Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian general practice
- National guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2nd edition)
- Interpretive guide to the RACGP Standards for general practices (4th edition) for Aboriginal community controlled health services
- Closing the gap with the RACGP's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs

Education and training

- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health curriculum statement**
- **Online activity: Introduction to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness in general practice**
- **Clinical audit quality improvement activities:**
 - Improving renal diseases outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
 - Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in General Practice
- Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander general practice registrars to attend the **Indigenous Fellowship Excellence Program**, co-named *Yagila Wadamba* (meaning 'learn to heal'), provided to us by the Wurundjeri people, from the *Woiwurrung* language group and the Kulin nation and alliance
- **RACGP/AIDA joint mentoring program**
- Active learning modules
- Assistance in accreditation of QI&CPD cultural awareness activities and cultural safety activities
- **QI&CPD Program** applications submitted by training providers
- Fellowship of the RACGP (FRACGP) exam question revision and writing
- Ensure that content and conduct of the FRACGP exams are culturally appropriate
- Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GP Registrars working towards their FRACGP exams.



Advocacy

- Develop RACGP policy and position statements
- Direct advocacy on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues with the Department of Health and other key stakeholders
- Contribute to RACGP policy and advocacy on health issues and system reform
- Advise the RACGP on culturally appropriate policies (eg Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country)
- Advocate for the **RACGP Reconciliation Action Plan** initiatives within the RACGP
- Leads the acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander significant events with celebrations, events, staff educational and information sessions.

Celebrations

- Developed FRACGP gown incorporating Aboriginal artwork and special sashes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs
- **Standing Strong Together Award**
- **Student Bursary Award**
- **Growing Strong Award**

Please visit racgp.org.au/yourracgp/organisation/awards/standing-strong/ for further information.

Membership

Membership of **RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health** is at no additional cost to RACGP members and Fellows.

We encourage all members of the RACGP to join the faculty, and especially those who:

- are actively engaged in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- have sufficient past experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- have or wish to develop an interest/knowledge in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Communication

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health produces a regular e-bulletin, which is circulated electronically. The e-bulletin is distributed to promote information sharing opportunities and partnerships.

Significant events

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health hosts events for **Close the Gap**, **Sorry Day**, **Reconciliation Week**, **Mabo Day** and **NAIDOC Week**, and shares information regarding any other significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander events and political updates, particularly relating to health.



Stakeholder engagement

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health liaises and works in collaboration with members of the Close the Gap Steering Committee, along with:

- AIDA
- NACCHO and affiliates
- IGPRN
- Lowitja Institute
- public health networks
- registered training organisations
- Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Incorporated (traditional owners of the land of the RACGP National office)
- Torres Strait Regional Authority
- Commonwealth Government Department of Health
- universities
- medical colleges.

Campaigns

The RACGP is a signatory to the 'Close the Gap' and the 'Racism. It stops with me' campaigns. The faculty contributes events and projects across these two very important areas.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Through the launch and implementation of the RACGP Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the RACGP has continued to contribute to the ultimate goal of achieving equity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The RAP will continue to build on the foundations for cultural respect across our entire organisation.

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health continues to lead the RAP journey to influence RACGP employees to foster a workplace culture and environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees, students, members and stakeholders feel welcome, supported and respected.

By embracing the RAP journey as a whole-of-organisation responsibility, our employees will be better placed to support our GP members to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare services that are culturally sensitive to the holistic needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and individuals.

Ceremonial gown

In 2012, RACGP commissioned Gilimbaa, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creative agency based in Brisbane, to develop the artwork for a new ceremonial gown and sash.

The RACGP ceremonial gown and accompanying sash for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Fellows is a symbol of respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia, and to the land on which GPs learn, teach and practice the art of medicine.





RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is one of Australia's highest health priorities. The **Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)** is committed to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health needs. As a result, **RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health** was established to help 'Close the Gap'.

By understanding the cultural context, the RACGP strives to advocate for culturally appropriate health delivery systems that will improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The **RACGP** strongly supports the vital role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, health workers and others working in partnership with general practice to deliver comprehensive primary healthcare services.

About us

The **RACGP** is Australia's largest professional general practice organisation and represents urban and rural general practitioners (GPs). We represent over 33,000 members working in or towards a career in general practice.

RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health was formally established in February 2010. Board members include GPs, community members and representatives from key organisations such as the **National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)**, the **Indigenous General Practice Registrars Network (IGPRN)** and the **Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA)**.



*RACGP Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Health
welcomes your participation
in activities and encourages
you to contact us to raise issues
concerning Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander health.*

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Artwork by Billy Missi, Thuraui Nagai Mabaig – © Billy Missi/
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of Dreamtime Public Relations



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**Aboriginal and
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Health**