

# Five steps towards excellent healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

### 1 Prepare and register for PIP

- Register for the Indigenous Health PIP Incentive
- Staff complete accredited cultural awareness training
- Create a welcoming practice environment

### 3 Offer a health assessment (MBS Item 715)

#### Opens access to an additional 5 allied health visits

Conducting a health assessment with a patient is an excellent opportunity to build rapport, trust and to develop and enhance an ongoing relationship. As well as identifying physical health problems, discussing psychological and social functions is an excellent approach to effective two-way communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

Department of Health fact sheet on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health assessments: [www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare\\_ATSI\\_MBSitem715](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare_ATSI_MBSitem715)



### 2 Identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients

Asking the question can cause discomfort in practice staff; evidence shows that all patients are comfortable when asked if the reasons can be explained.

If patients choose to identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, they will do so when prompted.

More details on identification can be found here: [www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/aboriginal/guides/identification/](http://www.racgp.org.au/yourracgp/faculties/aboriginal/guides/identification/)



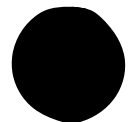
Aboriginal



Torres Strait Islander



Both



Neither

### 4 Register eligible patients for the PIP and the Closing the Gap PBS co-payment

Once your practice is registered for the Indigenous PIP (Step 1), you are able to register patients for the CTG – PBS co-payment.

Use the same form as the PIP patient registration. [www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/forms/ip017](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/health-professionals/forms/ip017)

### 5 Use appropriate clinical guidelines, and programs from the RACGP, Medicare and PHNs to enhance access and quality of care

The NACCHO/RACGP National Guide outlines the activities that are effective for preventive health.

Please visit the **Indigenous Health Service eLearning program** for more advice.