

Memorandum of Understanding

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) builds on the strong working relationship between NACCHO and the RACGP and our shared commitment to improving the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities. NACCHO and the RACGP have worked together for over two decades. In 2014, NACCHO and the RACGP signed our first MOU, strengthening our relationship and delivering significant contributions in the development of resources and raising awareness on matters pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. This was renewed in 2019. Since then, a new national agreement on closing the gap was reached including four priority reforms for the two organisations to support. Each organisation has also grown with GP training transitioning to the RACGP and with the growth of NACCHO's health policy and program development.

The relationship between NACCHO and the RACGP reflects each organisation's actions, underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations
 - equity
 - strengths based approaches
 - eliminating racism and discrimination
- culturally safe practice
 - shared decision making
 - respecting the expertise, membership and role of each organisation
- incorporating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander world views and ways of knowing
 - shared access to data and information

Shared advocacy between NACCHO and the RACGP may include:

Guiding principles	Advocacy
Self-determination, equity and strengths based approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• champion Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership• promote the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander definition of health and the importance of social and cultural determinants of health• advocate for an appropriately structured and resourced primary healthcare system that provides comprehensive, culturally safe, relationship based primary healthcare as the cornerstone of a sustainable healthcare system• advocate for the unique and specialised role of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) as providers of healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and advocate for support through increased investments in ACCHOs• develop initiatives that attract, train and retain a skilled GP workforce for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector
Cultural safety and eliminating racism and discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• advocate for an Australian healthcare system that is culturally safe and free from racism• develop standards, guidelines and resources to equip general practitioners and primary healthcare teams to provide clinically and culturally safe healthcare that is valued by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
Shared decision making and respecting the expertise, membership and role of each organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• joint advocacy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Collaborative activities:

- shared advocacy
 - consultation and collaboration on key policy documents and resources
 - sharing information on key projects and organisational developments
 - public support for organisational positions where aligned
- joint development and delivery of resources, workshops, webinars and projects
 - joint presentations at conferences and seminars
 - promotion to each party's organisational members through social media and other channels
 - support RACGP members working in the ACCHO sector
- promotion of ACCHO model of care, including community governance, multidisciplinary team care and role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Health Workers
 - support and promote quality experiences in ACCHOs for GPs in training

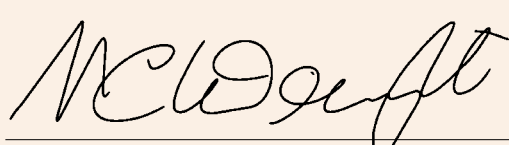
The RACGP's roles and responsibilities:

- Improving mainstream organisations - work to embed the guiding principles into systems, structures and work of the RACGP over the next five years
- Supporting mainstream general practice to be culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Show leadership in advocacy across the primary healthcare sector and wherever GPs practice
- Provide technical knowledge and expertise of the general practice and general practice training sector
- Ensure key RACGP resources, policy and advocacy documents are shared with NACCHO, and NACCHO input sought on those relating to the ACCHO sector
- Leverage the RACGP's membership to support advocacy and resource development
- Raise awareness and profile of the sector amongst our membership to enhance understanding and advocacy efforts
- Ensure NACCHO have the opportunity to be included in work affecting the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Support RACGP members working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings
- Promotion of ACCHO model of care as a successful model of primary care and general practice
- Foster open and respectful dialogue where the organisations diverge on key policy or advocacy positions

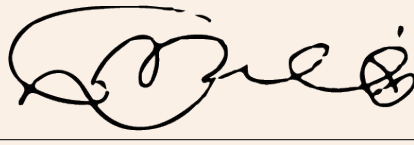
NACCHO's roles and responsibilities:

- Facilitate the exchange of information between the RACGP and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector
- Advocate for initiatives that add value to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services provision of culturally safe comprehensive healthcare
- Contribute to the development and promotion of shared resources including standards, policies and guides to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Consultation and input on a comprehensive and safe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and health GP training program
- Consult with the RACGP when developing NACCHO led health programs to consider general practitioner and RACGP perspectives
- Leverage NACCHO's 145 member services
- Foster open and respectful dialogue where the organisations diverge on key policy or advocacy positions

The parties will co-develop an MOU work plan within three months of MOU signing. The senior leadership team of each organisation will provide an annual progress update through their respective governance mechanisms to inform rolling work plans and organisational leaders will meet twice a year. The parties will review this MOU after five years.



27 February 2025
For and on behalf of RACGP
President



27 February 2025
For and on behalf of NACCHO
Chair