



IAHA

Indigenous Allied
Health Australia



Health Sciences Australia

Australian Council of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences

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 first 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 competence 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 health¹” 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 be both culturally competent/ responsive and clinically competent.

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 staff and students into allied health programs; and
3. Drive curriculum reform to enhance the cultural competency/responsiveness of the current and future allied health workforce.

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



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Outputs:

IAHA and ACPDHS will report annually on:

Joint meetings, policy papers, media statements, presentations, research and funding submissions developed between IAHA and ACPDHS. Activities undertaken may include, but not be limited to:

- cultural knowledge and sharing
- student recruitment and support activities
- pathways to enrolment in allied health careers
- mentoring professionally and culturally
- fostering of culturally safe learning environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the allied health education sector
- showcasing and mentoring around good practice case studies
- improved engagement between Universities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (e.g. curriculum advisory groups)
- gathering and sharing information on trends in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, graduates and staff in allied health courses.

Success Measures:

- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health student graduates.
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health student enrolments.
- Improved allied health students' awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing needs.
- Increased cultural competence/responsiveness 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.



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Austtralian Council of Pro Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Health Sciences

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)

25.11.2013