

## What is an Allied health professional?

An allied health professional is considered by IAHA to be a health professional who;

1. Has graduated from a tertiary qualification at Bachelor Degree (AQF Level 7) or higher in an allied health course; and
2. Has attained the necessary knowledge, attributes, attitudes and skills required to be an autonomous practitioner and practices in an evidence based paradigm using a recognised body of skills and knowledge to contribute to the physical, sensory, psychological, cognitive, social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of people so that each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being; and
3. Does not practice as a Medical Practitioner, Nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker/Practitioner.

## What is an Indigenous allied health professional?

An Indigenous allied health professional is considered by IAHA to be an allied health professional as defined above, who is an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

*"Being a student member enables me to grow my networks and abilities through access to the mentoring program and established networks built by Indigenous Allied Health Australia. The support I have received so far has been amazing." –*

*Diane Bakon, Occupational Therapy Student*

If you would like to connect with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students across Australia, you can join IAHA online now at [www.indigenouslyalliedhealth.com.au](http://www.indigenouslyalliedhealth.com.au)

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Indigenous Allied Health Australia

## An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective on Allied Health

*Make a Difference...  
Be an allied health professional*

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## What is Allied Health?

IAHA defines allied health from a unique perspective as it relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is a collective term used to refer to a variety of healthcare disciplines that contribute to a person's physical, sensory, psychological, cognitive, social, emotional and cultural wellbeing, excluding medicine, nursing and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker/practitioner roles.

Allied health functions include but are not limited to, services related to the identification, evaluation, management and prevention of disease and disorders; dietary and nutritional services; and rehabilitation services.



Allied health operates in widely diverse settings, including but not limited to clinics, hospitals, rehabilitation centres, laboratories, schools, long-term care facilities, Aboriginal Medical/Health Services, community health centres, and home healthcare agencies.

## What is Indigenous Allied Health?

IAHA defines Indigenous Allied Health as a collective term referring to the delivery of culturally and professionally competent healthcare to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, by tertiary qualified health professionals other than a doctor, nurse or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker/Practitioner, often within an interdisciplinary healthcare team.

This healthcare may be delivered by Indigenous and/or non-Indigenous health professionals and is characterised by a holistic and comprehensive approach, taking into consideration the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person's physical, sensory, psychological, cognitive, social, emotional and cultural well being.

*"Allied health professionals are key players in the interprofessional delivery of healthcare. No single health profession alone will be able to meet the complex healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In order to truly make a difference and improve health outcomes for our people, we will all need to work together."* –

*Faye McMillan, Pharmacist*

## IAHA and Allied Health

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) is the national peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students.

IAHA embraces a holistic and inclusive approach towards meeting the complex healthcare needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. IAHA is inclusive of a broad scope of allied health professions as we determine the meaning of allied health from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

In doing this, we recognise and value the uniqueness of the diverse allied health professions impacting on the delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their families and their communities.