



Commitment to Closing the Aboriginal Health Gap

Western NSW Local Health District

On behalf of the Western New South Wales Local Health District, we are Sorry for the pain and loss placed on the lives of Aboriginal people by past practices and policies, and regret the impact this has had on the health and social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal families.

We recognise Aboriginal people as the First Nations People of Australia and the traditional owners and custodians of land and acknowledge that our services are located on traditional Aboriginal land. We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders; past, present and future.

This commitment seeks to build respectful relationships with Aboriginal communities and develop culturally appropriate workforce and services that will improve health outcomes and contribute to closing the health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Accordingly we commit the following:

Strategic commitment

Closing the Gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal people is a strategic priority within the Strategic Health Services Plan. Accordingly all our health service plans and strategies must address how they will contribute to 'Close the Gap' in Aboriginal health outcomes.

Workforce Commitment

We will develop our Aboriginal health workforce and increase the number of staff we employ to a target of 9.4% of total workforce over the next 5 years, our Aboriginal Workforce Action Plan outlines our commitment to strategies that will develop and attract Aboriginal people into the health workforce.

Service delivery commitment

We will ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have access to health services that are equal in standard to those enjoyed by other Australians, and will work continuously to ensure that health services are provided in a culturally responsive, safe and competent manner.

Cultural commitment

We will value and respect cultural diversity and will celebrate Aboriginal culture. We welcome the opportunity to work with and learn from our Aboriginal partners. We commit to building organisational cultural competency to ensure respectful communication, practices and services.



Scott McLachlan
Chief Executive



Health
Western NSW
Local Health District



Dr Robin Williams
Chair of Board



Our Health District
Living Well Together