



**HELPING YOUR ORGANISATION
TO CREATE A WELCOMING
ENVIRONMENT FOR ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE**



Inner North West Primary Care Partnership acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government

Inner North West Primary Care Partnership acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and other peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our work in the community takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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July 2014



Acknowledgements

Inner North West Primary Care Partnership acknowledges the contribution made by the ***Closing the Health Gap Inner North West Metropolitan Region Wellbeing Partnership*** in assisting with collating information for this resource guide.

Our thanks also go to the numerous organisations that granted us permission to use their images and/or logos in this guide:

- ANTaR Victoria
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet
- Baluk Arts
- Cancer Council Victoria
- Creative Spirits
- City of Yarra
- Darebin Community Health
- Global Kids Oz
- Health West
- Heart Foundation
- Koori Mail
- Merri Community Health Service
- Moonee Valley City Council
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC)
- National Indigenous Times
- cohealth
- Odyssey House
- Reconciliation Australia
- Royal Women's Hospital
- Song Lines (Share the Spirit Festival)
- The Lowitja Institute
- Torres News
- Victorian Aboriginal Health Services (VAHS)
- Women's Health Goulburn North East



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Introduction

Helping your organisation to create a welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Welcome to the Inner North West Primary Care Partnership's (INW PCP) resource guide.

This guide responds to research on the need to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' access to health services. It forms part of the 2013–14 Action Plan of the Inner North West Metropolitan Region Closing the Health Gap Wellbeing Partnership (CtHG Wellbeing Partnership). Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumer feedback suggests that one way to encourage improved health service access is to *“Make environments more inviting and respectful of our culture by displaying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork, cultural symbols, posters, health promotional material and other cultural information”*.¹

The INW PCP, with the assistance of member organisations and industry colleagues, has developed an online resource for organisations to purchase or source relevant information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, social enterprises and peak body organisations providing culturally appropriate information and goods.

The CtHG Wellbeing Partnership of the INW PCP recommended that the online resource guide be converted into a more user-friendly document. The guide is now available online or as a PDF. Both formats can be found on INW PCP's website <http://www.inwpcp.org.au/closingthehealthgap>

The CtHG Wellbeing Partnership endorses this resource guide and encourages all member organisations to use it to create a more welcoming environment for our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

¹ Inner North West Metropolitan Region: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Health Consumer Perspectives Project, February 2013
W:<http://www.inwpcp.org.au/sites/default/files/files/INWPCP%20Health%20Consumer%20Perspectives%20Project%20-%20Final%20Report%202013.pdf>



How to use this document

We suggest that you initially browse through this document to identify the range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations that can provide assistance to your organisation to:

- ⦿ Create a welcoming environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- ⦿ Provide information on Indigenous historical, cultural and key community events
- ⦿ Source information on Indigenous social enterprises including catering and media production
- ⦿ Source culturally relevant health information for Indigenous peoples
- ⦿ Improve your relationships and referral pathways with key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and services.

If you are reading this document online, please note that each organisation's name is linked to their website. Simply click on the name and it will link you directly.

Please note that information on and links to organisations, websites, brochures and policies do not constitute a recommendation to use what is listed above other sources of information that may be available in other organisational settings or websites.

The index is designed to provide the specific information you require under key areas listed.

Warning: This guide and its linked sites may contain the names and images of Aboriginal and Islander people now deceased.



I. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations

Following is a list of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and sources of health information. Please note there may be other organisations not included in this list that may provide further support to your organisation. The list presents Victorian-specific organisations first, followed by national organisations. The list will be updated online on a regular basis.

ORGANISATIONAL WEBSITES

ORGANISATION	FUNCTION
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) www.vahs.org.au	Established in 1972 to address the specific medical needs of Victorian Indigenous communities. VAHS has expanded steadily over the past 40 years to provide a comprehensive range of medical, dental and social and emotional wellbeing services for the community.
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Incorporated (VACCHO) www.vaccho.org.au	Represents all Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations in Victoria. It provides direction in Aboriginal health policies and also supports local initiatives. It is a centre of expertise, policy advice, training and innovation in Aboriginal health and advocates for the health equality and optimum health of all Aboriginal people in Victoria.
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) www.vacca.org	<p>The leading Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation in Victoria, protecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal children, young people, families and the community.</p> <p>It provides programs and services to strengthen Aboriginal culture and encourage best parenting practices, and advises government in relation to child abuse and neglect in the Aboriginal community.</p>
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) http://vals.org.au/	Its objectives are to address both the causes and effects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage, improve the access of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to high-quality and culturally appropriate legal aid services, and improve the quality and efficiency of service delivery to the ultimate benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients.
Department of Health, Victoria http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth/	Aims to make a significant and measurable impact on improving the length and quality of the lives of Aboriginal Victorians in this decade, in partnership with the Aboriginal community and our stakeholders.

ORGANISATION	FUNCTION
Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (OAAV) http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/aboriginal-affairs-overview	Advises the Victorian Government on Aboriginal policy and planning, and delivers key programs. It works in partnership with Aboriginal communities, government departments and agencies to promote knowledge and understanding about Victoria's Aboriginal people.
Reconciliation Victoria www.reconciliationvic.org.au	Has focused on leading the reconciliation process in Victoria by supporting the growth of local reconciliation groups, promoting cultural awareness and education in the broader community, working with young people, developing strategic partnerships, and building the capacity of the organisation.
Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) www.fvpls.org	Provides assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault and works with families and communities affected by violence.
Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit www.onemda.unimelb.edu.au	Committed to research and teaching that is underpinned by principles of Indigenous community development and will lead to long-term improvements in Aboriginal health. It takes care to build an academic program based on Indigenous values and principles, which also respects the contribution and cultural background of all those who work with it.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au	Its functions include: developing standards, codes and guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study, registering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health practitioners and students.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Ltd http://healingfoundation.org.au/	An independent national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on healing its community. It supports culturally strong, locally run Indigenous healing programs around Australia and funds education and research on Indigenous healing.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health portal www.health.act.gov.au/health-services/aboriginal-torres-strait-islander	Aims to assist your search for information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues, health organisations, policies and research including cultural events of significance.

ORGANISATION	FUNCTION
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association http://www.natsihwa.org.au/who-we-are	NATSIHWA supports and represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers (ATSIHW). This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners as one of the important speciality streams of Health Workers. NATSIHWA is a not-for-profit organisation which works with health, education and our communities to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Australian Disability and Indigenous Peoples' Education Fund (ADIPEF) www.adipef.org.au	Launched at the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations National Conference in May 2009, the Fund will assist Indigenous and non-Indigenous people with disability to participate in both formal and informal education programs through small grants.
Australian Indigenous Doctors Association Ltd (AIDA) www.aida.org.au	A non-profit, non-government organisation dedicated to the pursuit of leadership, partnership and scholarship in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, education and workforce.
Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet www.healthinfo.net.ecu.edu.au	An innovative internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making research and other knowledge readily accessible. In this way, it contributes to 'closing the gap' in health between Indigenous and other Australians.
Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) www.indigenouspsychology.com.au	The national body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists in Australia. It is committed to improving the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by leading the change required to deliver equitable, accessible, sustainable, timely and culturally competent psychological care which respects and promotes their cultural integrity.
Closing the Gap Clearing House www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap	A clearinghouse for research and evaluation evidence on what works to overcome Indigenous disadvantage.
The Lowitja Institute (incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRAH)) www.lowitja.org.au	Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. It is the only research organisation in Australia with a sole focus on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Its vision is to achieve equity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ORGANISATION	FUNCTION
Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) http://iaha.com.au/	The national peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students.
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) www.naccho.org.au	The national peak body representing over 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) across the country on Aboriginal health and wellbeing issues.
National Coalition of Indigenous Australian Social Workers Inc. http://www.atsisw.org/	Its aim is to bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social workers as a professional body, to exchange information, ideas, and to network for the benefit of our communities.
National Indigenous Alcohol and Drug Committee (NIDAC) www.nidac.org.au	The leading voice in Indigenous alcohol and drug policy, NIDAC provides advice to government, based on its collective expertise and knowledge from those working in the field, health professionals and other relevant experts.
Reconciliation Australia www.reconciliation.org.au	A national organisation, it promotes reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community. It is involved in a range of projects aimed at highlighting and promoting success, creating positive changes, and building respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians.
Share Our Pride www.shareourpride.org.au	A website developed by Reconciliation Australia with initial funding from the Westpac Foundation and the Coles Group Community Fund in response to a request from industry for an introductory site for employees. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country have provided input and feedback on the content. Every effort has been made to capture the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures but to keep the content simple and introductory.
Australian Government Indigenous Affairs www.indigenous.gov.au	<p>A website celebrating the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is a gateway to Australian Government information on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>The website shares information, news, stories and events of interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians or those working in Indigenous affairs.</p>

ORGANISATION

FUNCTION

Department of the Prime Minister
and Cabinet
www.dpmc.gov.au/indigenous_affairs

On 18 September 2013, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet became the responsible agency for the majority of Indigenous policies, programmes and service delivery. Indigenous affairs is a significant priority for the Government, which will establish a new engagement and partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Commonwealth Department of
Health
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+Health-Ip>

Takes a whole-of-government approach to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. This site contains Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health information from mainstream areas of the Department of Health as well as from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH).

From this launching page you will find information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health programs.



2. Cultural Acknowledgement

UNDERSTANDING PROTOCOL AND LANGUAGE

Many non-Aboriginal Australians may have limited understanding of, or contact with, Aboriginal communities. This means that non-Aboriginal people and organisations are not always sure how best to engage, consult and work with the local Aboriginal community. The following organisations can help with information on how to conduct culturally appropriate welcoming ceremonies, events and acknowledgements.

Wurundjeri protocol

<http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/Community-Planning/aboriginal-services/wurundjeri-protocol/>

City of Yarra has put together some respectful and culturally appropriate starting points for linking with the City of Yarra's traditional owners – the Wurundjeri People – as well as the broader Aboriginal community.

Protocols for recognising traditional owners

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/aboriginal-affairs/protocols-for-recognising-traditional-owners>

The Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (OAAV) is a key agency that provides advice to the Victorian Government on Aboriginal policy and delivers a range of programs.



CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE EVENT MANAGEMENT

Indigenous protocols event management guide

<http://www.mvcc.vic.gov.au/~media/Files/Arts%20and%20Culture/event%20fact%20sheets/25%20Indigenous%20Protocols.pdf>

City of Moonee Valley produced this guide to help ensure that events are culturally appropriate.

Protocols for introducing Indigenous music

http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/32367/Music_protocol_guide.pdf

Australia Council for the Arts has produced a guide designed to be an initial point of reference in planning a work with Indigenous music practitioners or using Indigenous cultural material.

Protocols for Indigenous art and culture

<http://nga.gov.au/exhibitions/pdf/protocols.pdf>

The National Gallery of Australia developed this guide to assist organisations hosting exhibitions to understand Indigenous protocols relating to art and cultural activities.



WELCOMING CEREMONIES

To provide culturally appropriate ceremonies at special events, book a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony, and Dancers etc. Download a booking form and email to: events@wurundjeri.com.au (booking form:

http://www.healthwest.org.au/images/stories/healthwest/pdf/resources/wurundjeri_wtc_request_form.pdf)

Or contact: Wurundjeri Tribe Land Cultural Heritage Council, Ph: (03) 9416 2905
Abbotsford Convent, St Heliers Street, Abbotsford VIC 3067

The Making Two Worlds Work (MTWW) project is an initiative of Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation and Women's Health Goulburn North East – organisations based in north-east Victoria. It is supported by the Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership and Wodonga Regional Health Service. MTWW developed a DVD, filmed at Mungabareena Reserve on the Murray River that explains 'Indigenous welcome and acknowledging country'. To view the DVD visit the website http://www.whealth.com.au/mtww/resource_kit_dvd.html.

PERMISSION TO USE LANGUAGES

For advice and permission to use Aboriginal language in any publication, contact the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Cultural Heritage Council on (03) 9416 2905 or email: Reception@wurundjeri.com.au





3. Cultural Audits, Cultural Awareness Training and Reconciliation Plans



CULTURAL AUDITS

For assistance with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural audits:

Health and Community Services Audit

This audit tool for agency planning and review was developed by the Making Two Worlds Work project by Mungabareena Aboriginal Corp and Women's Health Goulbourn North East, supported by Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership and Wodonga Regional Health Service.

http://www.health.com.au/mtww/documents/MTWW_Audit_Tool.pdf



RECONCILIATION PLANNING

Reconciliation Australia

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/>

A national organisation promoting reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader Australian community.

Through the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program, organisations develop business plans that document what they will do within their sphere of influence to contribute to reconciliation in Australia.

The RAP outlines practical actions the organisation will take to build strong relationships and enhanced respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. For more information on the program, resources, templates and links visit the website <http://www.reconciliation.org.au/raphub/>

To contact one of the project officers from the RAP team, email rap@reconciliation.org.au or phone 02 6273 9200.

Koori Practice Checklist

A cultural audit tool for the alcohol and other drugs service sector by the Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative Ltd.

http://www.ngwala.org.au/pdf/Koori_checklist.pdf

AUDIT COMPANIES

Community Solutions

Jason Mifsud, Managing Director, Community Solutions

E: Community.solutions@hotmail.com

M: 0438 084 237

Karen Milward Consulting

An Aboriginal owned and operated Aboriginal business consultancy offering cross-cultural services to Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations and individuals; specialising in consulting, training and facilitation

E: info@karenmilward.com.au

T: 03 9841 9497

M: 0407 867 863

W: <http://www.karenmilward.com.au/consultancy/services>

Indigenous Psychological Services

A private company founded in 1999, by Dr Tracy Westerman, an Aboriginal psychologist

E: ips@ips.iinet.net.au

T: 08 9362 2036

W: <http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/>

AUDIT CHECKLISTS

Cultural Audit Checklist

A checklist adapted from HealthWest Partnership's tool to see how welcoming your organisation is of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

http://www.healthwest.org.au/images/stories/healthwest/pdf/resources/cultural_audit_checklist.pdf

CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

AJ Williams-Tchen

E: girrawayganyi@optusnet.com.au

M: 0434 049 764

W: www.girrawayganyi.com.au

Karen Milward

E: info@karenmilward.com.au

T: 03 9841 9497

M: 0407 867 863

Koorie Heritage Trust Inc

Tom Mosby, CEO

E: tommosby@korieheritagetrust.com

T: 03 8622 2608

W: www.korieheritagetrust.com

SEE RAPS FROM OTHER LEADING ORGANISATIONS:

City of Melbourne

http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/indigenouisculture/Documents/Reconciliation_Action_Plan.pdf

North Yarra Community Health

<http://www.nych.org.au/publication/pdf/plans/RAP%20final%20with%20logos%202013%202014.pdf>

Doutta Galla Community Health

http://www.doutta.org.au/files/Corporate/FINAL_RAP_August_2012.pdf

Odyssey House Victoria

<http://www.odyssey.org.au/%5Cimages/files/OHV%20Reconciliation%20Action%20Plan%202012%202015%20-%20web.pdf>

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice

<http://aboriginal.telethonkids.org.au/kulunga-research-network/working-together.aspx>

This book offers a comprehensive examination of issues and strategies influencing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and social and emotional wellbeing and has proven to be extremely popular with universities, psychologists, social workers, mental health workers, GP's, nurses, as well as educators and students.

It was developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research and the Kulunga Research Network, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research with funding through the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Select this link to download a pdf copy

<http://aboriginal.telethonkids.org.au/kulunga-research-network/working-together/working-together-chapters/>

Byalawa website

<http://www.byalawa.com/>

Learning and teaching resource for working with indigenous patients and clients.

The Byalawa resources have been designed by the Byalawa Project Team as part of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council Competitive Research Grant. The Byalawa Team included health academics and clinicians from The University of Sydney and James Cook University and represented a wide range of health professions including speech pathology, occupational therapy, medicine, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry. Leaders in Indigenous health education from both Universities were important team members. Scenarios and case studies used in the resources were developed from themes emerging from information gathered through discussions with Indigenous people about their experiences with interviews and information sharing with health professionals.



4. Community Information

The following sources present community, cultural and historical information from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' perspective.

Please note that links do not constitute a recommendation to use a particular organisation, newsletter, or other publication. This list will be updated online should further sources be identified in the future.

ONLINE INFORMATION

Share Our Pride

<http://shareourpride.reconciliation.org.au/>

Reconciliation Australia developed this website in response to a request from industry for an introductory site for employees. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the country have provided input and feedback on the content. Every effort has been made to capture the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures but to keep the content simple and introductory.

The Black Book

<http://www.theblackbook.com.au/directory.asp>

The Black Book Directory lists more than 2,700 Indigenous people and organisations working in the arts, media and cultural industries. You can search listings by their state, Indigenous nation or language group, name and category.

A list of 2,000 Indigenous works of music, literature and screen productions can be sourced through the Black Book Library on this site. Subscribe to Black Mail

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NEWSLETTERS

The Lowitja Institute eBulletin

<http://www.lowitja.org.au/bulletins>

The fortnightly eBulletin includes Lowitja Institute news plus items of interest to people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health such as conferences, events, jobs, media, publications and resources.

The Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin

<http://healthbulletin.org.au/about/>

The HealthBulletin is the online journal of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet and brings together the latest information about Indigenous health. There are four editions published per year with each edition running continuously for three months.

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)

<http://www.vahs.org.au/>

Provides regular updates on upcoming events, activities and opportunities at VAHS, as well as important changes to the organisation and the publication of reports and resource materials.

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

<http://www.vaccho.org.au/resource-centre/newsletters/>

A quarterly newsletter and monthly E-let provide updates on events, conferences, forums and important dates.

WGAR News (Working Group for Aboriginal Rights)

<http://wgar.wordpress.com/category/newsletter/>

Monitors the media, including alternative media, focusing on the Northern Territory intervention, the Aboriginal sovereignty movement, Aboriginal rights issues and upcoming Aboriginal rights events around Australia. The newsletter publishes information and opinions from a wide range of sources.

Subscribers receive around seven e-newsletters each week. To subscribe, email wgar.news@gmail.com and include the words 'subscribe WGAR News' in the subject line.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

Koori Mail

<http://www.koorimail.com/>

Established in May 1991, *Koori Mail* is a fortnightly national newspaper reporting on the issues that matter to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. *Koori Mail's* back archive is available free-of-charge and fully searchable through the website of the [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies \(AIATSIS\)](http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aiatsis/) <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/aiatsis/>

NACCHO Health Newspaper

http://www.naccho.org.au/naccho_health_newspaper/

NACCHO aims to bring relevant information on health services, policy and programs to its members and key industry stakeholders through the *NACCHO Health Newspaper*. The newspaper is distributed as a lift-out in the *Koori Mail* circulation three times a year. Download a copy from their website or subscribe by sending your name and address to media@naccho.org.au

National Indigenous Times

<http://www.nit.com.au/>

The *National Indigenous Times* began publishing in 2002. The paper is staffed and owned by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and is proud of the dedicated team of predominantly Indigenous Australian writers and columnists who contribute to the publication.

Torres News

<http://www.torresnews.com.au/>

The *Torres News* is a weekly newspaper published from the Torres Strait administrative centre of Thursday Island every Wednesday.





5. Community Events

It is important for organisations to support and participate in annual Indigenous events. The following information has been provided to assist organisational cultural planning processes.



Share the Spirit Festival

26 January

<http://sharethespiritfestival.com>

The Share the Spirit Festival takes place each year on Australia Day, otherwise known as Survival Day. Share the Spirit started as a small gathering of local members of the Koori community who banded together to acknowledge and pay respects to the hundreds of Indigenous cultures around the nation. The festival has now grown into a day long, multi-activity event, attracting crowds of up to 5000 people who come together in the name of reconciliation.

National Close the Gap Day

March

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day>

National Close the Gap Day (NCTGD) is a way for all Australians to join together and remind our political leaders of their commitments to close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation. Since 2006, the Close the Gap campaign has achieved an enormous amount. In 2012 alone, more than 130,000 Australians joined National Close the Gap Day to show their support, talk about, spread the word and take action to improve Indigenous health. For further information visit <http://australia.gov.au/about-australia/australian-story/sorry-day-stolen-generations>

Sorry Day

26 May

<http://www.nsd.org.au>

National Sorry Day is an annual day of commemoration and remembrance of all those who have been impacted by the government policies of forcible removal that have resulted in the Stolen Generations. The first Sorry Day was held in Sydney on 26 May 1998, and has since been commemorated nationally on 26 May each year. Thousands of Australians from all walks of life participate in memorial services, commemorative meetings, survival celebrations and community gatherings, in honour of the Stolen Generations.

Reconciliation Week

27 May to 3 June

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw>

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

May 27 marks the anniversary of Australia's most successful referendum and a defining event in our nation's history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census.

On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land – that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights called Native Title. Year 2012 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Mabo decision.



NAIDOC Week

First full week in July

<http://www.naidoc.org.au/>

NAIDOC – National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee – is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July and encourage all organisations to host events to celebrate their relationship with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

4 August

NAIDOC is a celebration of our children. Held on 4 August each year, NAIDOC was first observed by the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) in 1988. Each year SNAICC produces and sends out resources to help celebrate NAIDOC.

<http://www.snaicc.org.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=58>



6. Welcoming Environment and Resources

Research suggests that one way to make organisations culturally welcoming is to display Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health-related brochures and posters in your reception area and waiting rooms, including posters explaining self-identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status. There are many online brochures and posters available for ordering or free download and printing. Find the links in chapter 8 of this guide.

This section of the resource guide provides information on items that can be purchased to help your organisation to be more culturally welcoming of Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples.

Please note that links do not constitute a recommendation to use a particular organisation, guideline or protocol.

FLAGS

Fly Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander flags outside or inside your building:

- For information on where to purchase the flag, how to display it, and copyright, visit **NAIDOC** <http://www.naidoc.org.au/indigenous-australian-flags>
- For purchase of flags and images representing flags, visit **Birubi Art Australia** <http://www.birubiart.com/>



Black represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Red represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal people's spiritual relationship to the land.

Yellow disc represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.



Green represents the land. Blue represents the sea. White represents peace. Black represents the Indigenous peoples.

The 'dhari' represents Torres Strait Islander people and the five-pointed star represents the five island groups within the Torres Strait. The star is also a symbol for seafaring people as it is used in navigation.

PLAQUES, MATS AND POSTERS

Install a plaque acknowledging the traditional owners of the land.

ANTaR Vic is a non-profit community organisation which sells acknowledgement plaques with the agreement of the Traditional Owners of the Woiwurrung/Wurundjeri peoples of the greater Melbourne region, visit **ANTaR Victoria** <http://www.antarvictoria.org.au/pages/acknowledgement-plaques.php>

Purchase your mats and posters for your reception, waiting areas and meeting rooms from **Recycled Mats** http://www.recycledmats.com.au/aboriginal_mats.php



INDIGENOUS ART, CRAFTS AND CULTURAL ICONS

Commission local Aboriginal artists to create artworks for display in your reception areas or purchase ethically produced Indigenous art:

The City of Melbourne has developed:

- **Indigenous Art Code of Practice** for galleries and retailers. This document is a guide outlining ethical and appropriate ways to display and sell Indigenous art and work with Indigenous artists. <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/AboutMelbourne/ArtsandEvents/Indigenousarts/Pages/Codeofpractice.aspx>
- **Indigenous Art Buyers Checklist** helps ensure you are buying Indigenous art that is produced and sold in an ethical manner <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Placestogo/indigenous/Pages/Checklist.aspx>
- **Buying Indigenous Art** lists a selection of galleries and shops that sell ethically produced Indigenous art <http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/Placestogo/indigenous/Pages/buyingart.aspx>

Other galleries to consider are:

- **Baluk Arts** is a non-profit Victorian Aboriginal arts organisation based in Mornington owned by Aboriginal artists. Baluk artists are from diverse Aboriginal backgrounds from all over Australia and artworks created reflect themes of identity in a contemporary cultural context <http://balukarts.org.au/>
- **Birubi Art Australia** works with and promotes some of Australia's prominent Aboriginal artists. It has a range of products, from their 'Creative Souvenir' Australian items, through to magnificent canvases hand painted by artists specifically to your request. Birubi Art is also a licensed supplier of many items featuring the copyright Aboriginal Flag image designed by Mr Harold Thomas <http://www.birubiart.com/>
- **Mia Mia Aboriginal Art Gallery** is a social enterprise operated by the **Aboriginal Artists Development Foundation Inc.** Its mission is to create a sustainable independent revenue stream for Aboriginal artists and their families <http://www.miamia-gallery.com/> and <http://aadf.org.au/mia-mia-gallery/>
- **Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi** has been exhibiting contemporary Australian Aboriginal art since 1983 and is located on Victoria Street, Fitzroy <http://www.gabriellepizzi.com.au/about/>
- **Dreamtime Kullilla Art** sells unique Australian Aboriginal works of art and craft, gifts and a wide variety of other products such as Aboriginal number plates, bags, wallets, clothing, books, diaries and much more <http://www.kullillaart.com.au/default.asp?PageID=103&n=Gallery+Art>
- **The Koorie Heritage Trust** is the only public collection in Victoria dedicated solely to Koori art and culture. Visit their shop at 295 King Street, corner Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne (Monday–Friday, 9am–4.30pm) or purchase online http://www.koorieheritagetrust.com/the_koorie_gift_shop
- **Salt Studio** can be commissioned to produce artistic works that organisations can use for print or visual needs. Contact the Artistic Director, Terori Hareko-Samio, on 03 9308 1814, M: 0405 297 538 or E: terori_harekosamios@bigpond.com https://www.facebook.com/pages/SALT-Studio/339093286201359?id=339093286201359&sk=photos_stream

WRITTEN OR VISUAL INFORMATION

Sista Girl Productions

<http://www.sistagirl.com.au/>

Kimba Thompson (film-maker, freelance producer and arts consultant). Products and services include film/ DVD production, graphic design, consulting and creative management. T: 9380 8810, M: 0414 593 103.

Dixon Patten

Aboriginal graphic artist and creative designer, Dixon can help with branding and promotional ideas for your business. Dixon can design a range of products to suit your design needs including: newsletters, business branding, invitations, posters, brochures, logos, etc. E: dixonpatten@gmail.com or M: 0487 442 535.

Making Two Worlds Work Project

http://www.whealth.com.au/mtww/resource_kit.html

A resource kit can be downloaded by agencies when designing written or visual information for Aboriginal clients and community. From each of the six designs, you can choose from a range of borders, banners and images, in full colour and water washes. You are encouraged to utilise the resources provided you acknowledge the Making Two Worlds Work project as the original source (developed by Making Two Worlds Work project by Mungabareena Aboriginal Corp and Women's Health Goulbourn North East, supported by Upper Hume Primary Care Partnership and Wodonga Regional Health Service).



Inner North West PCP

www.inwpcp.org.au/closingthehealthgap/graphicelements

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graphic layout has been funded by the INW PCP Closing the Health Gap Initiative. INW PCP encourages agencies to use these graphics when designing written or visual information for Aboriginal clients and community. When using these designs we ask that you acknowledge Inner North West Primary Care Partnership as the original source.

TEACHING RESOURCES



Global Kids Oz

http://www.globalkidsoz.com.au/home_page.php

Specialise in bringing culturally diverse resources to parents and teachers to aid in multicultural studies. They supply Dreamtime stories with teachers resource guides, Indigenous memory card and flash cards games, Torres Strait Island books, dolls and resources, music, posters, DVDs, flags, maps and much more.

Yarn Strong Sista

<http://www.yarnstrongsista.com.au/shop/>

An online Indigenous education consultancy. You can shop for teacher resources, children's books, artefacts, etc.



7. Health information — Kids

Over half of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Victoria are under the age of 18 and there is a gap between the health status of Indigenous children and children from other communities. Research indicates that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people want access to culturally relevant health information. This is particularly important for their children, who benefit from seeing information that supports their cultural identity development as well as health literacy.

Please note that links do not constitute a recommendation to use a particular guideline or protocol.

BROCHURES

Get Up and Grow brochures

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/gug-indig-brochures>

Department of Health–Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific publications. Seven full-colour brochures cover the essential healthy eating and physical activity topics to support settings, staff and families.

Strong Hearing, Strong Start brochure

Provides information on Community Health Hearing Centres in Melbourne's north and west.

<http://www.inwpcp.org.au/sites/default/files/Audiology%20brochure%20FINAL.pdf>

Do You Cough?

http://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Resources/Do_you_cough/

Menzies School of Health Research has this resource package, which includes a poster and audio messages in English, Tiwi, Djambarr, Walpiri, Pitjantjara and Murrin-Patha on how wet and dry coughs sound different.

Bronchiolitis

http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/uploads/resources/20045_20045.pdf

Information on lower respiratory tract infection.

CHILD-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service – Gneetung Tukae

http://www.vahs.org.au/womens_and_childrens.html

The Gneetung Tukae (meaning Well and Healthy Children) Clinic is the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) Maternal & Child Health Program. Staff provide on site clinical services and participate in outreach programs.

HealthInfoNet

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/population-groups/infants/resources/health-promotion>

Provides information on health promotion resources associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infant and young children's health.

Programs for Indigenous Families: Australian Government's mychild.gov.au website

<http://www.mychild.gov.au/sites/mychild/families-and-carers/pages/indigenous-programmes>

The gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous children in some key life areas has widened in recent years. This means Indigenous children have lower life expectancy at birth, lower birth weights, higher rates of death and injury, lower rates of school readiness and exposure to higher levels of violence than non-Indigenous children. This site provides information on the importance of the early years for Indigenous children and why they are a particularly vulnerable group.

Australian Child and Adolescent Trauma Loss and Grief Network – Indigenous children and families

<http://earlytraumagrief.anu.edu.au/resource-centre/indigenous-children-and-families>

Provides useful information on child and adolescent trauma, loss and grief from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander perspective. It gives a more detailed cultural explanation of how Indigenous children may inherit 'losses' associated with family history or loss of identity, which add to existing adolescent problems.

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet– Infants and young children

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/population-groups/infants>

Provides quality information and resources about Indigenous infants and young children's health.

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

<http://www.snaicc.org.au/policy-advocacy/dsp-landing.cfm?loadref=3>

The national non-government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The SNAICC's policy focus is currently grouped around four areas: Early Childhood Development, Child Protection, Family and Community Support, and Social Justice.

Department of Human Services

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/indigenous-australians?from=theme-bar>

Indigenous Australian's page contains information on payments, education, training and employment, Medicare benefits, payments and services available and child support information.





8. Health information — Adults

BROCHURES AND POSTERS

Many online brochures and posters are available for ordering or free download and printing. See the following links:

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

<http://www.vaccho.org.au/programs/health-programs/nutrition-physical-activity-program/>

Healthy eating and physical activity posters, brochures and tip sheets for children and adults

Cancer Council Victoria

<http://www.cancervic.org.au/preventing-cancer/aboriginal-health>

Koori brochures and posters

Heart Foundation

<http://www.heartfoundation.org.au/information-for-professionals/aboriginal-health/Pages/resources.aspx>

Information sheets on blood pressure, cholesterol, coronary heart disease, heart attack, nutrition, obesity, physical activity and smoking

Hepatitis Victoria

http://www.hepvic.org.au/hepatitis_resources

Stocks a large variety of printed resources produced both by its organisation and by other hepatitis organisations

Kidney Health Australia

<http://www.kidney.org.au/HealthProfessionals/IndigenousResources/tabid/770/Default.aspx>

Posters and resources that are culturally sensitive to the needs of Indigenous Australians.

Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control

<http://www.ceitc.org.au/ceitc-publications-and-resources>

Download brochures and factsheets

ADULT-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Indigenous women's health portal Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (2013)

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/womens-health-portal>

Located on the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet web resource, this new portal aims to provide the health workforce and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with access to quality information.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) Health Assessment Resource Kit

http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mbsprimarycare_ATSI_mbsha_resource_kit

Contains a fact sheet and proforma providing information on health assessments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people updated with changes to the MBS item numbers resulting from the MBS review. The kit also includes fact sheets on the follow-up service items for practice nurses/registered Aboriginal health workers and allied health professionals.

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/>

Internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making research and other knowledge readily accessible.

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) Health App

<http://www.naccho.org.au/naccho-app/>

Contains a geo locator to help find the nearest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, provides health information online and by telephone on a range of topics and where to find more information or assistance.

Department of Human Services

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/themes/indigenous-australians?from=theme-bar>

Indigenous Australian's heading contains information on payments to help Indigenous Australians finish studies and to support them while they are looking for work, information and advice on education, training and employment opportunities, Medicare benefits, payments and services available and child support information.



ASKING THE QUESTION

Inner North West Melbourne Medicare Local – Aboriginal Health

<http://www.inwmml.org.au/services/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=79>

Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients is a key step in providing them with the best health care. The following publications assist in identification:

- **National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets**

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=6442458760>

- **Identification brochures and posters for practice staff and patients**

<http://www.inwmml.org.au/services/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=79>

- **Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status in general practice**

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=60129543899>

Inner North West Primary Care Partnership

www.inwpcp.org.au/closingthehealthgap/trainingresources

Asking the Question training resource developed for health employees working in mainstream health organisations of Inner North West Melbourne

The Lowitja Institute

https://www.lowitja.org.au/sites/default/files/docs/Identification_report_Kelاهر2010.pdf

Improving the Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Mainstream General Practice

Creative Spirits

<http://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/people/aboriginal-identity-who-is-aboriginal>

Aboriginal Identity: Who is 'Aboriginal'?

Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their Communities

http://www.workingwithatsi.info/content/pi_image.htm

Practice Implications – Image and Identity.

The Australian National University

http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/conf2009/presentations/Day1/MCC2/MC2_H3_3.pdf

Playing Hide and Seek with Australian Indigenous Identification at Primary Health Care Services

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. In the bottom-left corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping curved bands in shades of blue, green, and yellow, resembling a stylized rainbow or a wave. The rest of the page is completely empty.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping curved bands in shades of orange, yellow, and light blue, resembling a stylized rainbow or a sunburst. The rest of the page is completely empty.

