Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**
Aboriginal Health

Aboriginal Men's Health Strategy 2012–2015

Delivering a **Healthy WA**

Introduction

Aboriginal men often do not talk about their health. To admit to having a problem and to seek help can be considered a sign of weakness. As a consequence, problems are often not acknowledged until they become too serious to ignore.

All evidence shows that Aboriginal men use preventative health services less often than any other group in Western Australia. There are very few specific services targeting Aboriginal men, and even fewer for young Aboriginal men aged 15–25 years.

The Aboriginal Men's Health Strategy provides guidance for WA Health to work in partnership with non-government organisations and communities to improve the health of Aboriginal men.

Guiding principles

The strategy aims to improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal men to ensure that they live long and healthy lives and is underpinned by the following principles:

- Every male in Western Australia has the right to receive high-quality health care, regardless of their cultural background.
- Acknowledgement that Aboriginal men do not engage with health services and this should be addressed in service delivery models.
- A workforce that understands and addresses cultural links will provide improved health care for Aboriginal men.
- Increased engagement with Aboriginal men, their families and communities will enhance the delivery of health services.

Key objectives

The Aboriginal Men's Health Strategy draws together three key objectives in which to prioritise activity:

1. To promote Aboriginal men's health as a priority issue for the health sector, communities and individuals.
2. To empower Aboriginal men to prioritise their health needs.
3. To work with service providers to engage Aboriginal men to use their services.

To achieve these objectives WA Health will create change by:

Outcomes	Activities
▪ Increasing the participation of Aboriginal men in addressing physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing.	▪ Work with service providers to engage Aboriginal men, in particular young Aboriginal men.
▪ Reducing preventable health conditions affecting Aboriginal men.	▪ Develop appropriate services to address the range of poor health outcomes experienced by Aboriginal men. ▪ Raise Aboriginal men's health as a priority issue in the development of policies and programs.
▪ Coordinating and integrating services addressing Aboriginal men's health issues.	▪ Compile a Directory of existing and planned Aboriginal men's health activities. ▪ Identify gaps in service delivery and advocate for a change to existing health systems to support long-term sustainable Aboriginal men's health programs. ▪ Develop partnerships and referral pathways between service providers.
▪ Sharing information and supporting organisations delivering services to Aboriginal men.	▪ Establish a formal network for Aboriginal men's health by promoting and supporting the development of regional and state Aboriginal men's leadership groups. ▪ Ensure that Aboriginal men's health activities are aligned with the national Aboriginal men's health agenda.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the Aboriginal Men's Health Strategy will include:

1. Analysis of progress and final reports submitted by government and non-government partners.
2. Monitoring of Aboriginal men's health outcomes in the biennial WA Aboriginal Health Performance Framework.
3. An independent evaluation of programs delivered by service providers.

For further information:

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