

NSW Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Summary The purpose of the Information Bulletin is to advise the NSW Health system that the NSW Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been released.

Document type Information Bulletin

Document number IB2021_002

Publication date 15 January 2021

Author branch Mental Health

Branch contact (02) 9461 7074

Replaces PD2007_059

Review date 15 January 2022

Policy manual Not applicable

File number H20/124621

Status Active

Functional group Clinical/Patient Services - Mental Health
Population Health - Health Promotion

Applies to Ministry of Health, Public Health Units, Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Health Pathology, Public Health System Support Division, Cancer Institute, NSW Ambulance Service, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Ministry of Health, Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Ambulance Service

Audience All Staff of NSW Health

THE NSW ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2020-2025

PURPOSE

This Information Bulletin is to advise that the NSW Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 has been released. The Strategy is available from the [NSW Health website - Mental Health – Resources](#).

KEY INFORMATION

The Strategy supports and assists NSW Health services in delivering respectful and appropriate mental health services in partnership with Aboriginal services, people and communities.

The Strategy is the foundation for change that will support a future way of working under the national Agreement for Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Health outcomes. The Strategy is supported by three goals:

Goal 1: Holistic, person and family-centred care and healing

Goal 2: Culturally safe, trauma-informed, quality care

Goal 3: Connected care

Each goal is underpinned by several strategic directions. These provide clear guidance for NSW Health services on what actions are required to achieve each goal.

Co-design of local implementation plans

All Districts and Networks are to co-design local implementation plans with Aboriginal stakeholders (including consumers, carers, those with lived experience and families). Implementation Plans are to be co-signed by the Director/Manager of Aboriginal Health and the Director of Mental Health, approved by Chief Executives and submitted to the Mental Health Branch by 30 September 2021 at MOH-MentalHealthBranch@health.nsw.gov.au.

The co-design processes are to be based on the five principles identified in the Agency for Clinical Innovation's [A Guide to Build Co-design Capability](#).

Local implementation plans are to provide specific, operational guidance to enable the implementation of the Strategy within the local context.

In developing implementation plans, Districts and Networks will need to consider:

- how key deliverables and actions may be embedded in individual or local performance planning
- how the plans complement existing commitments or activities on Aboriginal engagement and co-design
- how public and community accountability can be best achieved and supported, including through local consultation and reporting

- how a co-design and genuine partnership approach can lead to improved planning, delivery, evaluation and coordination of services.

Monitoring and reporting framework

The Ministry will develop and implement a monitoring and reporting framework with a co-design approach to help Districts and Networks measure progress.

The monitoring and reporting framework will help Districts and Networks to provide data on a regular basis. This will help inform future decisions and drive better outcomes.

Where possible, the Ministry will develop performance indicators with Districts and Networks to assess performance against the strategic actions in addition to measures already identified in Service Agreements.

Further information

For further information, contact the Mental Health Branch at

MOH-MentalHealthBranch@health.nsw.gov.au.