A New Way:

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan

2006-2011









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"Progress occurs when courageous and skilful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better"

Harry S. Truman

While it is true that change will happen whether we want it to or not, the same cannot be said for progress. Progress flows from the choices we make. It comes about when vision, purpose, deliberation and collaboration "seize the opportunity" resident in the forces of change in order to make things better. 'A New Way - The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan', has been designed to bring about the convergence of forces necessary to generate progress in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in the ACT.

This Plan presents a long-term vision and a commitment to achieve measurable change in the health and family wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and surrounding region. Its outlook is broad in scope, encapsulating the holistic nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and family wellbeing. Its focus is on building strong communities through family resilience, through health in the context of overall wellbeing, and collaborative action.

A New Way links agreed strategies to measurably improve the health status of the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with an overarching strategic vision for the future. It is absolutely focussed on the principle of community wellbeing across all dimensions of life.

Developed in response to the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH), *A New Way* embodies the Framework's objective of achieving coordinated, collaborative and multi-sectoral action. By formally endorsing the NSFATSIH in June 2003, the ACT Cabinet gave the ACT Health Minister the authority to lead cross-government activity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. Thus the Plan establishes a sound basis for truly collaborative action and provides context for the work we do.

The underlying approach of the Plan is family-centred. It looks at health and health related activity through the prism of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and their needs rather than a western, individualistic, medical approach based on the absence of disease. Our approach is consistent with the holistic approach advocated in the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (1989) and reaffirmed in the NSFATSIH. While still ensuring that individual members receive the high quality health services they need, a family-centred approach will examine ways of strengthening families and support networks to encourage illness prevention, early intervention and self-management of long-term conditions.

A New Way marks a commitment by all parties to work collaboratively to develop and implement innovative solutions that deliver measurable and meaningful change in the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT. There is ample evidence internationally that significant and lasting progress can be made. What is also evident is that such changes do not come without a price tag, both in terms of significant investment of resources, but also in terms of willingness on the part of all stakeholders to find new ways of doing business.

This plan aligns agreed action with strategic vision, within the context of a set of shared principles that will create momentum and achieve the results we all desire, in areas we all think are important, and in ways we can all embrace.



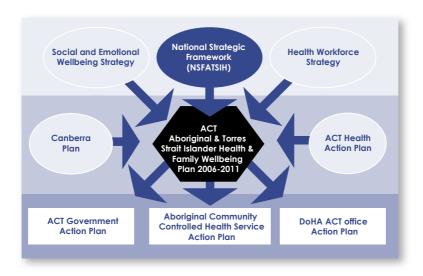
Katy Gallagher MLA Minister for Health

National Agenda

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011 is the ACT's response to the requirement of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH) that each jurisdiction develop a local implementation plan.

The Plan also articulates the way in which the relevant aspects of the National Social and Emotional Wellbeing Strategy, the National Health Workforce Strategy, the ACT Health Action Plan and the Canberra Plan will be implemented in the ACT.

The interconnectedness with relevant national and territory plans, and the expected pivotal role of this Plan, can be seen from the following diagram:



The Plan interweaves the nationally recognised objectives of an effective and responsive health system, influencing the health impact of the health-related sector, and improving the health infrastructure, with locally identified priorities. It has been designed with sufficient flexibility to allow these priorities to evolve and be re-focussed over time while still supporting the broader objectives.

ACT Health Forum

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011 has been developed collaboratively by the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum.

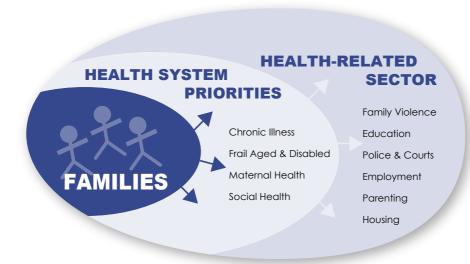
The Forum was formed under the National Framework Agreement, and is the primary strategic planning body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in the ACT. It is comprised of representatives from ACT Health, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service, and the ACT Office of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The Forum recognises the importance of involving the communities who will be most affected by its planning processes. It acknowledges also that information about the communities and their needs and hopes is part of the intellectual property of those communities. Hence the development of this plan has been driven by information that has been derived from community representatives.

The plan has been shaped significantly by the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, itself a product of extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, both rural and urban. In addition, the Forum has within its membership key representatives with extensive experience regarding the health needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT and region.

Holistic Health

The Plan has been developed in accordance with the principle of holistic health. It serves as a blueprint for measurably raising the level of health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT and surrounding region, and as a catalyst for engaging the health and health-related sectors in collaborative action.



The principle of holistic health embodies the need to pay attention to the connectivity of all aspects of life essential to improving overall wellbeing. This involves consideration of the person as a whole, their family situation, and the relationship of individuals and their families with the community and the environment in which they live.

In July 2003, in response to the release of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH), the ACT Cabinet agreed to:

- a) Endorse the NSFATSIH;
- b) Agree in principle to its implementation in the ACT under the auspices of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum pending further development of an Implementation Plan;
- c) Note the need for action across all portfolios to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in the ACT; and
- d) Approve the Minister for Health signing the NSFATSIH on behalf of the ACT Government.

This Plan represents the Implementation Plan referred to above. The involvement of all ACT Government Departments is essential to achieving the holistic objectives of the Plan, and will require a substantial level of cooperation and coordination across government.

ACT Health will be taking the lead in promoting cross-government activity and establishing the necessary protocols and governance arrangements.

Family Centred

Many factors determine whether or not a family is resilient and strong enough to support itself through tough times. Little research has been done into exactly what makes one family more resilient than another, but we do know that if multiple problems build up the pressure increases and families are less likely to cope. This is why, in addition to improving our health systems, we will also be looking at social and other pressures that impact on family resilience. Strong families can prevent illness from occurring, learn to seek help early, effectively manage long-term illnesses and reduce the chances of hospitalisation. Strong families can ease the pressures on the health system, freeing scarce resources for people with the highest and most urgent needs.

COMMUNITY PROFILE & CURRENT SERVICES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in the ACT in 2005 to be between 4300 and 4800. At around 40%, the proportion of children is almost twice that of the total population (21%). In 2001, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 55 (4%) was much lower than the total population (17%) due to poorer health and a shorter life span.

The 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey indicated that people in the ACT have better health than elsewhere in Australia, however nearly two in five people reported only fair to poor health, and over one in three reported having a disability.

Common reasons for hospital admissions include digestive and respiratory conditions, musculoskeletal disorders, disorders of the circulatory and nervous systems, cancer, and mental health disorders. Length of stay is similar to the non-Aboriginal population, but repeat admissions are slightly higher. Rates of admission for renal dialysis are high at 53% of total admissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, compared to 19% of total admissions in the non-Aboriginal population.

Implicit in the Plan is the intention that existing health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT region, including primary health care services, will continue to be delivered and further developed. All general programs and services provided at the Canberra and Calvary Hospitals or by ACT Community Health are inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the general population in the ACT region, and work will continue on the development of culturally specific government and community programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, in the following areas (see Appendix A for details of existing programs):

- Maternal health
- Diabetes
- Education
- Justice
- Aged care

- Hearing and dental health
- Youth services
- Child protection
- Housing
- Social health, including mental health and substance misuse

Organisations providing targeted health and wellbeing services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT include:

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, Narrabundah

Winnunga provides a culturally safe, holistic primary health care service for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of the ACT and surrounding areas.

Gugan Gulwan Youth Centre, Erindale

Gugan Gulwan provides a range of services to young Aboriginal people and their families, including social support, education, information, referral and advocacy.

Billabong Aboriginal Corporation, Holt

Billabong subleases a number of houses on behalf of the ACT Government for Aboriginal people, and provides a variety of support services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Boomanulla, Narrabundah

The Aboriginal Sporting Corporation and Recreational Activities (ASCRA) runs a range of sporting and recreational programs at the Boomanulla Oval in Narrabundah.

Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation, Erindale

The Ngunnawal Corporation provides aged care support under the Home and Community Care (HACC) and Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) programs.

VISION, MISSION & PRINCIPLES

To bring meaning to the principle of community wellbeing, the following whole-of-government vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in the ACT establishes a sound basis for truly collaborative action and provides context for the work we do.

Vision

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT enjoy an empowered life that is enriched by a strong living culture, dignity and justice, and sustained by partnership and collaborative action.

The Health Sector's contribution to the Vision is defined by the following Mission Statement.

Mission

To engage the health and health-related sectors in collaborative action to measurably improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT.

Principles

Signatories to this Plan commit to the following set of core principles. These principles govern the way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is 'done' in this Territory.

■ Focus on Wellbeing

Health is not merely the absence of disease; it is a state of optimal physical, mental and social wellbeing, the preservation of wellness and the prevention of illness.

Family Centred

The wellbeing of families will be a core strategic focus. All strategic initiatives will be considered in terms of their contribution to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Collaboration

Outcomes will be achieved through collaborative community/ government action involving health agencies, and health-related agencies whose activities impact on wellbeing.

Cultural Diversity

The diversity of languages, cultures, histories, experiences and perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and groups will be recognised, respected and valued.

Community Engagement

The community will be influential in determining priorities and allocating resources to improve health and family wellbeing.

Strategic Innovation

Innovation will be convergent with the Plan's strategic direction and will focus on fulfilment of the whole-of-government vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in the ACT.

Needs-Based Action

Activities will be prioritised according to evidence of need and potential for resulting in measurable change.

The Forum Partners agree to adopt the above stated Vision, Mission and Principles, and to contribute appropriately to the achievement of the Objectives outlined in this Plan:

Ms Julie Tongs Chief Executive Officer, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service

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Dr Tony Sherbon Chief Executive, ACT Health

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Ms Ann Atkinson
ActingTerritory Manager,
Australian Government
Department of Health & Ageing, ACT Office K. •

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In keeping with the holistic and family-centred approach, this Plan is focussed on the following Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and family wellbeing priorities and their interdependencies:

Building family resilience

Strong and resilient families can prevent illness from occurring, learn to seek help early when illness does occur, effectively manage chronic illnesses that impact on the whole family, and reduce the chances of hospitalisation. Strong families can ease the pressures on the health system, freeing scarce resources for people with the highest and most urgent needs.

Our initial focus will be on a small number of families identified as in immediate and urgent need of support. We will aim to develop collaborative and innovative cross-government ways of enabling these families to move towards securing their own health and wellbeing. The knowledge that will be gained will then gradually be built upon and applied more broadly to assist a greater number of families.

Maternal and child health

Premature and underweight babies have a significantly higher likelihood of poor health as they grow through childhood and into adulthood. By assisting mothers to have a normal, uncomplicated pregnancy and give birth to a health baby, it will be possible to reduce the rates of early childhood sickness, hospitalisation and even death. Healthy children are more likely to perform well at school, and have a reduced risk of chronic disease in adulthood.

Social health, including mental health and substance abuse

Mental health and substance abuse issues are a significant contributor to family dysfunction, in particular if they result in frequent hospitalisation, incarceration and/or unemployment. They also contribute to complications in pregnancy and poor health in mothers and babies.

Chronic and infectious disease prevention and management

Chronic diseases (including diabetes, heart disease, asthma, iron deficiency and hypertension) are known to be a significant cause of poor health and preventable hospitalisations in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Dialysis in particular accounts for a disproportionately large percentage of preventable admissions. By improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care and increasing effective prevention and self-management of chronic disease, acute care resources can be redirected and the overall health of the population improved.

Frail aged and people with disabilities

Increased services to the frail aged and people with disabilities allow people to remain in their homes and continue their involvement with family and community. Services can also contribute to family resilience by providing support to carers and other members of the family.

The objectives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan are to:

- 1. Address the identified health and family wellbeing priority areas
- 2. Provide an effective and responsive health and family wellbeing system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT
- 3. Influence the health and family wellbeing impacts of the health-related sector
- 4. Improve resourcing and accountability

Objective 1:

Address priority health issues by ensuring that:

- needs are understood
- best practice services are implemented
- a qualified workforce is available
- appropriate partnerships are established

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
1.	Strengthen support services for families at risk, and improve coordination of services across government and the community	Families at risk are strengthened through the support of a mentor and through coordinated service provision	
2.	Strengthen family-focussed health promotion and early intervention programs	Increased responsibility for self-management of health Reduced severity of conditions	Winnunga Nimmityjah
		on presentation	
3.	Increase the scope of maternal and child health services according to identified need	Healthier mothers and babies	ACT Government
4.	Strengthen maternal and child health promotion programs	Increased awareness of maternal and child health services	Winnunga Nimmityjah
		Increased self-responsibility for maternal and child health	

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
5.	Conduct local research into social determinants contributing to chronic and infectious diseases, to identify areas of unmet need	Cross government projects initiated to reduce the impact of social determinants	ACT Government
6.	Implement chronic and infectious disease prevention and management guidelines at Winnunga Nimmityjah		Winnunga Nimmityjah
	,	Increased self-management of chronic conditions	
7.	Strengthen health promotion and early detection programs targeted at chronic and infectious disease	Reduced incidence of chronic and infectious diseases	Winnunga Nimmityjah
8.	Conduct local research to identify unmet need in social health services	Programs are initiated to address unmet need	ACT Government
9.	Negotiate partnership agreements between Aboriginal and mainstream social health service providers	Increased access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to mainstream social health services	ACT Government
10.	Develop a culturally appropriate model for mental health screening and assessment	Support services are better tailored to meet the needs of clients	Winnunga Nimmityjah
11.	Establish a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre (bush healing farm)	Reduced harm associated with substance abuse	ACT Government
12.	Conduct local research to identify areas of unmet need for frail aged and disabled people and their carers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	Programs are initiated to address unmet need	ACT Government
13.	Review Aboriginal use of Home and Community Care services, and investigate the need for additional service provision	Improved access to home and community care services	ACT Government

Objective 2:

Provide an effective and responsive health system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, by ensuring that:

- needs are understood
- relevant services can be easily accessed
- services are coordinated and provide the best possible outcomes
- services are of high quality and culturally safe

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
14.	Develop a partnership agreement between ACT Health and Winnunga Nimmityjah	Better understanding of the priorities, roles and responsibilities of each party	ACT Government
15.	Develop partnerships between Winnunga Nimmityjah and other health providers, to promote joint activity in the areas of: - Family support - Case management - Continuity of care	Increased coordination between mainstream and Aboriginal community controlled health care in critical areas	Winnunga Nimmityjah
16.	Investigate ways to improve geographic access to health and wellbeing services across Canberra	Increased equity of geographic access across Canberra	ACT Government
17.	Update the ACT Aboriginal Health Framework Agreement to include all relevant stakeholders	Framework accommodates the abolition of ATSIC and the establishment of the new national arrangements	ACT Government
18.	Conduct annual ACT Health Forum planning days	Strategic plan is reviewed annually by ATSIHU, Winnunga and OATSIH	ACT Health Forum
19.	Develop and implement an Aboriginal Health Workforce Plan for the ACT	A skilled and effective workforce is available to address priority areas	ACT Health Forum
20.	Negotiate and implement a joint Australian Government/ ACT Government funding agreement that supports the priority areas	Priorities are consistent, and funding is comprehensive and flexible	ACT Health Forum
21.	Develop a process for evaluating, monitoring and reporting on health needs in a family and wellbeing context	Needs are determined in an agreed and consistent manner	ACT Health Forum

_	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
22.	Conduct evaluations of need and identify emerging issues	Needs in priority and emerging health areas are better understood, supported by evidence, and formally documented	ACT Government
23.	Develop and implement strategies and programs to address gaps in need	Programs are implemented to address priority health issues	ACT Health Forum
24.	Raise awareness of mainstream health providers of the role of Aboriginal health workers	Mainstream health providers are more willing to work cooperatively with Aboriginal organisations	ACT Government
25.	Raise awareness of mainstream health service providers about processes for referrals to Aboriginal organisations	Mainstream health providers are better equipped to take referrals from and refer people to Aboriginal health-related organisations	Winnunga Nimmityjah
26.	Review the provision of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody, to account for the new ACT Prison (to be operational in 2007-08)	ACT prisoners receive effective health care during and after periods in custody	ACT Health Forum
27.	Provide cultural awareness training for ACT Health staff	Access to ACT Health services is improved through increased cultural safety	ACT Government
28.	Facilitate cultural awareness training for GPs and ACT Ambulance Service staff	Access to GPs is improved through increased cultural safety	ACT Government
29.	Educate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about health and wellbeing services available to them	Community accesses health and wellbeing services earlier and more frequently	ACT Government
30.	Facilitate Aboriginal health service work-experience for mainstream health workers	Mainstream health workers gain experience in Aboriginal health	ACT Government
31.	Develop and implement an Aboriginal employment strategy for mainstream health services	Access to mainstream health services is improved through increased cultural awareness	ACT Government
32.	Investigate accommodation options for interstate patients of public hospitals and their families	Interstate Aboriginal patients and their families receive culturally appropriate support when attending hospitals	ACT Government

Objective 3:

Influence the health and family well-being impacts of the health-related sector, by ensuring that:

- health-related areas are aware of their responsibilities for contributing to the wellbeing of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community
- initiatives addressing wellbeing are collaborative and coordinated
- services are of high quality and culturally safe

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33.	Strategy Review ACT Government arrangements for the administration of Aboriginal affairs	Outcomes Optimal structure is implemented to meet the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT	ACT Government
34.	Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in the public sector	Increased number of Aboriginal managers in ACT Public Service	ACT Government
35.	Develop a mechanism for collaboration and coordination between ACT Health and relevant health-related government agencies, including: - Justice - Housing - Disability - Ambulance Services - Children, Youth and Family Services - Education	Increased collaboration and coordination across government agencies involved in Aboriginal health and wellbeing	ACT Government
36.	Establish a cross-government action team to develop and monitor health and wellbeing projects involving other government agencies	Cross-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and well-being initiatives are centrally developed and monitored	ACT Government
37.	Establish a Health & Wellbeing Alliance with representatives from organisations involved in Aboriginal wellbeing	Increased collaboration and coordination between government, mainstream, and Aboriginal-specific health and health-related service providers, in the implementation of the Health and Family Wellbeing Plan	ACT Health Forum
38.	Support Health & Wellbeing Alliance members to participate in ACT Health Forum meetings	Health Alliance members are able to seek advice directly from the Forum	ACT Health Forum

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
39.	Conduct research to identify and formally document areas of need regarding health-related issues	Health Alliance members reach a common agreement on need in health-related areas	ACT Government
40.	Make submissions to health-related government agencies, to initiate discussion on meeting identified needs	Health-related areas of government understand their responsibilities and initiate government and community projects to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and family wellbeing	ACT Government
41.	Prepare and promote a statement to the health- related sector on holistic health and the roles and responsibilities of Aboriginal Health Workers	The health-related sector better understands their role in a holistic health environment	ACT Government
42.	Facilitate cultural awareness training for staff in the health-related sector	The health-related sector better understands how to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community	ACT Government
43.	Support the health-related sector in developing an appropriately skilled and resourced workforce	The health-related sector are better able to meet their responsibilities in relation to Aboriginal health and wellbeing	ACT Government

Objective 4:

Improve resourcing and accountability by:

- increasing the capacity and capabilities of service providers
- better understanding the cost of service delivery
- providing more flexible funding arrangements
- improving the management of performance reporting

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
44.	Support governance training for the Management Boards of Aboriginal health and health-related service providers	Further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of governance structures in Aboriginal community controlled organisations	Australian Government/ ACT Government
45.	Support the needs of Winnunga Nimmityjah regarding capital works, repair and maintenance at the Narrabundah Health Centre	Winnunga's physical infrastructure meets accepted standards for health service delivery	Australian Government
46.	Negotiate flexible funding arrangements with Aboriginal health and wellbeing service providers	Service providers have increased flexibility to allocate funds to areas of highest need	ACT Government
47.	Develop/adopt a primary health care costing model, including infrastructure and administrative costs	Better informed estimation and allocation of funds required for service delivery	Winnunga Nimmityjah
48.	Enhance the administrative capacity of Aboriginal health and wellbeing service providers in the areas of: - service coordination - data management - information technology - HR - communications - performance evaluation	Aboriginal health and wellbeing service providers are able to fulfil administrative and infrastructure requirements necessary for quality service delivery	ACT Health Forum
49.	Assist Winnunga Nimmityjah to run annual information and awareness raising sessions for government and non- government health agencies	Partnerships are consolidated and sustained	ACT Health Forum
50.	Investigate corporate funding partnerships	Reduced reliance on government funding	Winnunga Nimmityjah

	Strategy	Outcomes	Lead
51.	Support the implementation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework	Performance data is collected and reported against all possible indicators	ACT Health Forum
52.	Develop and implement monitoring tools that are consistent across both government and Aboriginal community controlled health service providers	Monitoring is consistent across all service providers	ACT Health Forum
53.	Develop and implement streamlined whole-of- government performance reporting requirements for Aboriginal health providers	Administrative costs are reduced in government and community organisations	ACT Health Forum
54.	Introduce simplified accounting/ accountability requirements for Aboriginal health providers	Administrative costs are reduced	ACT Health Forum
55.	Support management and reporting of data collected by Aboriginal health providers	Funding submissions are supported by clear evidence of need	ACT Health Forum
		Performance reporting responsibilities (local and national) are met	

Ownership, Commitment & Coordination

The Plan is intended to be an effective guide to policies, programs and involvement at all levels. To achieve this, the plan needs to be 'owned' by key stakeholders in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing sector, as well as by others whose involvement may be peripheral but significant. The Plan therefore seeks to secure ownership and commitment from a full range of community, government and non-government participants.

Implicit in achieving ownership and commitment is efficient coordination. Co-ordination mechanisms will therefore be developed to ensure that the whole-of-government and whole-of-sector ownership and commitment is integrated and productive.

Action Plans

Implementation of the Plan will be realised through the development of individual but tightly coordinated action plans for each of the three key bodies; the ACT Government, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health service, Winnunga Nimmityjah, and the Australian Government. Each action plan will define the resources required for implementation, including the use of shared resources where required.

Development of an ACT Government action plan will be driven by ACT Health through collaboration with a range of government agencies. The process will include cross-government workshops, the establishment of a body of senior representatives from across government with authority to allocate resources to agreed initiatives, and the establishment of cross-government action teams with responsibility for planning and implementing specific cross-government initiatives. Decisions regarding the allocation of resources and development of cross-government initiatives will be informed by appropriate community representation.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The objectives of monitoring and evaluation are to:

- regularly monitor implementation activities and report to management on progress so that adjustments may be made if necessary to ensure effective implementation
- provide to the government and the community a final evaluation of progress at the end of the Plan (2011), to make judgements about the overall and ultimate success of the plan.

The methodology and data collection processes will be as follows:

- Develop a comprehensive evaluation plan
- Identify performance indicators and standards that are relevant for each successive evaluation period (eg: strategies that are being implemented in each 6 month period of the plan)
- Establish procedures for collecting and analysing relevant data
- Analyse data, interpret and develop conclusions and recommendations
- Prepare and present periodic progress reports and a final report.

Six monthly milestones will be established throughout the life of the plan with an emphasis in the early stages upon providing information that can guide decision making about the plan and its implementation (progress, difficulties, threats, extensions or adjustments).

Current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health & Wellbeing Services in the ACT

Programs being funded by the ACT Government and the Australian Government in 2004-2005 include:

Aboriginal Midwifery Access Program Antenatal and postnatal support is provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers through outreach clinical and non-clinical assessments at home; referral to and support in accessing mainstream and specialist services, and the provision of information on mainstream services

Hearing Health Program Comprehensive screening services are provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants and children, including the

provision of appropriate education

and treatment

Dental Health Program A dental clinic provides dental assessment

and treatment services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, youth

and adults

Social Health A range of social health services are available

to support the emotional and social wellbeing of the Aboriginal community, including support for people with mental health and substance abuse issues, and an early intervention/diversionary program

Diabetes Clinic A specialist diabetes clinic is available to

assist with the diagnosis, management and

treatment of diabetes

Housing Liaison Service An Aboriginal housing liaison service assists

with accessing and maintaining appropriate

housing options

Aboriginal Liaison

Officers

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers provide culturally appropriate support to Aboriginal inpatients at the Canberra Hospital

Uncle/Nephew Program

The Uncle/Nephew program provides culturally appropriate mentoring for young Aboriginal males

Parenting & Family Wellbeing

The Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing Program provides support such as housing assistance, accessing family payments and counselling to strengthen Aboriginal families

Indigenous Education Section (Department of Education & Training) The IES develops strategies for schools, the Department and other agencies to work together to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous young people and their

families. Key initiatives include:

Overcoming racism and valuing diversity Forming genuine and on-going partnerships

with Indigenous communities

Creating safe, supportive, welcoming and culturally inclusive educational and service

environments

High School Support Centre A High School Support Centre has been established to provide a pro-active early intervention program for families with adolescent children who are experiencing family conflict and/or dealing with issues such as substance abuse.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit (Office of Child Youth and Family Services) This Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Unit was established in response to the Review of the Safety of Children in Care in the ACT and the ACT Child Protection Management (Vardon) Inquiry.

Aboriginal Justice Centre

The AJC is a community managed facility providing a coordinated approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice programs and services in the ACT

Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee The AJAC provides high-level advice to government regarding the justice system and indigenous people

Indigenous Services & Cultural Diversity Unit (Corrective Services) This Unit provides monitoring of Indigenous and cultural diversity issues across Justice and Community Services. The Unit is committed to ensuring that ACT Corrective Services and its programs are efficient, impartial and meet the needs of the ACT offenders regardless of their culture, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Ngambra Circle Sentencing The Ngambra Circle Sentencing Court is a division of the ACT Magistrates Court, established in 2004. A six-month trial of the Court has recently concluded and an evaluation report is being prepared for the ACT Government to determine its viability and future direction.

Corrections health

Health practitioners visit Quamby, the Periodic Detention Centre, Symonston Temporary Remand Centre and the Belconnen Remand Centre to monitor and improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Housing Programs

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing programs are available to improve access to appropriate public and community housing

Kootara Well

Kootara Well is a health and nutrition program provided at Narrabundah Primary School for all children, a high proportion of which are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Aged Care

Home-based support, day care programs and aged care packages are available to older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to help them remain in their own homes Koori Pre-schools

Koori preschools support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from birth to 6 years of age through increased opportunities for participation in culturally appropriate early childhood education

Indigenous Student Support The Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) provides scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander year 12 students, and operates the Yurana Centre as a support for CIT students. Similar programs operate at the ANU and UC

Youth Programs

A variety of support services are available for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, including crisis accommodation, employment initiatives, cultural support and recreation