



**An Australian Government Initiative**



Which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care worker roles should be regulated based on an assessment of risk to the public?

I believe it should be the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Aboriginal Health Workers.

What qualifications should be regarded as the appropriate educational preparation for the registration of these practitioners?

certificate 4 in Primary Health Care,

A discussion paper from the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia

### Discussion questions

What are the types of roles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers currently undertake in your work area?

- 1) Clinical Roles
- 2) Community Roles -
- 3) Liaison Roles

What qualifications do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers who undertake this work normally have?

- 1) certificate 3+4 in APHC. or an enrolled nurse certificate.

Are these qualifications adequate preparation for the role? If not, why not?

I believe they are, as it gives APHC workers the basic understanding of their Roles & expectations

What, if any, of the following activities are undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers in these roles? Please tick

1. putting an instrument, hand or finger into a body cavity,
2. procedures below dermis, mucous membrane, in or below surface of cornea or teeth,
3. prescribing a scheduled drug, supplying a scheduled drug (includes compounding), supervising that part of a pharmacy that dispenses scheduled drugs,
4. administering a scheduled drug or substance by injection,
5. supplying substances for ingestion,
6. primary care practitioners who see patients with or without a referral from a registered practitioner,
7. treatment commonly occurs without others present, and
8. patients are commonly required to disrobe.

**What other risks to patients are associated with the type of work being undertaken by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers?**

Not having a clear understanding of their Role, Responsibility + duty of care to their patients + health service.

**What mechanisms are in place to deal with complaints against primary health care workers in these roles? Are these mechanisms adequate?**

Our service does not have a specific one for Primary Health care workers only a organisational one.

**Which of the following options for unregulated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers do you think is the most appropriate?**

(a) Continue with current arrangements, utilising existing complaints mechanisms and the criminal justice system, or

(b) Introduce a system of negative licensing. Or

(c) Expand the regulation (including the requirements for registration) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, under the National Law, to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care worker working in non clinical or less clinical roles.

**If you think that a wider range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care workers should be regulated, what qualification or qualifications should be the approved qualification(s) for registration? Please explain why.**

I believe ATSI primary health care workers should have there certificate + in either the clinical or community stream or at Diploma level, in PHC.

**What are the risks to public safety with this qualification?**

Limited

**Are there any other comments you would like to make?**