Supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patient Journey to Good Health

715 health checks are available for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients of all ages. Health checks are designed to consider the specific health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and provide preventative and early intervention strategies.

Key facts
- Only 3 out of 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians currently receive a 715 health check
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are 2.3 times more likely to experience burden of disease than non-Indigenous Australians
- 715 health checks can be undertaken by general practice or Aboriginal Medical Services.

A whole of practice approach
Patients may interact with various staff within a health service. It is important all staff are aware of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

Is your practice culturally safe?
- Do you acknowledge the local Traditional Owners of the land?
- Have staff undertaken cultural appreciation or cultural awareness training?
- Is there a local Aboriginal health worker available for patients?
- Do you have a male and a female practitioner on staff for patients to choose who they are comfortable with? This is culturally important for women’s and men’s business
- Is community transport assistance available?
- Are there any out of pocket costs are to be incurred by the patient? Make sure these are mentioned at the time of booking.
- Does the patient have family members that should also consider a 715 Health Check?

Clinical guidance on delivering a health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients is available from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Prescription medications
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a chronic disease (or at risk of a chronic disease) are eligible for the Closing the Gap PBS Co-payments. It provides prescription medication at a lower price, or free of charge with a Health Care Card.

Visit www.health.gov.au/715-health-checks for more information, including a full list of MBS items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.