## **Call for nominations for the First Nations Health Governance Group**

The new First Nations Health Governance Group will deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnership with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to drive improvements in the health-related targets under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG), including life expectancy (Target 1), healthy birthweight (Target 2) and reduction in suicide (Target 14).

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021-2031 (the Health Plan) commits to governance arrangements being established to oversee its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The group will take on this governance role and oversee the implementation of the Priority Reforms under CTG within the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

We are seeking nominations from interested Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leaders, with expertise in a range of health disciplines, to join the group in 2024.

### **About the group**

The group has been co-designed with key First Nations health sector leaders. It will deliver genuine partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. The group will create a space for shared decision-making on implementing the Health Plan and First Nations led conversations on national level health policies and areas for reform, to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To undertake these activities, the group will be in place until 2031, aligning with the lifespan of the Health Plan. The group will finalise its Terms of Reference informed by the following activities, which were identified through co-design:

* + share decision-making on implementing the Health Plan and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021‑2031 (Workforce Plan) in areas within our remit
  + provide advice to drive the implementation of the Health Plan and the Workforce Plan in areas beyond our remit
  + share decision-making on actions to embed the CTG Priority Reforms within the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
  + provide advice to the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and Australian Government health ministers on health priorities, decisions and progress
  + call out systemic racism and identify areas for reform to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and
  + provide advice on the representation of regional and local voices in health policies and services.

The group will be co-chaired by the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care and a First Nations member, to be agreed at the first meeting. Membership will include representatives from key national organisations and skills-based members with subject matter expertise. Organisational based members include:

* + National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
  + National Health Leadership Forum
  + the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, represented by the Secretary and First Assistant Secretary of the First Nations Health Division.

Skills-based members will be appointed for 2-year terms to provide expertise across the breadth of our roles and responsibilities in the areas of data, research, workforce, mental health, ageing and aged care, comprehensive primary health care and an independent First Nations health expert/professional.

Remuneration will be provided. To ensure the remuneration is equally allocated and best meets the needs of the members, the remuneration arrangements will be agreed by the group at its first meeting in mid-2024.

The group will meet up to 8 times a year, for up to 2 hours. Additional briefings and out-of-session meetings may be required as directed by the co-chairs. Meetings may be attended virtually or in person, with at least one fully in-person meeting in Canberra each year.

### **Expressions of interest**

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander leaders interested in becoming members of the group are encouraged to apply. Individual appointment decisions of the assessment panel will consider inclusion strategies to ensure the overall composition of the group is culturally safe and diverse.

Your application should outline how your qualifications, skills and experience will enable you to make informed decisions and contribute expert advice and strategic insights to one or more of the following areas:

* **Data:** Ability to provide strategic insights addressing complex health disparities pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through existing data, including the measurement of health disparities, robust evaluation of programs and policies and governance of Indigenous data.
* **Research:** Ability to provide strategic insights regarding research and research training in the detection, prevention, treatment and control of diseases and injury and the promotion of health and wellbeing particularly affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons or communities.
* **Workforce:** Ability to provide strategic insights regarding the distribution, education and training and sustainability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce contributing to improved First Nations health outcomes, with a key focus on cultural safety.
* **Mental health:** Ability to provide strategic insights regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in the mental health system and the combination of clinical and cultural concepts of mental health.
* **Ageing and aged care:** Ability to provide strategic insights regarding improvements in the ageing and aged care sector that will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander providers and Elders.
* **Comprehensive primary health care:** Ability to provide strategic insights regarding improvements in the comprehensive primary health care system including the continuity and coordination of holistic care.
* **Independent First Nations health expert/professional:** Ability to provide strategic insights from knowledge and experience in providing health services and/or influencing cross-sector approaches across all levels of government and the health system.

**How to apply**

Complete the below nomination form. Email nomination form and a recent curriculum vitae to FirstNationsGovernance@health.gov.au by **11:59pm (AEST) on Friday 7 June 2024**.

To find out more, please feel free to email the team at FirstNationsGovernance@health.gov.au.

**First Nations Health Governance Group nomination form**

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| --- | --- |
| **Personal details** | |
| **First name/s** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Pronouns** |  |
| **Preferred name** |  |
| **Contact details** | |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone** |  |
| **EA/EO contact if applicable** |  |
| **Skills and experience** | |
| **Which expert role do you think would be the best fit for you?** | **Data**  **Research**  **Workforce**  **Mental health**  **Ageing & aged care**  **Comprehensive primary health care**  **Independent First Nations health expert/professional** |
| **Please provide a 350 word statement below that outlines how you think your skills, experience and expertise will contribute to the strategic work of the group as outlined above, including your understanding and interaction with the Health Plan and/or the Workforce Plan. Examples of skills/experience that privileges Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, relating directly to strategic government engagement and priority setting would be an advantage.** | |
|  | |
| **Engagement** | |
| **Are you able/willing to attend monthly meetings?** |  |
| **Would your attendance be mostly online or in person in Canberra?** |  |
| **Are you able/willing to review meeting packs before meetings?** |  |
| **Are there staff in your organisation who could benefit from exposure to a government group such as this?** |  |