



First Nations General Practice Training Committee

26 March 2026 meeting communiqué

The First Nations General Practice Training Committee (the Committee) met on 26 March 2026, co-chaired by Dr Dawn Casey and Dr Tim Senior. The Committee welcomed the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Rebecca White MP, who attended the meeting.

Assistant Minister White discussed with the Committee current First Nations GP training priorities, including recruitment, retention and workforce sustainability. Members noted strong 2026 recruitment outcomes, including a 50 per cent increase in First Nations GP registrars. Members emphasised the importance of supporting retention through training, fellowship and post-fellowship stages, highlighting the First Nations-led Single Employer Model trial, and opportunities to evaluate and expand the trial.

The Committee and the Assistant Minister identified racism and cultural safety as ongoing system-wide issues affecting workforce wellbeing and retention. Members highlighted the importance of culturally safe training environments supported by strong cultural governance, education and mentoring.

Wherefo research consulting provided an update on the evaluation of the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Salary Support Program (SSP), and a research project on First Nations GP training and supervision models. Members strongly supported the cultural leadership and governance approach to this work. The Committee welcomed the focus on community impact, supervision models and strengthening workforce stability in Aboriginal health settings.

The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) presented findings from the 2025 GP National Registrar Survey relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GP training. Members discussed the results, which indicated that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars are generally satisfied with their training facilities, health and wellbeing support, and professional networks, and most plan to continue in the GP workforce. Members provided feedback for the 2026 survey around strengthening and streamlining data collection across surveys and datasets and maintaining cultural safety.

The Joint Colleges Training Services (JCTS) presented their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety and Cultural Education Strategy. Priority areas include embedding cultural safety across governance and education; strengthening workforce capability; and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander registrars throughout training, fellowship and beyond. Members supported the strategic direction, noting emerging pressures on cultural educators and mentors and emphasising the importance of sustainable workforce planning.

The Indigenous General Practice Trainee Network presented videos developed as part of its project with Malpa. The videos promote general practice and rural generalism careers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people: [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)

The Committee will meet again later in 2026.