

# Supporting Closing the Gap health initiatives in primary care with HealthPathways

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**HealthPathways:**  
trusted information  
at the point of care

Best practice assessment, red flags and management of medical conditions. Local referrals. Resources for health professionals and patients.

## Navigating effective participation in Closing the Gap health initiatives and supporting culturally safe healthcare

### Project aims:

The project aimed to develop specific ACT & NSW HealthPathways to:

1. support health professionals to navigate the Closing the Gap health initiatives
2. summarise relevant guidelines and initiatives utilised by health professionals at the point of care
3. support the provision of culturally safe care in primary and allied healthcare settings
4. raise the awareness of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health services in the regions

### Collaborative pathway development:

The ACT & NSW HealthPathways team partnered with:

- the Indigenous Health Team at Capital Health Network
- and collaborated with relevant Indigenous stakeholders from the both the ACT and NSW regions

### Project results:

The collaboration facilitated co-design in the localised elements of 8 pathways:

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services Directory](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Health Assessment \(MBS Item - 715\)](#)
- [Claiming MBS Items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care](#)
- [Closing the Gap](#)
- [Cultural Awareness and Cultural Safety](#)
- [Integrated Team Care \(ITC\) Program](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme \(PBS\) Co-payment Measure \(CTG scripts\)](#)
- [Practice Incentives Program – Indigenous Health Incentive \(PIP-IHI\)](#)

### Project learnings:

1. The volume of information and complexity of navigating the Closing the Gap health initiatives can be a barrier to participation at the point of care.
2. The provision of relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health clinical resources supports health professionals in mainstream health settings to facilitate culturally safe healthcare for patients who self-identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
3. HealthPathways is well-placed as a platform to collate and share information with a wide-range of health professionals.
4. The ability of HealthPathways to reflect a definition of Aboriginal Health which incorporates not only physical health but the social, emotional and cultural well-being of the whole community. National Aboriginal and Community Controlled Health Organisation – [NACCHO](#).
5. The ability of HealthPathways to provide context around the demographics and health outcomes of the local ACT and NSW community to assist the provision of culturally safe healthcare.  
  
i.e. The leading causes of death, contributors to poorer health outcomes and experiences of socioeconomic disadvantage.



<https://actsnsw.communityhealthpathways.org/13454.htm>

**Username: together Password: forhealth**

*We Acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of country throughout Australia. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

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