



# Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration Policy

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## 1. Purpose

The Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration Policy requires WA health entities to declare and demonstrate that the interests of, potential impacts on, and opportunities for Aboriginal people are considered during policy development, review and amendment and appropriately incorporated within policy.

The [WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#) (Framework) provides the guiding principles that underpin the requirement of the policy. Strategic Direction 3 of the Framework recognises that a culturally respectful and non-discriminatory health system is a key enabler to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and establishes the need to embed structures, policies and processes across health to ensure this can be achieved.

This policy supports a whole-of-organisation approach and an ongoing commitment to grow and sustain a culturally responsive WA health system.

This policy is a mandatory requirement for Health Service Providers under the *Clinical Services Planning and Programs Policy Framework* pursuant to section 26(2)(d) and 34(2)(c) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

This policy is also a mandatory requirement for the Department of Health pursuant to section 29 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

This policy should be read in conjunction with [MP 0071/17 Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy](#).

## 2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to all WA health entities as defined in the policy.

## 3. Policy Requirements

3.1. WA health entities must:

- Complete and submit an [A10 Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration eForm](#) (the AHISD Form) for the development and review of policies.
- Develop and implement local procedures that:
  - define the scope of activities for which an AHISD form must be completed

- describe the process for managing the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration
- identify a contact point for System Manager enquiries.

3.2. Health Service Providers must report on the use of the AHISD form by providing information under Strategic Direction 3 of the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan Annual Report (Annual Report) in accordance with the [MP 0071/17 Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Policy](#).

## 4. Compliance Monitoring

The System Manager, through the Department of Health Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate, will review the endorsed Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and Annual Report to ensure compliance with this policy.

The System Manager may also:

- Carry out compliance audits, assurance and reporting including providing updates to the Director General and other relevant persons regarding the findings of compliance monitoring activities.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of this policy in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA.
- Examine alignment to the [WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#).

The Department of Health Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the Department's compliance with this policy annually.

## 5. Related Documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this policy:

- [A10 Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration eForm](#)

## 6. Supporting Information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this policy:

- [Aboriginal Health Impact Statement and Declaration for WA Health User Guide](#)
- [Implementation Guide for the WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030](#)
- [Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy – Western Australia 2021-2029](#)
- [Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2023-2025 Western Australia](#)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

## 7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this policy.

Term	Definition
Aboriginal Health Impact	A process through which it is declared and demonstrated that health impacts on, and opportunities for, Aboriginal people have

Statement and Declaration	been considered and appropriately incorporated into policies and relevant health initiatives.
Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan	A plan aligned to the <i>WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030</i> for the period 2022-2025. The plan identifies strategies, actions and measures for focus areas relevant to individual Health Service Providers, against each of the six strategic directions.
Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report	The report is aligned to the <i>WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030</i> through reporting on achievements against the Health Service Provider's <i>Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan</i> .
Aboriginal stakeholders	WA Health Aboriginal employees; WA Health senior Aboriginal representatives; Aboriginal Health Teams/Aboriginal Health Strategy Units in WA Health; Aboriginal advisory committees; Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services; Aboriginal adult consumers accessing WA Health services; Aboriginal child consumers accessing WA Health services; and their parent/carers; and Aboriginal community members.
WA health entities	WA health entities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Health Service Providers as established by an order made under section 32 (1)(b) of the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i>.</li> <li>ii. Department of Health as an administrative division of the State of Western Australia pursuant to section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i>.</li> </ul>
Health Service Provider	Health Service Provider means a Health Service Provider established under section 32 of the <i>Health Services Act 2016</i> .

## 8. Policy Contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Director, Aboriginal Health Policy  
Directorate: Public and Aboriginal Health  
Email: [Aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Aboriginal.health@health.wa.gov.au)

## 9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Effective from	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0160/21	11 May 2021	11 May 2021	May 2024	Original version
MP 0160/21 v.1.0	9 October 2023	9 October 2023	May 2024	Amendments as listed below.

- Minor amendment to Purpose section referring to Strategic Direction 3.
- Removed the contracted health entities statements from the Applicability section.
- Updated policy requirements to develop local procedures instead of guidelines and include reporting requirements.
- Updated Compliance Monitoring section to reference the 'Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Template' and 'Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Annual Report Template'.
- Supporting Information: removed WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030, National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards User Guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023, Cultural Respect Framework 2016-2026 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Inclusion of Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy – Western Australia 2021-2029 and Closing the Gap – WA's Implementation Plan.
- Included definition for Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Action Plan, Aboriginal health and wellbeing annual report and WA health entities. Removed definition for AHISD form.

MP 0160/21 v.1.1	27 October 2023	27 October 2023	May 2024	Minor amendment as listed below.
Supporting Information 'Closing the Gap-WA's Implementation Plan' removed and replaced with 'Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2023-2025 Western Australia'.				

## 10. Approval

<b>Approval by</b>	Nicole O'Keefe, Assistant Director General, Strategy and Governance, Department of Health
<b>Approval date</b>	10 May 2021

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