



MEDIA RELEASE

National Day of Recognition 2023

The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) proudly invite the health sector and all Australians to join us on 7 August 2023 to celebrate the [National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners](#).

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners provide the 'glue' that keeps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connected to and engaged in, the health care system. The professions help to restore power, agency and trust, act as health system navigators, deliver culturally safe care, play a role in early intervention and prevention, improve access to health-care services and the patient experience, and, if enabled to do so, work as a competent and professional component of multidisciplinary health care teams.

However, across mainstream Australia only few know and recognise Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Health Workers and Health Practitioners as **standalone professions**. Unfortunately, they do not often receive the recognition and support they deserve for their essential work. Greater support and investment are needed to embed the professions as a vital, valued, and professional component of Australia's health care system.

NAATSIHWP SA Board member, Antoinette Liddell, says "this is a day for our workforce to be recognised as an essential profession, and for the wider medical workforce to understand the importance of the work we do."

The Federal Government's commitment to training and employing 500 new health workers across Australia in 2022, has increased recognition and support for the workforce over the last year. Many State Governments are now implementing reforms to embed the professions into hospitals and health services. In 2023, with further support from the Federal Government, NAATSIHWP will be driving workforce reform by working with key stakeholders to gain agreement on greater national consistency for the professions.

We welcome and encourage the health sector and all Australians to join us on 7 August, to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners in their own local health services and communities around the country. You can join the celebrations by:

1. Sharing your own stories about the workforce, or alternatively share those posted on NAATSIHWP social media using the hashtag **#NAATSIHWPHeroes23**
2. [Finding out more](#) about the workforce, their critical role and what they do
3. Supporting our workforce by donating [here](#) (all donations are tax deductible)