



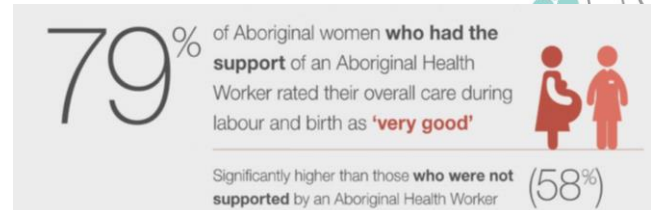
MEDIA RELEASE

New Report confirms critical role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners

A new report released today by the New South Wales Bureau of Health Information overwhelmingly found that the support provided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners directly translated into higher levels of patient satisfaction and care.

The report examining 8,000 Aboriginal people's experiences in NSW public hospitals and health services from 2014–2019 strengthens the evidence base and reinforces the vital role the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce plays in Australia's Health Care system.

The study showed that:



With health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still falling short of the rest of the Australian population the findings are significant for health care administrators and practice managers across Australia.

The report provides further demonstration that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce is integral to the delivery of culturally safe and responsive care, and that implementing measures to increase and facilitate the professional deployment of the workforce across the health care system is key to meeting future population health needs, embedding cultural safety and facilitating health and wellbeing outcomes.

Investing in the expansion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce will clearly deliver all Australian Governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people significant benefits. Given the mounting evidence linking the workforce to improved outcomes across the life course a collaborative, coordinated and cohesive national cross portfolio approach to strengthening the capacity and capability of the workforce must be prioritised.

More information about *'The Insights Series – Aboriginal People's Experiences of Hospital Care Report'* can be found at: https://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au/BHI_reports/Insights_Series and further information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce and the unique role it plays can be found at: <https://www.naatsihwp.org.au/>.