

MEDIA RELEASE

National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners

The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) are proud to invite the health sector and all Australians to join us on **7 August 2022** 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 are the world's only Indigenous health professions underpinned by national training and regulation. For close to a century, this workforce has played a vital role in the safe and effective delivery of health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities.

With a combination of clinical, cultural, social and linguistic skills, they deliver an engagement capability and community reach that sets them apart from other health professionals. Providing a high standard of culturally responsive care and acting as cultural brokers and health system navigators for our communities. Although, as the peak body for the workforce, NAATSIHWP recognises that our members often do not receive the recognition and support they deserve for their crucial work.

NAATSIHWP Chairperson, David Follent, said: *'Our communities must have access to culturally safe and responsive care no matter where they are, and a strong, valued and highly skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce is key to this end'*.

Building on the success of the inaugural National Day of Recognition last year, we will continue to celebrate the achievements of the workforce annually. This year we welcomed the new [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031](#) which commits to increasing and expanding the workforce and in July, we celebrated 10 years since the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board was formed and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners became nationally registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

NAATSIHWP CEO, Karl Briscoe, said: *'We know better health outcomes are achieved when our workforce are involved in our people's health care as we possess a cultural intellect that isn't able to be replicated by mainstream health professions'*.

As it is a world first, our workforce should be a source of National pride. We welcome and encourage the health sector and all Australians to join us on the **7th of August**, to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners in their own local 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 **#NAATSIHWPHeroes22**
2. If you don't know about our workforce, find out about their critical role and what they do: [What We Do](#)
3. To support our workforce, please donate here: [NAATSIHWP Donations](#) (all donations are tax deductible)