



MEDIA RELEASE

NATSIHWA encourages using a 'Scope of Practice' for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association (NATSIHWA) has today launched a supportive publication, the **National Framework for Determining Scope of Practice for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Health Practitioner workforce**. The Framework is designed to support Employers and Managers to work with their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners to establish and define their scope of practice.

The Framework is a practical tool that guides a discussion and documentation in the workplace around the Scope of Practice for individual or groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners.

“This Framework is about helping services and our workforce better define their practices. We are hoping that it assists in building more capable staff and services, defining roles and greater recognition of the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners in health care”, said Mr Karl Briscoe, NATSIHWA CEO.

The document provides a set of practical questions and template that need to be addressed when developing a Scope of Practice.

“We are aware that State and Territory legislation and regulation affects the work an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners are allowed to undertake. This Framework helps to consider these, but also draws on the role and responsibilities, the service needs and an individual’s training and qualifications” said Mr Briscoe.

Ms Josslyn Tully, Chairperson of NATSIHWA said “Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners are vital to improving the health of our peoples. The Framework for developing a Scope of Practice will better enable and support these employees in health services to reach their potential and utilise their skills and capabilities. A Scope of Practice supports better service delivery and improves workforces”.

The NATSIHWA website will continue to be updated over time to feature best practice examples of the Framework being utilised by various health services.

To view our video on the Scope of Practice visit [NATSIHWA's Scope of Practice](#)

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.natsihwa.org.au/content/what-we-do>,

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