



ST VINCENT'S
HEALTH AUSTRALIA

UNDER THE STEWARDSHIP OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES



SVHA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocacy Strategy 2021-2023

Reconciliation Action Plan Committee

SUMMARY

SVHA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advocacy Strategy 2021-2023: In line with SVHA RAP 2020-2023

SUMMARY VERSION

Overarching Goal: Improved access to and funding for, culturally appropriate cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

	Goals	Key objectives
1	<p>SVHA adopt and promote:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Optimal Care Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer. (OCP)¹</i> <i>The Guide to Implementing the Optimal Pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with cancer²</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improved cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples accessing care throughout SVHA

¹ <https://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/optimal-care-pathway-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-cancer/pdf/optimal-care-pathway-for-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-with-cancer.pdf>

² https://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/optimal-care-pathway-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people-cancer-guide/pdf/optimal_care_pathway_for_aboriginal_and_torres_strait_islander_people_with_cancer_the_guide.pdf

2	Increased participation in the national cancer screening programs by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, resulting in earlier detection.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Influence existing national screening programs (breast, bowel, cervical) to ensure that they culturally appropriate and safe. 2. Improved identification of Indigenous Australians in screening programs, across jurisdictions. 3. Expansion of assertive outreach health services for improved use and support for screening programs amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. 4. Increased funding to support new models of delivery of screening programs.
3	Assess full out-of-pocket costs for Indigenous Australians if they were to access all available cancer care.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the costs of culturally safe cancer care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 2. Develop advocacy approach to ensure affordability of care if required. 3. Encourage Indigenous Australians to access the full offering of cancer care services, including physical, financial and spiritual.
4	Provide equality of financial access to post cancer care scripts (closing the gap) regardless of whether the script is filled within a hospital pharmacy or outside.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved financial support and accessibility for Indigenous Australians accessing cancer care scripts. (Financial and government policy implications)
5	Support investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer care workforce.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased number of Indigenous cancer care workers (cancer care co-ordinators, Aboriginal health workers in cancer care, doctors, nurses, post care)
6	Ensure the best and most appropriate, culturally safe palliative and end of life cancer care for Aboriginal and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased investment in culturally safe palliative cancer care in primary care and private settings through the Medical Benefit Scheme. 2. Policy changes to improve palliative care capabilities among generalist health and aged care workforce. 3. Investment in a culturally safe National Palliative Care Research Strategy.

	<p>Torres Strait Islander people is available.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Increased investment at state levels in evidence-based, integrated culturally safe palliative care services. 5. Increased access to culturally safe palliative care services in private and public hospital, aged care settings and within the community.
7	<p>Lend the SVHA voice to key issues that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, being prepared to support partners on key issues as appropriate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In line with the SVHA Mission, lend our voice appropriately to critical policy issues that impact the lives of Indigenous Australians (the issues will be varied and selected on a case by case basis such as comments on Australia Day, Black Lives in Custody etc).

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