



Northern NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement

February 2014 – December 2015

Between

- Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service
- Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service
- Casino Aboriginal Medical Service
- North Coast NSW Medicare Local
- Northern NSW Local Health District

Part 1: Preamble

Guiding Principles

- Northern NSW Local Health District, Casino Aboriginal Medical Service, Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service, Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service and North Coast NSW Medicare Local are equal signatories to this Partnership Agreement (PA).
- The PA adheres to the principles espoused in the *National Aboriginal Health Strategy 1989* and reiterated in subsequent national and NSW State Aboriginal health Agreements and Strategies. In particular, the parties commit themselves to the practical application of the principles of Aboriginal peoples' self-determination, a partnership approach and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration.
- This PA acknowledges the principles in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the national and NSW State targets for closing the gap in life expectancy, child mortality and other aspects of health inequity.
- While acknowledging that the Northern NSW Local Health District and the North Coast NSW Medicare Local will consult and engage with a wide range of community organisation representatives and stakeholders, the aim of the PA is to ensure that the expertise and experience of the Aboriginal Community Controlled health sector is brought to health care planning and delivery across the District. This expertise comprises knowledge of Aboriginal culture and health care, and clinical service provision of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.
- The Northern NSW Aboriginal Health PA will enhance and support its members in health service provision to Aboriginal people of the Northern NSW Region.
- The Northern NSW Aboriginal Health PA Committee will provide leadership and ongoing advice on general health policy, strategic planning, service issues and equity in allocation of resources wherever appropriate.
- Members of the PA will work closely together to improve the availability and reliability of information on Aboriginal health within the District and to share that information to enable timely, evidence based responses to local health priorities.

Part 2: The Partnership Agreement

The Parties to the PA

This PA is between the Northern NSW Local Health District, North Coast Medicare Local and the elected Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services being Casino Aboriginal Medical Service, Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service and Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service.

Lismore Aboriginal Health Service is invited to participate as an Observer with the aim to being included in the Membership at a future date.

Role of the PA

The PA seeks to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people across the Northern NSW Local Health District through:

- Providing a forum where the partners may consult, advise and negotiate on matters relevant to Aboriginal health:
 - Review current partnership arrangements.
 - Co-operating in the identification of service gaps and the development of shared solutions.
 - Developing agreed positions relating to Aboriginal health policy, strategic planning, equity in service allocation and distribution of resources and enhancements.
 - Negotiating agreed positions to undertake joint projects e.g. Aboriginal Chronic Disease, Health Promotion, Connecting Care, 48 hour follow up initiative, Chronic Care Rehabilitation Programs, General Health/Education related programs and activities and Family and Child Health state Initiatives.
 - Sharing information concerning proposed activities, including intended funding applications that may impact on other members of the Partnership, to avoid duplication.
 - Monitor National and State Health Reforms.
- Ensuring that Aboriginal health retains a high priority in the District health system; that it is integrated as a core element in all Local Health District policies and services; and that effort is sustained.
- Promoting a partnership approach at all levels and forums within the region.

Composition of the Northern NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement

While the spirit of the PA will be embodied in the daily efforts and interactions of its signatories, the primary mechanism for giving expression to the Northern NSW Aboriginal Health PA is the PA Committee. Members of the Committee are those participants specifically nominated in this

Agreement. Other participants may also be co-opted to attend meetings as agreed. Northern NSW PA Committee members are:

Northern NSW Local Health District:

Members

Board Chair
Chief Executive
Manager Aboriginal Health
Manager Community and Clinical Engagement

Invitees

Executive Director Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol
Executive Director Richmond Clarence Health Services Group
Executive Director Tweed Byron Health Services Group

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Members:

Board Chair
Chief Executive/Executive Officer of each Service.

North Coast NSW Medicare Local

Members

Board Chair
Chief Executive

Observer Status - Lismore Aboriginal Medical Service

Practice Manager
Rekindling the Spirit Managing Director

Alternate representatives, appropriately nominated by the respective parties, shall apply in the event of inability to attend.

Communication with Ngayundi Aboriginal Health Council

Partner organisations are to attend Ngayundi Community Meetings in relevant Geographic Locations.

Ngayundi Executive Meeting are to be kept informed of Partnership activities.

Duration of the PA

This PA will come into effect from the date of signing by all parties and shall continue in force until December 2015 unless the parties agree to terminate the PA or execute a further PA or new Agreement in substitution.

Status of Attachments

The attachments to this Partnership Agreement are to be read as provisions; (Attachment 1 and 2).

SIGNATORIES TO THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**Signed for and on behalf of Casino Aboriginal Medical Service by CEO and Board Chairperson:**

Name: Steve Blunden
Position: Chief Executive Officer

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

10 February 2014

Name: Dorothy Pholi
Position: Board Chair

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

In the presence of: [REDACTED]

Signed for and on behalf of Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service by CEO and Board Chairperson:

Name: Mark Moore
Position: Chief Executive Officer

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

10/2/14

Name: ~~Kylie Goldwell~~
Position: Board Chair

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

NANCY WALKER

In the presence of: [REDACTED]

10.2.14

Signed for and on behalf of Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service by CEO and Board Chairperson:

Name: Scott Monaghan
Position: Chief Executive Officer

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

10 February 2014

Name: Dorothy Pholi
Position: Board Chair

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

In the presence of: [REDACTED]

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern NSW Local Health District by the Chief Executive and Board Chairperson:

Name: Chris Crawford
Position: Chief Executive

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

10.2.14

Name: Brian Pezzutti
Position: Board Chair

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

In the presence of: [REDACTED]

10.2.14

Signed for and on behalf of the North Coast Medicare Local by the Chief Executive and Board Chairperson:

Name: Vahid Saberi
Position: Chief Executive

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

10 February 2014

Name: Tony Lembke
Position: Board Chair

Signature: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]

In the presence of: [REDACTED]

10.02.14.

Attachment 1**Northern NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement
Committee****Agreed meeting processes**

- Meetings will occur at least three times per calendar year, with additional meetings convened as agreed by Members.
- Meetings will be chaired by the Member organisation hosting meeting or as determined by the partners.
- The agenda will be set jointly by Member organisations.
- Secretarial support for the PA committee meetings will be the responsibility of the NNSW LHD Manager of Community and Clinical Engagement.
- Standards for minutes of the PA meeting will be as follows:
 - The Agenda will be circulated seven (7) days prior to the meeting (Attachment 2).
 - Co-chairs to be responsible .
 - Final draft minutes to be distributed to all members of the PA Committee within twenty-eight (28) days of the meeting and to be tabled for formal endorsement at the next meeting.
- The Northern NSW Aboriginal Health PA Committee will maintain a calendar of meetings.

Attachment 2

Northern NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement CommitteeAgenda**Date:****Time:****Venue:****Methods of communication to be arranged:**

1. Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians
2. Open meeting
3. Apologies and proxies
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Business arising
6. Standing agenda items
 - Update NNSW LHD
 - Update Bulgarr Ngaru AMS
 - Update Bullinah AMS
 - Update Casino AMS
 - Update NCML
 - Update Lismore AMS
 - NSW Health Aboriginal Health Plan
7. General Business – matters for discussion
8. Items referred for information
9. Date of next meeting
10. Meeting closed