



## 2023-2030 Nepean Blue Mountains Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement

between

**Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service**

### Preamble

In 1995 the first Partnership Agreement was signed between the NSW Health Department and the Aboriginal Health Resource Co-operative. One of the requirements of that Agreement was the establishment of partnership mechanisms between Area Health Services and their local Aboriginal Community Controlled Medical Services.

The *Nepean Blue Mountains (NBM) Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement* will formalise a commitment between the Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service (GWAHS) and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD) and to deliver the Aboriginal Health Service in Penrith and assist in meeting the needs of the Aboriginal community in a way that is holistic and culturally appropriate.'

This Partnership replicates the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement 2015-2025, which demonstrates a commitment to address Aboriginal health for the local communities of Penrith, Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains and Lithgow.

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service will work in partnership to understand and respond to the needs of the local community in a coordinated approach, ensuring that there is a shared vision for improving health and wellbeing to Close the Gap.

### Principles

The *Partnership Agreement* enshrines the principles of the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023** of health equality and a human rights approach; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control and engagement; partnership; and accountability by:

- supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in attaining the highest standard of physical, mental and social health;
- ongoing participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people in all levels of decision-making affecting their health needs;
- partnership and shared ownership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders people, Governments and service providers operating at all levels of health planning and delivery; and
- ensuring structures are in place for the regular monitoring and review of implementation as measured against indicators of success, with processes to share knowledge on what works.

The *Partnership Agreement* enshrines the principles of the **NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023** to build trust through partnership, by building trust with and between service providers, and to foster participation in service planning, design and implementation. The *Agreement* will ensure shared planning and service delivery that reduces duplication, is efficient, and improves access and utilisation.



The *Partnership Agreement* enshrines the principles of the **Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District Aboriginal Health Plan 2021-2026** to:

- improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in NBMLHD;
- enhance the patient experience and increase timely access to high quality, culturally safe health care; and
- strengthen the system enablers.

### Agreement

The *Partnership Agreement* between the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service will deliver health services to Aboriginal patients residing across our communities including Hawkesbury, Penrith, Blue Mountains and Lithgow.

NBMLDH agrees to:

- plan and implement activities for effective health promotion strategies;
- collaborate in developing strategies to improve access to appropriate screening and early identification programs;
- explore opportunities for the delivery of specialist services;
- facilitate links for Aboriginal people between NBMLHD services and GWAHS services; and
- establish consultation pathways for GWAHS to contribute to Aboriginal led research at NBMLHD.

GWAHS agrees to:

- host community projects;
- explore specialist services;
- provide community education at joint events; and
- explore opportunities for developing and upskilling Aboriginal workforce.

### Governance

Governance will be negotiated between the partners to establish effective oversight of operations of the Partnership Agreement.

A Terms of Reference will be determined between the parties to set out roles, responsibilities, memberships and outcomes.

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Chief Executive  
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

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Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Western Aboriginal Health Service

Date: 15 January 2024

Date: 8 January 2024