


**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Women's Health Strategy;
Developed 2009 - 2010.**



Presented by; Karen Adams, Sandy Angus
and Bronwyn Fredericks on behalf of over
four hundred Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander women nationally at the 5th National
Women's Health Conference held in Hobart
on Wednesday 19th May 2010.

Strategy Development

2007 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Talking Circle in Canberra.

2009 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Talking Circle in Adelaide.

2009 - FACSIA funds forthcoming; Sandra Angus contracted as Project Officer to conduct consultations with Talking Circle women and their communities. Over 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women participated in consultation.

2009 - Formal submission prepared from the consultations for the Department of Health and Aging (DoHA) to assist inform the Women's Health Policy (yet to be released).

WITH THANKS TO SO MANY WOMEN; FOR AGAIN
TAKING A RISK AND GIVING UP VALUABLE TIME TO
SPEAKOUT TO IMPROVE OUR HEALTH!



**National Participation
During 2009 – 2010.**



Strategy Development

- Feb 2010 - Bronwyn Fredericks and Karen Adams contracted to work with AWHN and Sandra Angus to develop the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy.
- April 2010 - Draft strategy circulated to those who have attended Talking Circle meetings for feedback. Comments received.
- April 2010 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Talking Circle meet in Brisbane to workshop draft strategy.
- May 2010 - Final strategy completed.



BRISBANE WORKSHOP
- 30th April 2010 which
included some talented artists
who inspired every participant!
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
AND INPUT!**





Four key action areas

1. Supportive environments
2. Service access and equity
3. Women in the health workforce
4. A national position

1. Supportive Environments

Inclusion of childcare in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and education programs.

Deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's leadership programs aimed at development and advancement.

Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boards and committees have equal numbers of male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members (including government and statutory authority boards and committees)

1. Supportive Environments

Provide community development opportunities to de-normalise violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. For example, promoting the value of Indigenous women in the community, men supporting Indigenous women in the community and healthy cultural forms of communication.

Involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Indigenous women in the planning, design, development and monitoring of buildings, houses and services, including the choice of sites and buildings.



1. Supportive Environments

Organisations and agencies employ and support career advancement of equal numbers of male and female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees within structural levels



2. Health service access and equity

Women's health services undertake cultural safety accreditation and annual audits. This should include policy review, physical environment review (such as, Indigenous relevant posters, artwork, flags and pamphlets), staff cultural competency training, partnerships with Indigenous health services and Indigenous women on organisation boards.

Implementation of premature aging policy and programs by women's health providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. For instance, home and community care or rehabilitation support for women experiencing early onset of chronic disease.



2. Health service access and equity

Provision of social/cultural health and peer support opportunities and programs, such as, basket making, textile and fibre work, shell and wood works, story work and social food gathering and cooking.

Report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's participation and outcomes in women's health services, such as, cancer screening, STIs and BBVs notifications, birth outcomes, chronic disease outcomes etc



3. Women in the health workforce

Promote the role and importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers working in women's health.

Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women working and studying in the health workforce particularly in women's health areas.

Biannual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women's health conference



4. A national position

Employ a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Health Senior policy Officer

Women who contributed

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