



Partnership for
JUSTICE IN HEALTH

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1. Statement of Intent

The **Partnership for Justice in Health (P4JH)** is an alliance of self-determining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics, legal experts, and national peak health and justice organisations committed to working together to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and justice outcomes through addressing racism at individual, institutional and systemic levels, specifically focusing on the health and justice systems.

We formed in 2017 in response to the ongoing impacts of racism to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian health system, particularly following the death of Wiradjuri woman Naomi Williams and her unborn child at Tumut Hospital in NSW. Since this time, we have worked and grown together, building a shared understanding. From this place of knowing, articulating and addressing the impacts of racism, we stand together and call for national action.

Thirty years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, recommendations and actions from this and a plethora of subsequent reviews, inquiries, reports, evaluations, and strategies, lay dormant and the harmful and destructive impacts of racism on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing endures. We believe the stakes are too high to wait any longer for substantive and effective action from Australian governments, as such we formed the P4JH to initiate and influence systemic change.

As leaders operating at the interface of the health and justice systems, we commit to harnessing our leadership, influence, and networks towards realising our vision '**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People enjoy health and wellbeing that is free of racism in the health and justice systems**'.

2. Who We Are

Collectively we are well positioned to play a lead role in addressing racism and discrimination across the health and justice systems. We have:

- a comprehensive understanding of the evidence and issues and lived experiences
- professional expertise and experience in redress, cultural safety, shared decision-making and determination
- influence, connections and extensive networks across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia and Governments, and
- a demonstrated track record in cross sectoral collaboration and delivering services in partnership.

We will commit to working together to establish an ongoing national campaign to influence systemic change and eliminate racism across the health and justice systems, and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are at the centre of driving solutions, that includes:

- establishing, managing and maintaining an authoritative online hub or website
- providing access to and collaborating on research
- developing and distributing resources
- promulgating best practice evidence-based approaches
- providing referral, information and contacts and
- managing the P4JH in line with the principles of Indigenous leadership, governance and self-determination.

We are:

