



## MEDIA RELEASE

### National Day of Recognition 2023

The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) proudly invite the health sector and all Australians to join us on 7 August 2023 to celebrate the [National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners](#).

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners provide the 'glue' that keeps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connected to and engaged in, the health care system. The professions help to restore power, agency and trust, act as health system navigators, deliver culturally safe care, play a role in early intervention and prevention, improve access to health-care services and the patient experience, and, if enabled to do so, work as a competent and professional component of multidisciplinary health care teams.

However, across mainstream Australia only few know and recognise Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Health Workers and Health Practitioners as **standalone professions**. Unfortunately, they do not often receive the recognition and support they deserve for their essential work. Greater support and investment are needed to embed the professions as a vital, valued, and professional component of Australia's health care system.

NAATSIHWP SA Board member, Antoinette Liddell, says "this is a day for our workforce to be recognised as an essential profession, and for the wider medical workforce to understand the importance of the work we do."

The Federal Government's commitment to training and employing 500 new health workers across Australia in 2022, has increased recognition and support for the workforce over the last year. Many State Governments are now implementing reforms to embed the professions into hospitals and health services. In 2023, with further support from the Federal Government, NAATSIHWP will be driving workforce reform by working with key stakeholders to gain agreement on greater national consistency for the professions.

We welcome and encourage the health sector and all Australians to join us on 7 August, to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners in their own local health services and communities around the country. You can join the celebrations by:

1. Sharing your own stories about the workforce, or alternatively share those posted on NAATSIHWP social media using the hashtag **#NAATSIHWPHeroes23**
2. [Finding out more](#) about the workforce, their critical role and what they do
3. Supporting our workforce by donating [here](#) (all donations are tax deductible)



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners - Morning Tea



August 2023



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners - Morning Tea



August 2023



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

Unofficial accounts and narratives indicate the workforce was established by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people close to a century ago, in response to the need for geographically accessible and culturally safe health care.



7th August 2023  
#NAATSIHWPHeroes

Within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community this workforce is renowned as a vital and reliable resource critical to improved health and wellbeing outcomes. Yet, across mainstream Australia few would know, understand or recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners as stand-alone professions.



7th August 2023  
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# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

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So today and every August 7th, we at NAATSIHWP invite you to support our workforce of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners.

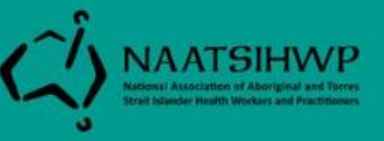
You could donate to NAATSIHWP, read up about what Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners do, share or make a post about your #NAATSIHWPHeroes or even find out which health services near you employ our indispensable workforce.

We give our thanks to all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners for their dedicated work.

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August 2023

Growing our Workforce 



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners



Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Staff celebrates the National Day

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners



Atlantic Fellowship for Social Change leaders celebrates the National Day

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"They are the key people that understand their mob and can translate the needs of community to the rest of the health professionals. "



What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Alfie Gollan**  
Clinical Educator/Aboriginal Health Practitioner  
Aboriginal Health Council SA Ltd

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners



"I am passionate about the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Workforce and have a deep understanding of the importance of the role of Health Workers & Health Practitioners in the prevention, education, and management of health conditions, and most importantly advocating for the rights and needs for our people by ensuring our services are accessible and culturally safe."

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Eva Burns**  
Manager - Health Programs  
TCCHS Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"Our Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers play an essential role in reducing anxiety and improving the quality of communication for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. They have assisted the non-Indigenous nurses to better understand and respond to clients' concerns, and help clients to better understand their illness and treatment."

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Detta**  
Chronic Conditions Management Nurse  
Sunshine Coast Health

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"Becoming an [Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander] Health Practitioner or Health Worker is a rewarding career path that works in a culturally safe way to improve our mobs' health outcomes. This journey opens the door to career growth and many more opportunities in the health sector"



What health professionals say about #NAATSIHWPHeroes

**Tahnee Hooper**  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Professional Lead

August 2023



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner profession should be embraced and seen as a more important role and not a replacement to other professions but more alongside and in support of all medical professions within Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health."



What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Shaun Jacobson**  
Educator/Aboriginal Health Practitioner  
Aboriginal Health Council SA Ltd

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"Their work has been understated and, often taken for granted, how hard they search for the answers that our people need. Keen experts in creating opportunity when none appear available and empowering us to take the lead in our health journey are their ultimate superpowers. Their ability to keep us connected to our bodies, support networks, our communities and our families is a bonus."

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Sunni Jamieson**  
Acting Service Manager  
Sunshine Coast Health

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners are vital in the care and wellbeing of community. The many different ways that is needed to work within and for our mob can only truly be accomplished by our Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners.

They are a cultural conduit between the traditional ways and western ways of health and aim to aid and assist in the reduction of many health issues that our community face, as well as helping to manage current conditions that our family maybe going through."



What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**James Bisset**  
RTO Manager  
Aboriginal Health Council SA Ltd

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners



"Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners play a vital role in providing clinical services, health promotion and education, disease prevention, primary healthcare and culturally considered care for individuals, families, and community groups across all areas of the health service."

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Haylene Grogan**  
Chief First Nations Health Officer  
Queensland Health

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

The contribution and support that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Health Workers bring to their community is highly valued.

...

Supporting the expansion and professional utilisation of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health workforce requires collective effort and a commitment to building a more equitable and inclusive healthcare system.

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Leah Pascoe**  
Workforce Engagement Officer - Care  
Partnership Diabetes Program  
Rural Doctors Network

**August 2023**



# National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners

"I pay my respects and honour to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners caring for their people and also the many non-Aboriginal people they assist in their daily work.

...

We should never forget the heroes of the past who led the way for others to follow."

What health professionals say about  
**#NAATSIHWPHeroes**

**Robyn Withnell**  
Board Secretariat Officer  
Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation

**August 2023**