

Strengthening Cultural Safety in Mainstream Services presentation

Nicole McCartney, Chief Aboriginal Health Adviser

Aboriginal Health Division

2 June 2023

OFFICIAL

Acknowledgement



OFFICIAL

Image: Yorta Yorta Country

Scene setting: Strength, resilience and colonisation

- For tens of thousands of years, Aboriginal people in Victoria have cared for community and Country.
- Our model of health, which sees the whole person, is one that our healthcare system can learn from.
- Colonisation contributes to the widening health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians.
- Racism and discrimination are recognised as key social and cultural determinants of health linked to poor health, psychological distress, depression, anxiety, smoking and harmful alcohol and drug use.



Why cultural safety matters



Bunurong Country

- A culturally safe health service is one in which people feel safe, where there is no need to deny their identity, and where their needs are met.
- A culturally responsive health system is one in which non-Aboriginal people take responsibility to understand the importance of culture, country and community to Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety, by working with Aboriginal communities to design and deliver culturally responsive services.

Landscape is changing: Treaty and Truth

- Victoria is leading the nation with its commitment to Treaty and Truth, including the truth-telling Yoorrook Justice Commission that continues to hold hearings across Victoria.
- Working within a self-determining model requires a shift of power, recognition that Aboriginal people have the solutions and know what is needed to keep communities healthy.



Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Partnership Agreement & Action Plan

- Design the service model of a culturally safe, gender-specific residential detoxification and rehabilitation facility for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women with drug and/or alcohol dependence, with the aim of this service being operational by 2030.
- Ensure government is adhering to commitments made on decriminalisation of public intoxication, informed by the advice of the Aboriginal Advisory Group.
- Review the current AOD care mechanisms to ensure they are culturally appropriate and safe, prioritising intake and assessment processes.
- Ensure that mainstream AOD organisations embed a consistent cultural safety practice in their models of care.
- Undertake whole-of-system Aboriginal specific AOD service demand and planning assessment.



Action Plan Priority: Supporting Alcohol and Other Drugs

Your role and what you can do



Bunurong Country

- Cultural Safety Plans, targets for the National Safety and Quality Health Services Standards and a Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Supporting Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers and partnering with local ACCHOs are also critical foundation to make our health system more culturally safe.
- Look at your employment plans including plans for building your Aboriginal workforce at all levels across your organisations, not only in Aboriginal identified roles.

OFFICIAL

In Conclusion

- We need allies to amplify Aboriginal voices and leadership.
- We need allies to understand that good health for Aboriginal people includes social, cultural, spiritual, and ecological wellbeing – not just physical and emotional.
- We need allies to put us at the centre of health planning, to work with us to embed cultural safety and self-determination reform.



Bunurong Country

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red and black patterned dress, is sitting on a light grey sofa. She is smiling and looking towards a young girl on the left. The girl is wearing a light blue sweater and orange pants, and has her arms raised in the air. A young boy is sitting between them, wearing a pink and white striped shirt, and is looking down at some cards on the sofa. The background features a large abstract painting with purple and brown tones. To the right, there is a small black table with two potted plants. The word "Questions" is overlaid in the center of the image, underlined.

Questions