



# Let's yarn Health Equity

## What is Health Equity?

Overall, health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. Health inequalities exist because of inequalities in the conditions of daily life (such as housing, education and employment). There is currently a gap in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. Health Equity means closing this gap.

## What does Health Equity mean for me, my family and community?

- Improved access to services.
- Culturally safe services delivered by the HHS in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.
- Inclusive mechanisms to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to engage with Gold Coast Health.
- Reduced interpersonal and institutional racism.
- Improvements in the social, cultural and economic determinants of health.
- Improved health and wellbeing of Gold Coast Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

## Regional Strategy; Local Action Plan

South East Queensland is the second largest Indigenous region in Australia, comprising 11% of Australia's and 38% of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. A regional approach builds upon successful partnerships and programs to progress the health equity agenda.

Regional Strategy five priority areas:

- **Cultural Safety:** actively eliminate racial discrimination and institutional racism within the service.
- **Access:** increasing access to healthcare services.
- **Determinants:** influencing the social, cultural and economic determinants of health.
- **Service and data enhancement:** delivering sustainable, cultural safe and responsive healthcare services.
- **Service delivery partnerships:** working with First Nations peoples, communities and organisations to design, deliver, monitor and review health services.

## Approach

A Health Equity Strategy, requires a collaborative approach with stakeholders during development, implementation and service delivery. This approach supports services which are co-designed, co-implemented and co-owned.

### DEVELOPMENT STAKEHOLDERS

- First Nations staff members
- First Nations health consumers
- First Nations community members

- Traditional custodians/owners
- Health and Wellbeing Queensland

### IMPLEMENTATION STAKEHOLDERS

- The Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer (CATSIHO)
- Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC)

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations (ATSICCHOs) in the service area
- Local primary healthcare organisations (including PHNs)



### SERVICE DELIVERY STAKEHOLDERS

## Timeframe

Health Equity is a part of core business both within the HHS and partner organisations. The Health Equity Strategies do not finish with an endorsed document, but become a continual reiteration over the next ten years to ensure effectiveness and relevance of actions and measures over time.

## Keep up-to-date

A Health Equity page will be added to the GCHHS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing microsite (<https://www.goldcoast.health.qld.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-service>).

Share this site and support Community involvement as we progress the health equity agenda.

## Get involved

Contact the GCHHS Health Equity team to get involved:

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