

# ACCREDITATION ROLE IN IMPROVING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH OUTCOMES



HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS  
ACCREDITATION  
COLLABORATIVE  
FORUM

## THE PROJECT

In 2018, the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum) is undertaking the *Accreditation role in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes project*. The project aims to help the Forum better understand the role accreditation plays in improving Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and Māori health outcomes and producing a culturally safe workforce.

## THEMATIC REVIEW



### 218 accredited health practitioner programs

delivered across Australia and/or New Zealand participated in the review.

Representatives from **nursing, dental, occupational therapy, medical, and pharmacy courses** participated in the survey.

## INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORT



**57% use specific entry pathways** for Indigenous students.



**45% have specific support services** in place for Indigenous students at a provider and program level.

## CULTURALLY SAFE HEALTH WORKFORCE



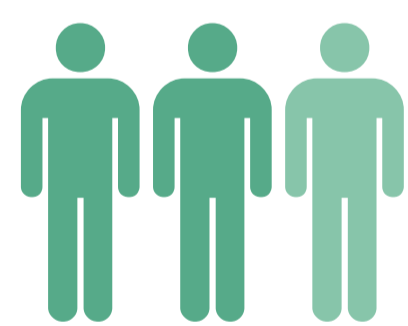
**92% of respondents** said Indigenous People were involved with their programs.



**65% have no minimum requirement** for students to gain clinical experience in the treatment of Indigenous Persons.



**34% had difficulty in estimating** the percentage of students gaining exposure to the treatment of Indigenous Persons.



**2 in 3 programs have advisors** identifying as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and/or Māori** inputting into program design and delivery.

## PERCEPTION OF ACCREDITATION



**90% agree** the accreditation standard for their program requires graduates to be culturally safe.



**60% of respondents** believe accreditation has a strong or extensive influence in ensuring the incorporation of cultural safety in curriculum design.

## NEXT STEPS



Results from the thematic review will form baseline data for the Forum.



Learnings from the project will be applied through collaborative work.

### LED BY:

Narelle Mills  
Australian Dental Council, Melbourne, Australia  
[narelle.mills@adc.org.au](mailto:narelle.mills@adc.org.au)

### DEVELOPED BY:

Vanessa Oelkers, Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Adelaide, Australia; Theanne Walters, Australian Medical Council, Canberra, Australia; Michael Shobbrook, Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia, Canberra, Australia; Elaine Duffy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee, Melbourne, Australia.