

**SYDNEY
METROPOLITAN
LOCAL
ABORIGINAL
HEALTH
PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT
2016 – 2021**





Cover Artwork
“Branching out to different communities”

By Artist Kayelene Slater

Kayelene is an Aboriginal woman from the Kamilaroi Nation.

The Partnership meeting is represented by the circle of dots in the middle with the coming together of the four entities¹. The Pathways lead to the community meeting places which is represented by the full white dots.

¹ Representing the four organisations which made up the original Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Partnership in 2011

Part I: Preamble

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) and the NSW Government, through its health portfolio, are equal members of the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership (Partnership) established in 1995. The NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement 2008-2013 was signed on 30 April 2008 between the two respective parties.

The Partnership adheres to the principles espoused in the National Aboriginal Health Strategy 1989 and continued in the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health - a Framework for Action by Governments. In particular, the parties commit themselves to the practical application of the principles of Aboriginal peoples' self-determination, a partnership approach and the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration.

The Partnership establishment was informed by the Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs Between The Commonwealth of Australia and The State of New South Wales 2005 - 2010 and the New South Wales State Government ten year Aboriginal Affairs' Plan, *Two Ways Together*. There is now a commitment to respond to the Local Decision Making under OCHRE.

The Partnership acknowledges the principles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the national targets for closing the gap in life expectancy, child mortality and other aspects of health inequity.

While acknowledging that the NSW Government will consult and engage with a wide range of community organisation representatives and stakeholders, the aim of the Partnership is to ensure that the expertise and experience of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector are considered and utilised in health care processes.

The parties to this Partnership Agreement will support the development of Partnership Agreements between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and/or their Consortia, recognizing their expertise and experience in Aboriginal Health, and Local Health Districts (LHD) to give effect to the Partnership at the regional level, acknowledging that whilst 'Districts' will consult and engage with a wide range of Aboriginal community organisation representatives and stakeholders, the acknowledged expertise and experience of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, through its representative body being a party to the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement, will provide informed direction to the Partnership which will be the primary mechanism for providing advice and expertise at the regional level within the boundaries of the respective LHD.

Part II: Guiding Principles

- Signatory Local Health Districts (LHDs), Specialty Health Networks and the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, Redfern are equal members of the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement.
- The aim and role of this Partnership Agreement is to ensure that the expertise of the Sydney Metropolitan Aboriginal community is brought to health care processes in relation to National and State policy issues.
- The Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement will enhance and support the guiding principles that underpin the concept of the Aboriginal community controlled health service charter. Similarly, the Partnership Agreement will support and enhance the signatory NSW health services in health service planning and provision
- The Partnership will advocate improving Aboriginal health outcomes and service delivery in the region of service provided by AMS Redfern
- The Partnership will work closely together to maximise procedures for improving information on Aboriginal health within the region and that, subject to ethical requirements, there will be reciprocal sharing of information and data on Aboriginal Health at this level to enable immediate response to local health priorities.
- The Partnership will continue to support and advocate for best practice in ethics, in particular as it relates to research and study with, for or about Aboriginal people in the AMS Redfern region
- Working Groups will be established under this Partnership Agreement as required to facilitate recruiting necessary 'expertise' on 'an issue only' basis.

Part III: The Agreement

1. The Parties to the Agreement

At the Local level, the Partnership Agreement is between the Chief Executive Officer or Chair of the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, Redfern and the Chief Executives of Northern Sydney LHD; South East Sydney LHD; Sydney LHD; St Vincent's Health Network; and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (with a focus on the Eastern sector of the Sydney basin's service needs).

Other participants may also be consulted or co-opted to a Working Group consistent with the provisions within the Framework Document overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs between the Commonwealth of Australia and The State of New South Wales 2005 - 2010.

2. Composition of the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement

The Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership will be the primary mechanism for providing advice and expertise to this regional level, within the boundaries of three Local Health District regions. As such members of the Committee are those participants specifically outlined in this Agreement. Other participants may also be consulted, co-opted to a Working Group or be invited to attend specific meetings as agreed.

All meetings will be co-chaired by the Chair of the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, Redfern and a rotational Chair from one of the three LHDs and two Networks that are parties to the Partnership Agreement, unless otherwise advised. Secretariat support will be provided from the particular Local Health District or Network co-chairing the meeting as stipulated in Partnership Agreement and detailed in the Annual Terms of Reference for the Committee.

3. Membership:

3.1. Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, Redfern

- Chairperson or nominated delegate
- Chief Executive Officer
- Manager Population Health

3.2. Local Health Districts and Specialty Health Networks

- Chief Executive of the LHD
- Director Clinical Governance and/or Director Operations, Ambulatory & Primary Health Care; Clinical Program Director; or nominated delegate
- Managers/Directors of Aboriginal Health

The Partnership members can invite other senior planning and operational managers

to attend as required and as appropriate to achieving the goals and objectives of the meeting and the Partnership agreement and priority work areas.

4. Processes

The parties will agree on meeting processes annually related to the Terms of Reference:

- Frequency of meetings, including task specific sub-committees and acquittal against activities undertaken according to the annual Partnership Priorities
- Responsibility for setting the respective agenda
- Responsibility for secretarial support
- Standards for the minutes
- Implementation of decisions

The agenda will include core items, which reflect the overarching goals of:

- Effectiveness of planning, prioritisation and coordinated resource allocation between the three Health Districts
- Agreed positions from the *New South Wales Aboriginal Health Partnership Committee* meetings that are considered consistent with the provisions in the Preamble of this document.
- Local implementation of agreed Aboriginal health policies and strategies.
- Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the *New South Wales Aboriginal Health Strategic Plan and the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*.

5. Mechanisms

This Agreement recognises that the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement will benefit from the flexibility within the *Framework Document Overarching Agreement on Aboriginal Affairs Between The Commonwealth of Australia and The State of New South Wales 2005 - 2010 or relevant commitment and the New South Wales Aboriginal Health Strategic Plan 2013-2023* to develop strategies that maximise the efficiency and effectiveness Aboriginal Health by building community capacity through the development of programs and enhanced resources that will improve health outcomes and by meeting the health needs of the local Aboriginal community.

Meetings of Partnership are to be held four times per calendar year and in accordance with Appendix A.

6. Evaluation

The performance - accomplishments and processes - of the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement will be evaluated annually to provide advice on ways that will enhance the effectiveness of the Partnership Agreement.

7. Duration

This agreement will remain in effect until **30th June 2021**, at which time the parties will review it. During this review, the agreement will remain in effect until either a new agreement has been signed or the agreement is terminated by all parties. The Partner members can choose to extend the overarching agreement by mutual agreement for a period of up to six months to complete the review of the agreement prior to re-signing.

8. Termination

This agreement will be terminated on 30th June 2021 or on conclusion of the subsequent review of the Agreement, unless any parties to the Agreement give notice in a prescribed manner of an earlier termination of the Agreement.

Commitment to the Partnership Agreement can be terminated by any party if three months written notice is given by the respective party to the Agreement to the other parties advising that they wish to terminate their commitment under this Agreement.



Part IV: Signatories to the Agreement

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited, Ms LaVerne Bellear and Mr Sol Bellear, Chairperson:

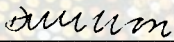


Ms LaVerne Bellear



Mr Sol Bellear

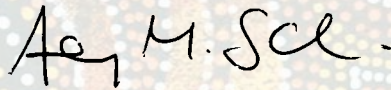
Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Sydney Local Health District:
Ms Deborah Willcox



Ms Deborah Willcox

Date: 8.6.17

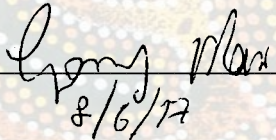
Signed for and on behalf of the St Vincent's Health Network:
Associate Professor Anthony Schembri



A/Prof Anthony Schembri

Date: 08 06 17

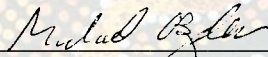
Signed for and on behalf of the South Eastern Sydney Local Health District:
Mr Gerry Marr



Mr Gerry Marr

Date: 8/6/17

Signed for and on behalf of the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network:
Doctor Michael Brydon



Dr Michael Brydon

Date: 8/6/17

Signed for and on behalf of the Sydney Local Health District:
Doctor Teresa Anderson



Dr Teresa Anderson

Date: 8 June 2017

SYDNEY METROPOLITAN LOCAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT 2016 - 2021



Between

Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Ltd., Redfern

and

Northern Sydney Local Health District;

South East Sydney Local Health District;

Sydney Local Health District

St Vincent's Health Network

Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

Appendix A: Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Meeting Process 2017 - 2018

Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement

Regional Level Process

- Meetings will occur quarterly per year with dates set no later than October of the calendar year
- Meetings will be co-chaired by the Chairperson of the Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited Redfern and a rotational Chair will be nominated from one of the three Local Health Districts and two Specialty Health Networks that are parties to the Partnership Agreement and the secretariat support will be provided from the Local Health District co-chairing the meeting
- The agenda will be set in collaboration with the Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative and the particular, health service co-chairing the upcoming meeting
- Standards for minutes of the Sydney Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement will be as follows:
 - Agenda will be circulated fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting
 - Draft minutes of meetings to be distributed to members within fourteen (14) days of the meeting
 - Comments to be returned within seven (7) days of draft minute distribution
 - Residing Chair and Co-Chair to meet and resolve any issues prior to final minutes distributed

Final copy of minutes to be distributed to all members of the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement within twenty-eight (28) days of the meeting.

Chair

Aboriginal Medical Service Cooperative Limited

Co-Chair (rotating annually). Proposed roster:

1. Northern Sydney Local Health District
2. South East Sydney Local Health District
3. Sydney Local Health District
4. St Vincent's Health Network
5. The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

Secretariat

Secretariat for meetings to be completed by Local Health District or Specialty Health Network rostered to Co-Chair.

Handover process proposed:

1. Incoming Secretariat according to proposed roster circulates following years agreed meeting dates as calendar invites no later than October of the year prior.
2. Exiting and incoming Secretariat liaises closely on document management from November to ensure a smooth transition of service.

