

Project Overview

Implementing the National Guide and supporting mainstream general practices to deliver culturally targeted and responsive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Project background

The RACGP and NACCHO have a strong history of working in partnership and advocating for increased awareness of barriers to quality healthcare faced by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Australians. In March 2018 NACCHO and the RACGP published the third edition of the *National guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* (National Guide) and have since been working on associated activities to support implementation of the National Guide.

Based on significant feedback from community representatives, GPs and other health professionals, we have recognised further opportunities to build on the momentum from phase one. With the support from the Department of Health; NACCHO and the RACGP will continue to work in partnership throughout 2018-19 to continue to increase awareness and use of the National Guide and to support mainstream general practices to deliver culturally targeted and responsive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Project objectives

This project is exploratory in nature, working with the Improvement Foundation and various key stakeholders to understand best practice approaches to:

- the delivery of quality health assessments (715) and effective implementation of the third edition of the National Guide in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) and mainstream general practices
- supporting mainstream practices to deliver culturally targeted and responsive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Activities

The activities to be undertaken to complete the project include:

- Working with the Improvement Foundation to administer a new [Australian Primary Care Collaborative \(APCC\)](#) specifically looking at how the National Guide can be best implemented in ACCHSs and mainstream practices and how mainstream practices can improve identification rates and enhance the delivery of culturally targeted and responsive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Continue to support promotion and utilisation of the National Guide by healthcare teams in ACCHSs and mainstream general practice
- Development of new 715 health assessment templates for children, adults and older people which reflects best practice and has greater flexibility which allows for tailoring of the National Guide to meet the needs of the individual and local population

- Undertake scoping exercise with participating software vendors two face-to-face meetings and a report from each vendor outlining:
 - how identification is currently captured within the package
 - ideas for how the package could be modified to improve identification rates
 - ideas for how the National Guide and health assessment templates could be integrated into the practice software
 - approximate costs for implementing the identified amendments.
- Conduct clinician survey and focus groups to understand how clinical software can be modified to improve identification rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in mainstream practices and integrate the National Guide; and what resources can support improving culturally responsive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
- Develop new resources to support culturally targeted and responsive Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare in mainstream practices, including practical tools and checklists for the whole practice team.

Project management and governance

The project team, comprising NACCHO and RACGP representatives will be overseen by a Project Reference Group, consisting of preventive health experts, CQI experts, health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

Project completion date

The project has commenced in July 2018 and will conclude in June 2019.