



HOW DOES IAHA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WHY DO WE NEED AN ORGANISATION LIKE IAHA?

Prior to the formation of IAHA, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students often expressed feelings of isolation, due to the fact that they were often one of very few Indigenous peoples working within their profession in a particular geographic location.

IAHA therefore originated in 2009 as a network of committed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and has grown into a strong national organisation that was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2013.

The unique IAHA point of difference is that we bring together and collectively support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohorts within over 20 allied health professions and value add to existing development & supports and non-Indigenous professionals within context of improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

IAHA is the only organisation in Australia that:

- provides targeted networking, development and support opportunities to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students as well as supporting the wider allied health workforce.
- focuses specifically on building and sustaining a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce.
- provides national leadership, expert advice and policy direction on allied health issues within an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander context.
- Is dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through promoting allied health careers and facilitating further education and leadership development of Indigenous allied health professionals.
- advocates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to have health equity through improved access to culturally responsive allied health care that is recognised as an essential part of a holistic approach to achieving optimal health and wellbeing.

In short, IAHA is in a unique and valuable position to support and advocate for the breadth of professions that make up the allied health sector, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities.

To find out more about IAHA please visit:

www.iaha.com.au

HOW DOES IAHA CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

IAHA implements activities and initiatives under four Strategic priorities – IAHA Membership; Allied Health Workforce Development; National Leadership; and Corporate Governance.

In collaboration with its members, IAHA:

- Strengthens leadership capacity across the allied health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sectors.
- Works in partnership with organisations, universities and other related sectors to improve health curricula, address allied health workforce issues, and promote allied health careers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Provides expert advice to governments, allied health professional bodies, educational institutions and the health sector in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health policy and issues.
- Develops and maintains strong networks and connections with Indigenous communities to ensure IAHA core objectives are meeting their needs and aspirations.
- Works closely with the health sector and communities to improve access to allied health services.
- Promotes the importance of allied health, using a holistic person-centred and culturally responsive approach, to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In addition to contributing to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, IAHA's work to facilitate equitable access to allied health care, improve the cultural responsiveness of such care, and increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in health will benefit ALL AUSTRALIANS.

WHY DOES IAHA REPRESENT ALLIED HEALTH AS A COLLECTIVE?

IAHA is not a professional association or union, each of our full members is an allied health professional or student who will usually already have access to profession-based support through mainstream professional associations.

IAHA does not advocate for individuals or specific professions... We advocate and support our members from the perspective of the collective. There are more similarities than differences that face Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who chose to be allied health professionals and these are the focus of IAHA support and advocacy.

IAHA values, promotes and embraces the unique cultural lens through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students view their profession/s.

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