

Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care (AHPACC) Partnership

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Artist: Eileen Harrison. The two etched circles represent the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation and Community Health Service working together. There are nine of these – each representing the nine AHPACC Partnership geographical areas across Victoria. The family in the centre represents the Victorian Aboriginal population. Surrounding the family are message sticks communicating positive health messages.

A new way of working together

The Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care (AHPACC) Partnership is a new program model developed through a consultative process between the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).

The AHPACC Partnership will support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations¹ (ACCHOs) and Community Health Services (CHSs) to work together to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians with/at risk of chronic disease. This will be achieved through:

- Increasing access to primary health care services
- Improving clinical service delivery
- Coordinated approaches to health promotion by building upon other programs, for example, those targeting nutrition, physical activity, smoking cessation, mental health and wellbeing, or healthy weight
- CHSs providing culturally sensitive services
- Accredited training and other support for both Aboriginal and mainstream workers and organisations

This program will be implemented in nine sites across Victoria and includes the establishment of new positions to support health promotion and chronic disease management services by Aboriginal persons.

General practice involvement

Funds have also been provided to the nine AHPACC Partnership sites to support general practice involvement. The funding will achieve two key objectives: the development of a protocol/MOU between local divisions of general practice and AHPACC Partnership agencies; and trialing the protocol through implementing quality improvement activities. The ACCHO, CHS and the local division of general practice in each site will work together to achieve these objectives. The General Practice Division of Victoria (GPDV) and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) will take a role in supporting this work at a statewide level.

¹ The term 'Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation' is a collective terms used for Aboriginal organisations with a focus on delivery of health services, but in the case of the AHPACC Partnership documentation, also includes one Aboriginal organisation which is an Aboriginal Community Controlled (not health) Organisation.

Training and support

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's (VACCHO) will provide a central support role for the new AHPACC Partnership positions. This will include the delivery of accredited training courses (eg. health promotion and chronic disease), a networking forum; development and delivery of a forum for managers of ACCHOs & CHSs; and collation and distribution of culturally appropriate health promotion and chronic disease patient education resources. For further information contact Terry James at VACCHO on TerryJ@vaccho.com.au.

Evaluation of the AHPACC Partnership

The AHPACC Partnership Evaluation Strategy ('evaluation strategy') will support the identification and extent to which the AHPACC Partnership model is effective and sustainable within the Victorian context. The 'evaluation strategy' comprises two key components: the State-wide Evaluation Framework and Local AHPACC Evaluation. Information gathered through the evaluation will inform the evidence base, contribute to future policy, inform ongoing reporting processes, and enable local partnerships to track progress and provide feedback to local communities. Further information on the AHPACC Partnership Evaluation Strategy will be in the next edition of the AHPACC Partnership Information Bulletin.

AHPACC Partnership sites

The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Community Health Services working in partnership in the nine areas across Victoria are listed below.

REGION	AGENCIES	
	Community Health Services	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations
Gippsland	Gippsland Lakes CHS	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative
Loddon Mallee	Sunraysia CHS	Mildura Aboriginal Cooperative
Barwon	South West Healthcare (Warrnambool CHS)	Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative and Kirrae Health Service
Southern	Greater Dandenong CHS Frankston CHS	Dandenong & District Aborigines Cooperative (Bunurong Health Service)
Eastern	Eastern Access Community Health	Mullum Mullum Gathering Place
North & West	Darebin CHS; North Yarra CHS; Dianella CHS; Plenty Valley CHS Western Region Health Service; Isis Primary Care	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Western Region Gathering Place
Hume	Goulburn Valley Community Health Service with Goulburn Valley Health.	Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative

Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Partnership Webpage

The AHPACC Partnership webpage provides information and resources associated with the implementation of the Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care (AHPACC) Partnership. The webpage contains a range of relevant health promotion, chronic disease prevention and management information including useful links to a number of related websites. Over time, additional information will be added to the webpage as the AHPACC Partnership develops further. The new AHPACC Partnership webpage can be accessed on www.health.vic.gov.au/communityhealth/AHPACC



Victorian Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation

