

# Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework

Information update 1

## Background

The Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) is committed to strengthening the voice of Aboriginal people, communities, and organisations in the development of DHHS policies and programs. Engagement, consultation and partnerships between Aboriginal communities and the department are central to self-determination and improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

## Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework

The DHHS has commissioned the evaluation and development of an **Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework (engagement framework)**. The framework will articulate a model for engagement, partnership and co-design between Aboriginal communities, government and agencies to provide policy direction, program development, and advice for the transparent monitoring, implementation and accountability of outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians. It will include resources, tools, monitoring processes, and linkages across government to ensure the engagement framework can evolve with the community and the department. The engagement framework will provide the department with a common understanding of Aboriginal self-determination and influence the planning, implementation and accountability of co-ordinated responses to improving health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians.

## Co-ordination of effort

The engagement framework will underpin the department's new Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan currently being developed by the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Branch. The connection between these two pieces of work (the Strategic Plan and the Engagement Framework) will enable community input, ownership and partnerships between the department and Aboriginal community. See Figure 1 below.

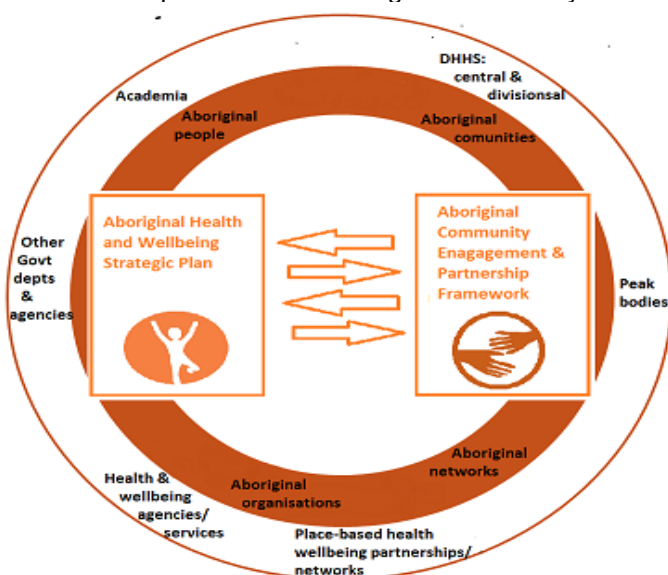


Figure 1:

*Interaction of the Aboriginal Health and wellbeing Strategic Plan and Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework*

## Consultants

Social Compass (<http://socialcompass.com/>) has been appointed to undertake the development of the Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework. Social Compass is a Melbourne based company owned and operated by Wunan Foundation – an Aboriginal development organisation. Dr. John Prince and Mr Nathan Leitch from Social Compass are leading the development of the engagement framework. For more information about John and Nathan see <http://socialcompass.com/about/staff-profiles/>

## Governance

The Department's Executive Board and its subcommittee, the Aboriginal Outcomes Committee, will have ongoing oversight including the subsequent implementation of the engagement framework.

A Project Control Group has been established for the term of the project to provide strategic advice into development of the engagement framework from inception to completion. The Project Control group has representatives from DHHS, Department of Premier and Cabinet and Department of Justice and Regulation.

Ongoing communication and input from Aboriginal stakeholders during this project will occur through Aboriginal advisory groups/forums /networks across the department including the Expert Panel for the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Strategic Plan.

## Time lines

Timelines and deliverables are listed below. See Figure 2 below.

- **April 2016**
  - A review of department's current Aboriginal engagement mechanisms and key learnings from other engagement structures across the Victorian government
  - Literature review to gather evidence on different models and approach to community engagement.
- **April – May 2016**
  - Conversations with key Aboriginal leaders, community members and organisations, and departmental and other government stakeholders is critical in developing the Engagement Framework. Aboriginal organisations, communities and individuals and other stakeholders will be informed about upcoming opportunities to input into these conversations as dates and times are scheduled.
- **July 2016**
  - Draft engagement framework for review and consultation.
- **September 2016**
  - Final Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Framework completed.

**Figure 2. Timelines - Aboriginal Community Engagement and Partnership Engagement Framework.**



## Further information:

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