

# Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation

**Queensland Health is committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and providing services which are culturally respectful and responsive to their needs.**

We recognise the traditional custodians of the land and waters and pay our respects to Elders past and present and to those yet to come as we walk together towards a healthier future.

We remain committed to the Council of Australian Governments' targets to Close the Gap in life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by 2033 and to halve the gap in mortality of children under five years by 2018.

In the spirit of reconciliation we celebrate the uniqueness of the world's oldest living cultures. We respectfully acknowledge the diversity of cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

We are mindful of the negative impacts of colonisation and past government policies, injustices and inequalities that continue to significantly contribute to marginalisation, disadvantage and poor health outcomes experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

We acknowledge and appreciate the financial contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders toward the expansion of Queensland's hospitals, health infrastructure and services. We recognise and regret that this was a part of past government policies of control over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' wages and savings under the 'Protection Acts'.

Queensland Health is committed to providing equity of access to high quality health care services and building relationships based on inclusion with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities. We strive to improve client and patient confidence in our services across Queensland.

We will not tolerate racism, prejudice or harassment. We reject racially prejudiced attitudes, actions and ideologies that impede culturally inclusive relationships.

Queensland Health will continue to foster the principles of reconciliation within its every day practice through implementation of the *Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Capability Framework 2010–2033*, which will be reflected in relevant Department and Hospital and Health Service strategies and plans.

We are dedicated to developing workforce recruitment and retention strategies which increase participation and representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All Queensland Health staff have responsibilities towards closing the gap of disadvantage and working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities for a healthier future.

Michael Walsh  
Director-General  
Queensland Health

19 December 2016

Russell Bowles ASM  
Commissioner  
Queensland Ambulance Service

19 December 2016