

# The Specialist Homelessness Sector Transition Plan (2018-2022)

## Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination

The Specialist Homelessness Sector Transition Plan (2018-2022) outlines 15 goals.

Action tables have been developed to provide more specific detail on what each goal means, why it is important, future vision, relevant literature, good practice examples and helpful resources.

The action tables are designed to be a useful reference and a good starting point for organisations or individuals wanting to action any of the 15 goals in the SHS Transition Plan.

All 15 action tables can be found at: [chp.org.au/shs-transitionplan18/](http://chp.org.au/shs-transitionplan18/).

### 3. Promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination

<p>What we mean</p>	<p>The SHS Transition Plan recognises and supports the principle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination. Consistent with this principle, the Plan recognises the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being able as a first choice to access Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and that these services be resourced to provide appropriate levels of support.</p> <p><b>Self Determination</b> The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN General Assembly 2007), which Australia has supported since April 2009, provides an international articulation of best practice expected in engaging with Indigenous people. The Declaration reinforces Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. Article 18 of this Declaration states the following about Indigenous people and decision making.<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own Indigenous decision making institutions.</li> </ul>
<p>Why is this important</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal people have the right to self-determination in key decisions which impact them and processes should be developed to assist in facilitating Aboriginal self-determination and autonomy in relation to their participation in the SHS workforce and the</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Hunt, J. (2013). *Engaging with Indigenous Australia— exploring the conditions for effective relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australian Institute of Family Studies. <http://chp.org.au/engaging-with-indigenous-australia-exploring-the-conditions-of-effective-relationships/>

	<p>development of culturally competent and appropriate practice in provision of SHS services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite the fact that Aboriginal people are over represented in presentations to homelessness services they are underrepresented in the SHS workforce</li> <li>• In order to effectively provide support to Aboriginal people presenting to SHS services it is important that SHS services are culturally competent and appropriate.</li> <li>• Offering culturally competent and appropriate services to Aboriginal people is likely to improve access to services and provide services which are understandable and acceptable to Aboriginal people</li> </ul>
Future Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The principle of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination is embedded in the SHS and actively supported by the sector</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled SHS organisations are strong, robust and appropriately resourced</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are able as a first choice to access Aboriginal services</li> <li>• A strong, capable and vibrant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce which effectively shares Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wisdom and knowledge with the SHS and provides high quality services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</li> <li>• Mainstream SHS services that are culturally competent, welcoming of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and provide culturally competent and appropriate services</li> </ul>
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunt, J. (2013). <a href="#"><i>Engaging with Indigenous Australia— exploring the conditions for effective relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</i></a> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australian Institute of Family Studies.<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Aboriginal Cultural Competency Standards: A Self-Assessment Process for Community Housing Providers. NSW Family and Community Services – Aboriginal Housing Office. (2016)<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Koolin Balit Aboriginal Health Workforce Plan (2014-2017).</i></a> Victorian Government, Department of Health.<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
Good practice examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#"><i>Koolin Balit Victorian Government Strategic Directions for Aboriginal Health (2012-2022).</i></a> Victorian Government, Department of Health.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Origin Communications (2016). *Aboriginal Cultural Competency Standards: A Self-Assessment Process for Community Housing Providers.* NSW Federation of Housing Associations. NSW Department of Family and Community Services as part of the Community Housing for Aboriginal People Strategy.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Health and Human Services (2014). *Koolin Balit Aboriginal Health Workforce Plan 2014-17.* Victorian Government, Department of Health.

<sup>5</sup> Department of Health and Human Services (2013). *Koolin Balit: Victorian Government Strategic Directions for Aboriginal Health (2012-2022).* Victorian Government, Department of Health.

- Aboriginal Cultural Competency Standards: A Self-Assessment Process for Community Housing Providers. NSW Family and Community Services – Aboriginal Housing Office. (2016)
- [NSW Homelessness Industry Partnership Forum \(2017\)](#)<sup>6</sup> to respond better to increasing numbers of Aboriginal people affected by homelessness. This forum marked the first steps of a large piece of work aimed at addressing Aboriginal homelessness. The forum was intended to begin outlining the details of this work including:
  - be a platform for Aboriginal voices to identify priority issues for discussion
  - promote coordination of SHS and mainstream service responses to prevent Aboriginal people entering homelessness
  - identify opportunities to better support Aboriginal workers and workers with Aboriginal clientsshowcase examples of culturally appropriate practice

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<sup>6</sup> The Homelessness Industry Partnership (2017), 'Addressing Aboriginal Homelessness', *SHS Sector Development Project*, <https://www.shssectordev.org.au/projects/addressing-aboriginal-homelessness>