

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION (AIPA)



**AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS PSYCHOLOGISTS
ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2009



The Formation and Development of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)

Background

The National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) indicated that 27% of Indigenous adults had high or very high levels of psychological distress and were twice as likely to report this, compared to non-Indigenous adults (ABS & AIHW, 2007).

Indigenous people are twice as likely to be hospitalised for 'mental and behavioural disorders' and five times more likely to be hospitalized for substance use disorders (SCRGSP, 2007).

Indigenous deaths due to mental and behavioural disorders are alarmingly high when compared to non-Indigenous deaths. Mental and behavioural disorders accounted for:

- 2.5 times as many deaths as expected in Queensland
- 3.1 times as many deaths as expected in SA
- 4.4 times as many deaths as expected in WA
- 7.9 times as many deaths as expected in the NT.

(SCRGSP, 2007)

A recent study of the burden of disease among Indigenous Australians showed mental disorders caused 15.5% of the total disease burden experienced by Indigenous Australians; with anxiety and depression, alcohol dependence and harmful use, and schizophrenia contributing more than three-quarters of this burden (Vos, Barker, Stanley & Lopez, 2007). This is 1.6 times the rate found in the total Australian population; with alcohol dependence and harmful use 4.5 times the rate of other Australians.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Reports and Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Reports provide an alarming picture of comparative disadvantage in relation to access to good quality and culturally appropriate social and emotional and mental health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in urban, regional and remote areas.

The Formation of AIPA

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The enormous disparities in mental health outcomes and an apparent worsening of the circumstances of many Indigenous communities stimulated Indigenous psychologists from all over Australia to meet in Melbourne on March 28 2008 to form the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA). At the meeting a unanimous decision was made to form the association under the auspices of the Australian Psychological Society.

The Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association has the dual aims of increasing the number of Indigenous psychologists and addressing the widening gap in social and emotional and mental health outcomes for Indigenous people. AIPA was formally launched at the Australian Psychological Society Conference in Hobart on September 24 2008. It is the only peak representative body for Indigenous psychologists in Australia.

The original funding agreement between the South Australian Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Department of Health and Ageing and the University of South Australia was to 'develop the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)' by employing a part time project officer to 'manage the day-to-day matters for the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)', (Schedule, p32).

Since AIPA had already formed some months before the contract was awarded to the University of SA, the project was subcontracted to the APS so that the terms of the contract could be acquitted. The aim of this project does not vary from the original contract in that a .4 FTE project officer has been employed to support the formation and development of AIPA.

The project has been managed by Professor Peter Buckskin, Dean, David Unaipon School at the University of South Australia and subcontracted to the Australian Psychological Society's (APS) Public Interest section to support the Steering Committee of AIPA to complete its Action Plan as detailed below.

AIPA remains the only peak national body representing Indigenous Psychologists in Australia.

AIPA aims to increase the number of Indigenous psychologists

Although Indigenous people make up 2.5% of the Australian population, Indigenous psychologists form only 0.3% of the psychology profession (ABS, 2006). This is about one tenth of what it should be. To reach parity within the profession, there needs to be an additional 297 Indigenous psychologists: a 900% improvement on performance to date.

Currently there are 149 Indigenous people enrolled in psychology courses. When these students graduate they will need mentoring, supervision and support from AIPA members to achieve registration and to establish their careers.

See Appendix B for information about the Indigenous allied health workforce.

AIPA's Vision Statement

AIPA is committed to improving the social and emotional well-being and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by increasing the number of Indigenous psychologists, and by leading the change required to deliver equitable, accessible, sustainable, timely and culturally safe primary mental health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban, regional and remote Australia.

Furthermore, AIPA is committed to supporting indigenous psychologists through undergraduate and post graduate courses; and providing professional development to Indigenous and non-Indigenous psychologists to increase the cultural safety of indigenous clients and expanding the skills of psychologists to work with indigenous clients. By maintaining a high standard of practice and engaging in Indigenous psychological research, AIPA is committed to being on the forefront of Indigenous psychology in Australia.

AIPA's Leadership

AIPA's Interim Steering Committee consisted of:

- **Pat Dudgeon (Inaugural Chair) (WA)**
- **Dennis McDermott (SA)**
- **Christine Gillies (NSW)**
- **Amanda Hart (NT)**
- **Cherise Daiyi (NT)**
- **Elizabeth Cameron-Traub (SA)**
- **Carmen Cubillo (Convenor of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Psychologists Interest Group) (NT)**

From February 2009, the Steering Committee was no longer 'interim' and membership was expanded to include:

- **Yolonda Adams (NT)**
- **Graham Gee (Vic)**
- **Yvonne Clark (SA).**

Carmen Cubillo and Cherise Daiyi both resigned from the Steering Committee mid 2009.

Project Aim

To support the formation and development of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA).

Finances

Aside from the small grant provided by the South Australian Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), the Australian Psychological Society (APS) has continued to provide in-kind support through the Public Interest Department and

the time of its managers Heather Gridley and Lynne Casey. The APS generously funds two face-to-face meetings per year for the AIPA Steering Committee and an annual face-to-face meeting of AIPA members.

Final Report to South Australian Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) through the David Unaipon School of the University of South Australia

Project Period and Completion Date

July 2008 to 30 June 2009

This report is presented against the previous contract's activities, with minor variations as follows:

1. Recruitment .4FTE project officer.

A part-time project officer, Kerrie Kelly, was appointed two days per week from August 4 2008.

2. Retention of project officer.

The project officer has remained employed in a part-time role.

3. Summary of day to day issues and opportunities to support the Steering Committee to form AIPA and to progress AIPA's Action Plan as a result of the one-off funding.

See Project Action Plan below.

4. Number of Indigenous psychologists associated with AIPA.

There are 39 Indigenous psychologists registered in Australia (ABS, 2006). AIPA now has 39 members. Of these, 24 are registered psychologists with full membership and 11 are provisionally registered and as such are associate members. In addition, there are 4 student members who have completed their undergraduate education and are either in the workforce or undertaking a higher degree, but are not currently being supervised toward registration. AIPA has also formed informal networks with a number of Indigenous undergraduate students who are studying toward a psychology degree.

So far, all Indigenous psychologists, on learning about AIPA, have joined. All members have been retained to date and have formed strong supportive relationships with each other.

Many members are high achievers who have been recognised with awards, have published authoritative texts and papers, achieved national profiles and are recognised leaders in their fields. The Chair of the Steering Committee is Associate Professor Pat Dudgeon, well-known author and the first Indigenous Fellow of the APS. Four members have completed a PhD and eight members are currently studying toward a PhD. Members work in universities, mental health services, youth justice settings, non-government organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, legal settings, and several have private practices. All states and territories are represented. One in four members are male.

All are active members of the Indigenous communities in which they live. Half of all members live in regional/rural Australia.

See Appendix A for more information about AIPA members.

5. Workshops or meetings organised to support the Steering Committee to establish AIPA and to progress AIPA's Action Plan.

- The AIPA Steering Committee meets monthly via teleconference or more frequently, when required.
- The CEO of AIDA Romlie Mokak assisted AIPA to develop a Vision Statement and Action Plan for Year One during a one-day planning workshop in July 2008.
- Membership criteria have been developed. AIPA will remain a representative group and peak body for Indigenous psychologists, with Indigenous-only membership.
- A strong relationship with the APS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group has been established. This will allow AIPA to build relationships with and harness the skills, expertise and support of the 250 mainly non-Indigenous psychologists who are members of this interest group.

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- An AIPA delegate attended an APS Board meeting which was held in Darwin on August 2008.
- AIPA was officially launched in Hobart on September 24 2008, at the annual conference of the Australian Psychological Society.
- A 2-day face-to-face meeting held in Melbourne on 12 and 13 December was attended by 18 AIPA members. The next face-to-face member's meeting is scheduled to take place in Darwin on September 29 2009. It is anticipated that at least 20 members will attend.
- The Steering Committee met face-to-face on December 12 2008 and 12 May 2009. The next face-to-face meeting of the Steering Committee is schedule to take place in Darwin on September 28 2009.
- All meetings are organised by AIPA and financially supported by the Australian Psychological Society.
- Five Working Groups have been formed to progress AIPA's Action Plan. Current tasks include the following:
 - develop a cultural competence model for psychologists;
 - develop a mentoring model for Indigenous psychologists;
 - develop a framework to support Indigenous psychology undergraduates;
 - develop a paper on Indigenous Healing Models;
 - professional support for members;
 - development of a website / page for AIPA.
- In July AIPA members contributed to a chapter titled *The Social Determinants of Mental Health* in the new mental health text 'Working as Mental Health Practitioners: Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People'. This is a new mental health text book being developed by ACER for OATSIH as a COAG Action Plan on Mental Health strategy. AIPA members have had input into a number of chapters in this text as contributors and also as reviewers.

- A research monograph titled *'Living on the Edge: Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Risk and Protective Strategies for Serious Psychological Distress Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People'* has been completed on behalf of AIPA. This has been peer reviewed and is in the process of being published by the high-profile national body: The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health.

Beverly Raphael, author of *Ways Forward*, reviewed this paper and commented: *'This is an excellent report and makes an outstanding contribution to understanding social and emotional wellbeing. I strongly recommend its acceptance for publication and its wide distribution as an important reference resource'*.

Maggie Walter, an Indigenous academic, reviewed this paper and commented: *'This is an impressive, original and detailed piece of work [which] will find a ready audience both as a valuable teaching tool and in-field reference. It fills a need, which has been up till now distinctly unaddressed within Australian social science literature relating to mental health and wellness'*.

- A weekly newsletter, the AIPA Catch-Up, is distributed to all members via email. This is now also sent on to the 250+ members of the APS interest group: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Psychologists.

6. List of workshops or meetings the members of the Steering Committee have attended to progress the formation of AIPA and to achieve its Aims and Action Plan.

Memberships

- AIPA is an active member of the Indigenous Leadership Group for the Close the Gap Campaign headed by Tom Calma, Australian Human Rights Commissioner. AIPA has leadership of a policy development group focused on developing partnerships to contribute to 'Closing the Gap' in Indigenous health outcomes.

The Australian Psychological Society supports AIPA delegates' travel to attend Close the Gap meetings.

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- AIPA is represented on the OATSIH Expert Reference Group for the COAG Mental Health initiative 'Improving the Capacity of Workers in Indigenous Communities'.
- The Chair of AIPA is an editor and major contributor of the '*Working as Mental Health Practitioners: Engaging With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*'. This text book is being developed by ACER and OATSIH for use with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and communities. Several other AIPA members are also co-authors of this text and many reviewed chapters as well.
- Vicky Hovane represents AIPA on the Board of the Mental Health Professional Network, a national program to build professional networks to support primary mental health care.
- AIPA is a member group of the Indigenous Allied Health Network.
- AIPA remains under the auspice of the APS and is represented on an APS/AIPA working party formed to determine the formal location of AIPA within the APS organisational structure.
- AIPA is also represented on relevant bodies and groups within the Australian Psychological Society such as the Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG).
- Three AIPA members, Glenn Williams, Leda Barnett and Ed Mosby developed and acted out suicide prevention scenarios for the Indigenous components of an APS project to develop suicide prevention resources (DVD) for regional and remote areas.
- Dr Christine Gillies represents AIPA on the Board of the Bendi Lango Foundation which raises money for bursaries to support post graduate training of Indigenous psychologists.

Meetings

- Associate Professor Pat Dudgeon, Chair of AIPA's Steering Committee, and Heather Gridley, APS Manager of Public Interest, held meetings with Australian Government Department representatives in Canberra in October 2008 about secretariat funding for AIPA. This was unsuccessful.

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- AIPA members Pat Dudgeon and Graham Gee regularly attend meetings of the Indigenous Leadership Group meetings for the Close the Gap campaign, which includes representatives from all other Indigenous peak professional bodies. This allows networking and collaboration to occur.
- AIPA has actively participated in the Aboriginal Healing Forum hosted by FaHCSIA following the National Apology and several of the consultation forums which were held across the nation during 2009. AIPA also sent a delegate, Vicky Hovane, to attend the stakeholder meetings of peak Indigenous bodies conducted as part of the consultation process.
- Pat Dudgeon represents AIPA on the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Allied Health Network.

Events

- AIPA hosted its national launch at the Australian Psychological Society's annual conference held in Hobart in September 2008. The launch included attendance by local Aboriginal people and the presentation of traditional ceremonial implements by AIPA members Carmen Cubillo and Christine Gillies to the APS President, Amanda Gordon. Carmen Cubillo read letters of support from CATSIN, AIDA and the Human Rights Commissioner at the launch. AIPA achieved national exposure in the media, including ABC radio, SBS, National Indigenous Television, Koori Mail and others.
- AIPA initiated and co-hosted the high-profile and successful National Roundtable on Research and Racism Toward Indigenous Australians held in Perth in May 2009. Co-hosts included the APS, the Human Rights Commission, the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, WA, the School of Indigenous Studies UWA, and the University of Notre Dame Australia.

AIPA members Pat Dudgeon (co-host), Associate Professor Dennis McDermott, Karen Ugle and Belle Glaskin contributed to the Roundtable.

Immediate outcomes of the two-day gathering were a group submission to the National Human Rights Consultation, a 'Boatshed Racism Roundtable Declaration' and letters to the Prime Minister and Premiers of each state and territory containing a framed copy of the Boatshed declaration. In the longer

term, proposed initiatives included making the Racism Roundtable an annual event, writing a book about racism drawing upon the expertise of Roundtable participants, hosting an ongoing 'think tank' to advise policy makers, and a 'rapid response team' to challenge racist representations in the media and popular discourse.

AIPA is the lead body responsible for the carriage of this initiative into the future and a publication of proceedings is currently being developed for publication. For more information about the Roundtable, see: <http://www.psychology.org.au/publications/inpsych/highlights2009/>

Presentations

- Presentations about AIPA have been made at the Creating Futures conference in Cairns held in September 2008, the Psychology and Indigenous Australians: Teaching, Practice, and Theory conference held in Adelaide in September 2008, the annual conference of College of Community Psychologists in Perth in July 2009, to the Close the Gap Steering Committee and by AIPA members in their workplaces and other professional settings. A power point presentation has been prepared to support members to present information about AIPA.

Submissions

AIPA made written submissions about the social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to:

- The Expert Reference Group Primary Health Care Strategy in February 2009. See: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/primaryhealthstrategy-241>
- The Medical Journal of Australia in the Indigenous Health edition in April 2009. See: http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/190_10_180509/dud10384_fm.html
- The Draft National Preventative Health Strategy, June 2009.

- The United Nations Special Rapporteur, James Anaya in August 2009, during his Consultations on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation Development Team, August 2009.

Copies of these submissions or the paper 'Living on the Edge: Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Risk and Protective Factors for Serious Psychological Distress Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander are available on request.

Development of Workshops

- Associate Professor Dennis McDermott will deliver AIPA's first Cultural Competence workshop for non-Indigenous practitioners at the annual APS conference to be held in Darwin in September 2009.

Requests

- There is a high level of interest in the new association and AIPA receives a constant stream of requests to make comment, distribute information to members, advertise vacant positions, provide consultants and for information about AIPA and Aboriginal mental health and service provision, pathways to enter psychology courses, and access to appropriate referral points.



Photo: AIPA members meet together.

AIPA Project Action Plan

The project officer has worked with the APS and the Steering Committee of AIPA to achieve the following Action Plan:

Action		Completion date
1	<p>Identify all Indigenous psychologists and develop a database of Indigenous psychologists.</p> <p>Progress: Information about AIPA members has been entered into a database and individual profiles have also been created.</p>	<p>By September 2008</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
2	<p>Organise teleconference meetings for the Steering Committee of AIPA, assist in setting agendas, undertake minutes and communicate with members.</p> <p>Progress: Steering Committee teleconferences occur monthly and sometimes more frequently, depending on need.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
3	<p>Liase and coordinate with Steering Committee about matters and opportunities arising which are relevant for AIPA.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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	<p>Progress: Regular liaison and coordination occurs with the Steering Committee and its five Working Groups.</p>	ACHIEVED
4	<p>Organise the travel, agenda and venue for a two-day meeting for all AIPA members in December.</p> <p>Progress: 18 AIPA members attended a face-to-face meeting in Melbourne on 12 & 13 December 2008. Several key APS managers and Board members were also in attendance.</p>	<p>By December 2008</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
5	<p>Organise and support the establishment of a Working Party with APS Board nominees and AIPA representatives to progress the relationship of AIPA with APS.</p> <p>Progress: Working Party was established in December 2008 and its work is on-going.</p>	<p>By February 2009</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
6	<p>Assist AIPA to develop relationships with relevant bodies such as the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Close the Gap Steering Committee, Council of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Nurses and the Indigenous Allied Health Network.</p> <p>Progress: Relationships have been established and letters of support were received from the above bodies at the official launch of AIPA in October 2008.</p> <p>On-going liaison with all Indigenous peak bodies occurs during Close the Gap Steering Committee meetings and on an as needs basis.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
7	<p>Support AIPA to provide input into the mental health and social and emotional wellbeing elements of the Close the Gap campaign</p> <p>Progress: AIPA is an active participant of the Indigenous Leadership Group of the Close the Gap Campaign led by Australian Human Rights Commissioner Tom Calma.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
8	<p>Organise the development of a website for AIPA.</p> <p>Progress: A Working Group to achieve this task was formed in December, 2008 and a set of criteria was developed at this time. The website is being progressed in partnership with the APS.</p>	<p>By June 2009</p> <p>UNDERWAY</p>
9	<p>Assist AIPA members to develop relevant position papers about key issues pertinent to Indigenous psychology; the recruitment, training and support of Indigenous psychologists; and the training and mentoring of non-Indigenous psychologists.</p> <p>Progress: Working Parties have been formed and tasks are being progressed. A number of submissions have been made and these serve as position papers for AIPA,</p>	<p>By June 2009</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>

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	and the research monograph will also serve as a position paper for AIPA.	
10	<p>Assist the Interim Steering Committee and APS to identify sources of funding for AIPA.</p> <p>Progress: Submissions were made to the Department of Health and Ageing's OATSIH and Mental Health Workforce Divisions for secretariat funding, without success.</p> <p>The Australian Psychological Society has generously agreed to fund a part time project officer, 6-monthly meetings of the Steering Committee and an annual meeting of AIPA members, until sources of full secretariat funding can be found.</p>	<p>By June 2009</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
11	<p>Assist the establishment and support the work of an AIPA sub committee to ensure input and representation at the 2009 APS Annual Conference in Darwin.</p> <p>Progress: A sub-committee has been formed, and several submissions have been made for the conference scientific program, in collaboration with the ATSI P &P Interest Group.</p>	<p>By June 2009</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>
12	<p>Assist the APS and AIPA to finalise matters concerning membership of AIPA and the APS.</p> <p>Progress: A Working Party has been formed to progress this task. Recommendations have been submitted to the Australian Psychological Society Board and are in the process of being implemented.</p>	<p>By end March 2009</p> <p>ACHIEVED</p>

Concluding Comments

AIPA has quickly become a vibrant and viable association which enjoys the goodwill and support of the general health community, the broader psychological community and other peak Indigenous health bodies. AIPA members have a strong sense of pride in the new association and demonstrate a clear and supportive commitment to each other as Indigenous psychologists.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Framework Performance Reports and Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Reports present an alarming picture of comparative disadvantage in relation to access to culturally appropriate social and emotional and mental health support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

communities in urban, regional and remote areas.

To date, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists have not been in a position to engage collectively or to provide a source of expertise in the fight to close the gap in social and emotional and mental health outcomes for Indigenous peoples and communities. This project, by assisting in the development of a representative body of Indigenous psychologists with which governments, the psychology profession and other health professions can consult, and which also allows Indigenous psychologists to work collectively and to speak with one voice is making an unprecedented and valuable contribution to the future wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.

Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association members are already much in demand individually and as a group, for media comment, student mentoring, cultural competence training and partnerships with service providers and local communities. The group has already made a significant and sustainable contribution to the future social and emotional wellbeing and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through initiating and hosting the Racism Roundtable and through its paper 'Living on the Edge: Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Risk and Protective Factors for Serious Psychological Distress Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People'. This paper has collated epidemiological data which identifies the unique factors associated with serious psychological distress among Indigenous people and its contribution to preventable morbidity and mortality. Serious psychological distress appears to translate the social determinants of health into individual risk of morbidity and mortality. This finding opens the door for Indigenous psychologists to make a major contribution to closing the gap in general health outcomes, as well as improvements in social and emotional wellbeing and mental health outcomes.

AIPA's achievements against a backdrop of not having a fully funded secretariat and with a very low level of resourcing to achieve its goals, speaks volumes about the passion and commitment of its members to closing the gap in social and emotional wellbeing and mental health outcomes for Indigenous Australians. Imagine what AIPA could achieve if it was adequately resourced and had a funded secretariat to support its members to achieve their vision, which includes leading the change required to deliver equitable, accessible, sustainable, timely and culturally safe primary mental health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in urban, regional and remote Australia.

APPENDIX A

Information about AIPA members

Number of members

There are 39 Indigenous psychologists in Australia (ABS, 2006).

So far AIPA has 39 members:

- 35 members are psychology graduates and are either registered in their state / territory or being supervised to achieve this.
- 4 student members have graduated but are not registered or provisionally registered as yet.

Grade of Membership

Of the 39 AIPA members:

- 24 are full members
- 11 are associate members
- 4 are student members

Qualifications

Qualifications include:

- 4 have completed PhD's
- 8 are PhD candidates
- 7 have a masters qualification
- 10 have honors degrees in psychology
- 24 are registered
- 11 are provisionally registered
- 5 are clinical psychologists and one is a forensic psychologist

Location

Jurisdiction	Number AIPA members
Queensland	10

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Western Australia	9
New South Wales	7
Northern Territory	5
South Australia	3
Victoria	3
Tasmania	1
ACT	1
Total	39

Other information

- 9 members are male (26%)
- 2 are Associate Professors
- 2 have published text books
- One is a poet
- One member is retired
- Thirteen have received awards.

APPENDIX B

Information about the Indigenous allied health workforce

Table 1: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people employed in selected allied health professions 2006

Profession	Number	Proportion	Number required to achieve parity at 2.5%
Physiotherapists	54		
Psychologists	39	.3	336
Medical imaging professionals	20		
Speech professionals and audiologists	14		
Occupational therapists	13		
Pharmacists	11		
Dieticians	7		
Optometrists and orthoptists	8		
Podiatrists	7		
Chiropractors and osteopaths	6		
TOTAL	179		

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 2: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in selected allied health fields of study 2006

Profession	Number
Psychology	149
Physiotherapy	29
Occupational therapy	15

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Nutrition & dietetics	11
Speech pathology	7
TOTAL	211

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Table 3: Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people employed in other health professions 2006

Profession	Number
Nurses	1,223
Doctors	100
Dentists	16
Aboriginal Health Workers	965

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

References

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