



Queensland
Government

Queensland Health

**Strategic Policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children
and Young People's Health 2005-2010**

Implementation Guide

BACKGROUND

In September 2005, the Queensland Government endorsed the *Strategic Policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People's Health 2005-2010* (the Strategic Policy) and Implementation Plan. The Strategic Policy presents strategies and actions to deliver critical levels of investment to intensify effort around 0-18 year old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to improve their health and wellbeing to a level commensurate with that of other Queensland children and young people.

Implementation of the Strategic Policy takes a staged approach to enhance the delivery of primary health care services in the following priority areas:

- maternal health
- the early years
- sexual and reproductive health.

The implementation of the Strategic Policy will be enhanced by an investment of approximately \$21 million over four years specifically to support healthy and safe children, young people and families. This investment is part of the 2005-06 State Budget funding of \$68.8 million over four years to improve the health of Indigenous Queenslanders and implement the *Queensland Government Implementation Plan for the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 2004-2008*.

PURPOSE

This Implementation Guide summarises the key items in the Implementation Plan including key deliverables actions, timelines and reporting requirements.

The Guide will assist Queensland Health and its partners to implement the Strategic Policy at the Statewide and local levels.

PARTNERS

Effective partnerships and joint planning at all levels are required to make best use of resources and provide the intensity and whole-of-system response required to implement the Strategic Policy. To achieve change, action will be required across a range of sectors and at all levels of government.

Queensland Health will facilitate implementation of the Strategic Policy in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, communities and organisations, other state government departments, the Australian Government (Department of Health and Ageing), non-government agencies, the private sector and academic institutions. Further details of partnering agencies will be included in the Implementation Guide as the implementation process progresses.

In 2002, Queensland Health, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (formerly Forum) and the Australian Government (Department of Health and Ageing) established the Agreement on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (2002) (Framework Agreement). The Framework Agreement is managed through The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership.

Queensland Health and all signatories to the Framework Agreement, agreed to work in partnership with other agencies at the regional level to address health and wellbeing, including that of children and young people. In February 2005, The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership established a Working Group for Children and Young People's Health with the development of a specific policy for children and young people's health as its priority.

Implementation of the Strategic Policy will occur in the context of The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership and *Partnerships Queensland: Future Directions Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy in Queensland 2005-2010* (Partnerships Queensland).

The Strategic Policy is the first of the health portfolio's deliverables under Partnerships Queensland. In addition to Statewide cross-agency Response Plans under Partnerships Queensland, local level cross-agency service delivery plans will be developed across government via Negotiation Table interactions and where applicable, Local Health Forums. This will facilitate agencies to consider how their program development and service delivery can improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families.

MEASURING PROGRESS

The Implementation Guide covers key activities for the period 2005-2010. This includes the four year funding period from 2005-09. A report on implementation will be provided to the Queensland Government in three years time.

By 2009 significant progress should be evident around:

- partnerships and planning at local, regional, state and federal levels
- enhanced health workforce that is re-orienting to health promotion, prevention, early detection and intervention
- data collection and monitoring processes
- enhanced evidence-based program delivery.

Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Policy will be included in the Work Plan of the Children and Young People's Health Working Group of The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Partnership. Reports on progress will also be provided to the Partnerships Queensland Chief Executive Officers Committee.

An Evaluation Framework will be progressed during 2006 to assess progress and identify areas for change and refinement in the Implementation Plan. Throughout the implementation process new data and indicators may become available that will further complement the evaluation.

It is anticipated that the Framework will comprise the following components:

- implementation process
- informed planning
- integration and coordination of evidence-based services
- intermediate-term impact

- longer-term outcome
- service delivery initiatives (maternity, health monitoring, ear/hearing health)
- changes in resource uses, cost and outcomes as a result of increased expenditure.

The Implementation Guide will be updated annually and will take account of information from the evaluation indicators, expenditure levels and new evidence emerging from researchers.

Key Implementation Activities

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
Key Deliverable 1 Recognise the importance of partnerships which include the roles of parents, caregivers, community leaders and government sharing responsibility to act on the social determinants of health to improve the health outcomes of children and young people	Develop and implement a communication strategy: – Policy launch and dissemination – Background Paper (Strategic Policy A1.6)	Ongoing implementation of communication strategy	Policy and Legislation Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, Public Affairs and Partners
	Develop an evaluation framework (Strategic Policy page 27)	Implement evaluation framework	Policy and Legislation Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit and Partners
	Develop a data and research agenda to document and continue to develop the evidence-base (Strategic Policy A3.3.3)	Implement a data and research agenda	Policy and Legislation Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, Health Information Branch and Partners
	Develop partnerships between the education, training, employment and health sectors at federal and state levels to ensure	Continue collaboration with partners to maintain adequate workforce	Workforce Planning and Coordination Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts,

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
	<p>an adequate supply of skilled workers and the development of new roles in the workforce</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A1.5; A3.2.4; and A3.2.7)</p>		<p>Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council and Partners</p>
	<p>Establish Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) or local shared responsibility agreements with investment strategies</p> <p>(links to Key Deliverable 2 and Strategic Policy A1.2)</p>	<p>Implement MOUs/agreements</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
<p>Key Deliverable 2</p> <p>Promote, resource, and support collaboration, local planning, coordination, effective communication, and the partnerships necessary to provide quality health care.</p>	<p>Develop and implement information and social marketing programs to share information and evidence about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - parenting roles - factors affecting health and actions to address them - social and cultural identity and emotional and spiritual wellbeing - availability of health and wellbeing services <p>(Strategic Policy A2.1)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
	<p>At local level collaborate with communities to decide priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal, children and young people's health consistent with evidenced based practices</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A3.1.1)</p> <p>Commence collection and dissemination of population data, community profiles, health services data and health status data to inform local priority setting</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A3.1.1)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ensure data is kept up to date and accessible</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p> <p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
	<p>Develop and disseminate a register of successful local activities</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A3.1.2)</p>	<p>Ensure directory is kept up to date and accessible</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
	<p>Develop/update and disseminate a directory of local services</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A3.1.3)</p>	<p>Ensure directory is kept up to date and accessible</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
<p>Key Deliverable 3</p> <p>Integrate new and existing primary care services to improve continuity of care and access to the secondary and</p>	<p>Establish new coordination, program and workforce development positions to drive the implementation of the Strategic Policy</p> <p>(Strategic Policy Objective 3.2)</p>	<p>Establish processes with Partners and undertake processes and activities to drive implementation of the Strategic Policy</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
tertiary parts of the health system. Key Deliverable 4 Deliver enhanced, culturally respectful, competent, evidence-based primary health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pregnant women, infants, children, young people, their families and communities.	Audit roles and skills of new and existing Indigenous Health workers (Strategic Policy A3.2.5)	Identify gaps and enhance role of Indigenous Health Workers in Teams	Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners
	Develop and implement options for re-entry and re-training of Indigenous Health Workers who have left the workforce (Strategic Policy A3.2.7)	Ongoing	Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, Workforce Planning and Coordination Branch and Partners
	Develop strategies to address the existing placement of health workers in the operational stream by offering a stream with career pathways and appropriate levels of remuneration and articulation (Strategic Policy A3.2.7)	Implement strategies	Workforce Planning and Coordination Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts
	Develop strategies to integrate information systems across Queensland Health services and Aboriginal community controlled services (Strategic Policy A3.3.1)	Implement and evaluate strategies	Health Information Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners
	Develop and implement a mechanism for consistent recording and monitoring of Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander health status of 0-18 years olds	Implementation and evaluation	Health Information Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
	<p>(Strategic Policy A3.3.4)</p> <p>Develop strategies to improve Indigenous identification processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluate present practices - Identify the extent to which children are lost to the system at birth <p>(Strategic Policy A3.3.6)</p>	<p>Implement and evaluate strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop training and promotion activities - Investigate options for mandatory recording of Indigenous status 	<p>Health Information Branch, Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit and Partners</p>
	<p>Recruit new positions in agreed Area Health Services to enhance primary care services</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A3.2.9 and A3.2.10)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
	<p>Describe existing model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children young people and their families</p> <p>(links to Key Deliverable 2 and Strategic Policy A3.1.4)</p>	<p>Enhanced provision of promotion, prevention and early intervention strategies and support services, referral pathways, information sharing protocols and coordination between primary, secondary and tertiary level health services/service providers (cross sectoral), within all public health programs and other government departments</p> <p>(Strategic Policy A4.5 – 4.36)</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>
	<p>Enhance local models of maternal and child health promotion, prevention, early detection, intervention and treatment (pre conception, antenatal - birthing - 4 years).</p>	<p>Enhance local models of maternal and child health promotion, prevention, early detection, intervention and treatment (pre conception, antenatal - birthing - 0-4 years, 5-12 years)</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners</p>

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
	(Strategic Policy A3.14 and A4.5 – A4.18)	(Strategic Policy A4.5 – 4.20)	
	Enhance sexual and reproductive health services and promotion including health literacy of young people 13–18 years. (Strategic Policy A4.21 – A4.32)	Ongoing	Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners
		Develop, implement and evaluate State-wide education and promotional resources for maternal and child health and the sexual and reproductive health of young people (Strategic Policy A4.5 – 4.36)	Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts, and Partners
<p>Key Deliverable 5 Contribute further to developing the evidence for what works in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Key Deliverable 6 Develop innovative ways of working at individual, family, community, service provider and organisational levels.</p>	<p>Collaboratively develop partnership business cases for the development and evaluation of three Initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four recurrently funded approaches (one urban, one provincial and two rural and remote) to the provision models of maternity care from antenatal – birthing – post natal – 2 years 2. Health monitoring and recording of health status for 0–18 years 3. Ear/Hearing Health program for 0–12 years <p>(Links to Key Deliverables 3 and 4 and</p>	<p>Implement Business cases for the three initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maternity care from antenatal – birthing – post natal – 2 years – Health monitoring and recording of health status for 0–18 years – Ear/Hearing Health program for 0–12 years <p>(Links to Key Deliverables 3 and 4)</p>	<p>Statewide Child and Youth Health Unit, Area Health Services and Districts</p>

Key Deliverables	Actions 2005-06	Actions 2006-10	Business Unit/Relevant Agencies
	Strategic Policy A4.1 – A4.4)		