

HEALTH SERVICE INVESTIGATION

TORRES AND CAPE HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICE

UPDATE FOR STAKEHOLDERS - FEBRUARY 2024

In August last year, a Health Service Investigation (**investigation**) for the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Services (**TCHHS**) commenced. Since that time, the investigation has progressed with the investigators undertaking a range of activities including interviews with stakeholders and relevant persons and organisations.

As we head into 2024, it is timely to now provide an update on the progress and next steps of the investigation.

What is the investigation about and who are the investigators?

The investigation is looking at the administration, management and delivery of public sector health services provided by TCHHS to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the TCHHS health service area, representing almost 70% of the total population. This will include an assessment of health services provided by TCHHS, strengths of the previous Torres and Cape Model/s of Care that are not captured within the current approach to service delivery and an assessment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety.

The specific issues that are the subject of the investigation are detailed in the [Terms of Reference](#).

Three investigators have been appointed under Part 9 of the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* (Qld) (**HHB Act**). I am leading the Investigation with other investigators appointed being Dr Mark Wenitong and Associate Professor Jon Willis.

What progress has been made to date?

As our first step, we held an introductory briefing session for stakeholders on 24 November 2023 and travelled up to the TCHHS region to conduct initial face to face meetings with individuals in late November 2023. In addition, we have provided a briefing session for the Board, the Northern Sector Executive of the TCHHS and for the new TCHHS Chief Executive.

We are grateful to all those who have given their time to participate in meetings and provide us with information. Since the introductory briefing session and throughout the December and January Christmas/New Year period, we have been gathering and reviewing documents and information from Queensland Health, the TCHHS and other organisations. We have also conducted further meetings with other key individuals and a number of these meetings occurred in late January, with others arranged for February 2024.

To date we have met with over 37 people, with the majority being from a First Nations background. There has also been a good mix of representation from staff of the TCHHS, other health service providers, the communities covered by this investigation and peak bodies.

Next steps

The investigation is progressing and we are continuing to gather information and documents as well as conducting interviews, meetings and discussions. We are also in the process of scheduling another in person visit to various locations in the TCHHS geographical area which will involve site visits and further meetings and discussions.

The timeframes for the first report in March 2024 which will deal with Part A of the Terms of Reference with a further report focused on Part B to follow in May 2024.

We again thank those persons who have participated in the investigation process to date.

Professor Cindy Shannon AM
Lead investigator