

## Meeting Communiqué 28 May 2024

Members of the NHLF met in-person and online on 28 May 2024. This was a planning workshop with facilitation assistance provided to the Chair, Karl Briscoe CEO of NAATSIHWP, by Justin Noel from Origin Communications Australia PTY LTD.

This workshop also acknowledged the new membership of the First Nations Eye Health Alliance and endorsed the membership of the First Peoples Disability Network. The NHLF membership consist of 15 member organisations. It was fitting that the first meeting of the year would be a face-to-face workshop to allow new members to hear about the history of the NHLF:

- Originated in response to the 2005 Social Justice Report by the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Tom Calma.
- The NHLF was formed in response to the above report, to be a voice/ body that advocates for improving health outcomes and to close the health inequity gap.
- The aim was to be a collective independent voice and led to the establishment of the community-led Close the Gap Campaign in 2007 with the aim of making governments held accountable for their actions and inactions.
- The NHLF advocated that to close the gap, action was require not just across the health sector but for all other social determinants of health.
- The advocacy work by the NHLF and others also to raise the profile and importance of the cultural determinants of health towards closing the gap.

Notable achievements have been the:

- 2011 - The NHLF and the Department of Health co-designed the 'My Life My Lead' consultations leading to the development of the 2013-2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan, which was the first national policy to name racism and cultural safety as a tool to combat racism.
- 2019-2021 - the NHLF and the Department co-designed the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan. This was a 3-year process – role in guiding breadth and depth of the content of the plan.
- 2020-2021 the NHLF lead the co-design with all jurisdictions of the 2021-2031 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategic Workforce and Implementation Plan.
- 2020 and continuing – NHLF working closely with AHPRA to embed cultural safety into the regulatory and accreditation framework for 16 health professions.

The purpose of this meeting was to consider the NHLF name as part of a broader review and discussion around the NHLF's purpose and priorities. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) underpins the NHLF purpose. Each member has their own priorities identified by their own membership, and as a collective there is much in common, which informs the NHLF's priorities such as:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Addressing racism and developing culturally safe health system.</li> <li>▪ Indigenous knowledges within models of care, research and research, service design.</li> <li>▪ National Agreement Priority Reforms</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workforce development, recruitment and retention, skills development, and scope of practice.</li> <li>▪ Governments should enable cultural governance frameworks and reference back to community within public and private health environments.</li> <li>▪ Health in prisons</li> </ul> |
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Second part of the workshop discussed the NHLF name because the National Health Leadership Forum is not widely known outside of the national health space and the name itself does not automatically identify this group as being about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. The discussion identified key elements want for the name and it was agreed that options would be developed for members to decide on at next meeting.

The community led Close the Gap Campaign is co-chaired by the NHLF Cahir and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Ms Katie Kiss. This meeting was great opportunity to meet with the new Commissioner and hear about her priorities and how that aligns with the NHLF work.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 2024. For further information, please contact the [nhlf@iaha.com.au](mailto:nhlf@iaha.com.au).