



CATSINaM

30 April 2014

Ms Anne-Louise Carlton  
Manage, Health Practitioner Regulation Unit  
Department of Health Victoria  
GPO Box 4541  
Melbourne 3001

Dear Ms Carlton

I am writing to you on behalf of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) regarding the National Code of Conduct for unregistered health workers.

As the national health professional peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives CATSINaM's purpose is to

*honour an holistic and culturally safe approach to achieving optimal health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. We develop and promote strategies to ensure that this holistic and culturally safe approach is understood and applied by nurses and midwives working in Australia.*

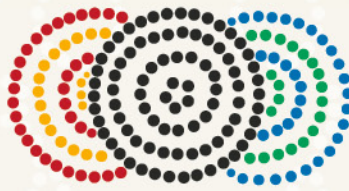
On this basis CATSINaM is generally supportive of the proposed National Code of Conduct to apply to unregistered health care workers. However, whilst the draft Code provides a minimum standard for safe and ethical behaviour, CATSINaM believes there is a lack of recognition for the need for health care workers to provide a culturally safe and respectful environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Accordingly we recommend the requirement for **a health care worker to provide health care in a culturally responsive manner** be included under clause one *Health Care workers to provide services in a safe and ethical manner* subclause 2.

CATSINaM is actively working to build relationships and partnerships with a range of stakeholders across the health sector as part of our commitment to make a substantial and positive difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians' health service experiences and outcomes. A key part of our work is to advocate for health services to become culturally safe working environments for nurses and midwives, as well as to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Culturally secure service provision is paramount in achieving best health outcomes. Accordingly we wish to provide you our Cultural Safety Position Statement.

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES

5 Lancaster Place, Majura Park 2609 | Phone: 0427 896 446 | Email: [catsinam@catsinam.org.au](mailto:catsinam@catsinam.org.au) | Web: [catsinam.org.au](http://catsinam.org.au)

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CATSINaM

We trust that when developing the National Code of Conduct, health care workers as well as health services, combine the cultural rights and values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with the best that the health care system has to offer.

Yours sincerely

Janine Mohamed  
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Cultural Safety Position Statement

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