



## **PART 2**

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**Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander Health  
Practice Council**  
of NSW

# **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council of NSW**

Annual Report 2018-19

**JOINT ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE 15 NEW SOUTH WALES HEALTH PROFESSIONAL COUNCILS**  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL CHINESE MEDICINE COUNCIL  
CHIROPRACTIC COUNCIL DENTAL COUNCIL MEDICAL COUNCIL MEDICAL RADIATION PRACTICE COUNCIL NURSING  
AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY COUNCIL OPTOMETRY COUNCIL OSTEOPATHY COUNCIL  
PARAMEDICINE COUNCIL PHARMACY COUNCIL PHYSIOTHERAPY COUNCIL PODIATRY COUNCIL PSYCHOLOGY COUNCIL

# President's Message



**Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander Health  
Practice Council  
of NSW**

Firstly, I would like to thank the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council NSW members for their continued commitment and diligent efforts to ensure that the Council operates as seamlessly as possible.

I would like to share my warm regards and welcome back Rosemary MacDougal on her return to office as the Council's legal member and Deputy President.

My first year as Council member and President has been quite an 'eye-opener' engaging with the Health Professional Councils Authority NSW and other Councils. There has been minimal activity during my first year of office, however, I am not sure that this is a good or positive thing, and it concerns me that there are negligible complaints around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners (AHPs). This seems to be historic when consulting my predecessors, and is a domain I am interested in exploring further in collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (National Board).

This year has provided great opportunities for collaboration and networking between the state Council and the National Board as we are predominately operating in the same space but at different levels — state and national, registration and complaints. However, our objectives are very much similar in that we want good, quality, effective and high functioning professional Aboriginal Health Practitioners in the ever-growing workforce aligned to regulatory and accreditation standards. I have had the opportunity to be included in the development of the new Aboriginal Health Practitioner promotional brochures and invited to attend National Board meetings, which has been a positive and moving experience.

This year I, and Luke Taylor (President of the Podiatry Council and Chair of the Presidents Forum), engaged with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group that has been established to ensure cultural safety is paramount in the regulatory and accreditation domains across all 15 professions in Australia.

The Strategy Group sets the tone and provides the foundations for ensuring a culturally safe environment free from racial discrimination and biases across Australian health systems, programs and services. Below are some of the key priority areas being undertaken by the Strategy Group:

- Shared agreement around the definition for Cultural Safety across all professions and health services — deriving from public consultation
- Provision of 'cultural safety' training and professional development

**Part 2:** Reports from Health Professional Councils

- Progression from Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to Innovate RAP for the national regulatory body AHPRA to become a more culturally safe and responsive organisation
- Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice workforce
- Planned 2020 National Summit on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce.

It is exciting and passionately drives me to continue working with the Strategy Group as they are doing some really good and positive work at the national level collectively with appropriate stakeholders. This in turn will have a positive and quality impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander holistic health and health services across Australia.



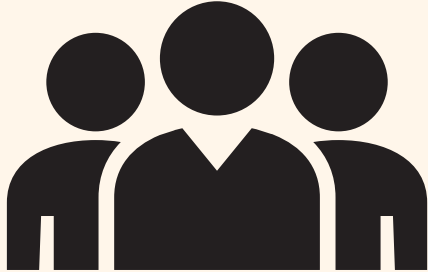
**Mr Christopher O'Brien**

President

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council of New South Wales

# 2018-19 Summary

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

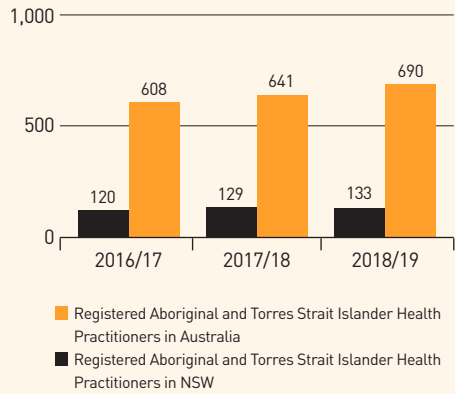


**133**  
Registered  
Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander Health  
Practitioners  
in NSW

**19%**  
of Australian  
Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait  
Islander Health  
Practitioners  
practise in NSW

**1.5%**  
of NSW Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait  
Islander Health  
Practitioners had  
complaints made  
about them

3 year trend in number of registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners



## COMPLAINTS ABOUT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTITIONERS



**0**

cases were open at the beginning of the year



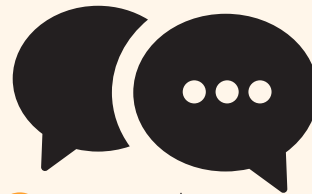
**1**

case was closed during the year



**1**

case was open at the end of the year



**2**

complaints were received about 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners in 2018/19

**1**

of the complaints received was a mandatory notification about 1 practitioner

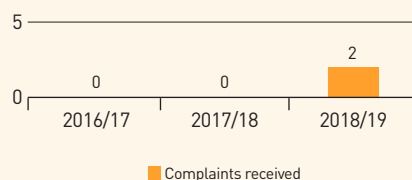
Complaints were from:

Employer - **1**  
Another practitioner - **1**

Complaints were about:

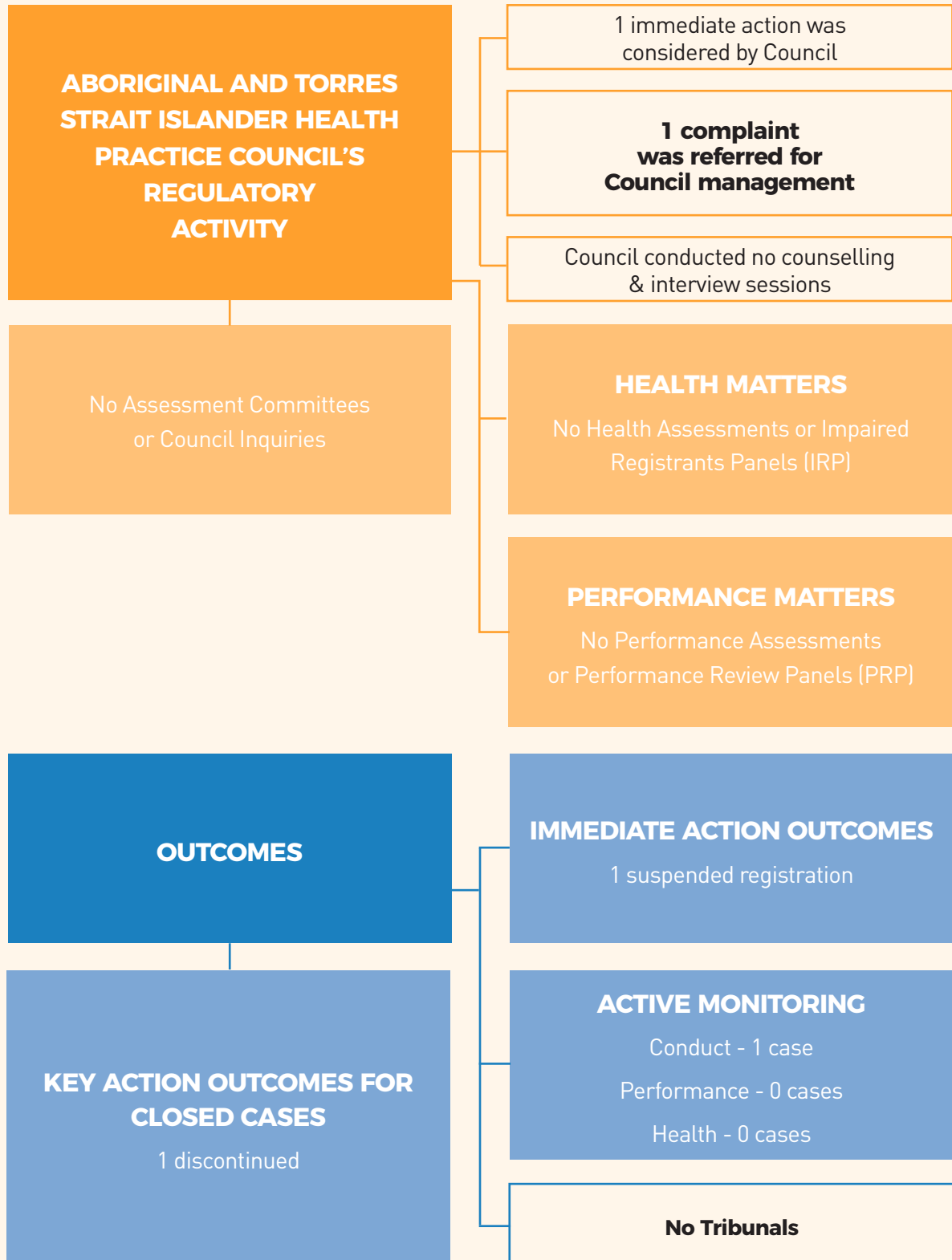
Confidentiality - **1**  
Offence - **1**

3 year trend in number of complaints about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners



# 2018-19 Summary

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PRACTICE COUNCIL'S REGULATORY ACTIVITY - **MATTERS CONCLUDED**



## Council Members

Four members sit on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council as set out in the National Law.

Council members are nominated by the Minister for Health and appointed by the Governor.

Registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council practitioner members:

- Mr Christopher O'Brien ATSIHP, Dip Mgt, Cert IV TAE, JP
- Ms Rae Reed ATSIHP, Aboriginal Liaison Officer
- Mr Peter Panguue BAppSc (Aboriginal Community Management and Development)

Legal member:

- Ms Rosemary MacDougal Dip Law (LPAB)

The Governor appointed Mr Christopher O'Brien as President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council.

The Governor appointed Ms Rosemary MacDougal as Deputy President of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council.

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.

## Executive Officer

Farina Bains is the Executive Officer for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council. The Executive Officer leads a team of 11 who work with 11 of the health professional Councils.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

## Council Meeting Attendance

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council did not meet face to face during the year. Council business was conducted through electronic communications.

## Regulatory Committees and Panels

The National Law sets out the committees and panels that assist the Council to undertake its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:

- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)
- Assessment Committees

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council did not appoint any regulatory committees or panels during the year.

## Council Committees

Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council did not appoint any Council committees during the year.

### Council Communications and Stakeholder Engagement

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council's website provides easy access to information about the Council and its work, publications, the complaints process and an online complaint form.

### Overseas Travel

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council did not incur any overseas travel costs during the year.

### Remuneration

Council members are entitled to the following remuneration.

President	\$720 per meeting more than 3 hours \$360 per meeting up to 3 hours
Deputy President	\$590 per meeting more than 3 hours \$295 per meeting up to 3 hours
Council Members	\$590 per meeting more than 3 hours \$295 per meeting up to 3 hours

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction.

### Financial Management

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council's accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

Accounts Performance 2018/19	\$
Revenue	7,061
Operating expenditure	9,938
Gain / (loss) on disposal	-
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(2,877)</b>
<b>Net cash reserves* (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</b>	<b>27,366</b>

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Council's budget for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 is as follows.

Budget 2019/20	\$
Revenue	6,600
Operating expenditure	16,053
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(9,453)</b>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report 'Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils'.