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SA Health

Policy

Aboriginal Health Impact Statement

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Version 3.0

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Government
of South Australia

SA Health

1. Name of Policy

Aboriginal Health Impact Statement

2. Policy statement

This policy provides the mandatory requirements to ensure that Aboriginal stakeholders and community members (where appropriate) have been engaged in the decision-making on proposals that affect their health and wellbeing. Culturally respectful engagement will ensure that new or reviewed SA Health proposals are developed in such a way that they optimally address Aboriginal health disparities.

3. Applicability

This policy applies to all employees and contracted staff of SA Health; that is all employees and contracted staff of the Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW), Local Health Networks (LHNs) including state-wide services aligned with those Networks, and SA Ambulance Service (SAAS).

4. Policy principles

SA Health's approach to Aboriginal Health Impact Statements is underpinned by the following principles:

- > We ensure active engagement with consumers and the community to improve health service quality, equity, and management.
- > We recognise early and respectful engagement leads to better outcomes.
- > We recognise tailoring proposals to meet the needs of disadvantaged groups will ensure they better meet the needs of all people.
- > We recognise Aboriginal people are the most knowledgeable about Aboriginal Health.
- > We support equity of outcomes and opportunities.

5. Policy requirements

- > An Aboriginal Health Impact Statement must be completed for every proposal seeking approval at senior executive groups.
- > The three questions which must be considered as part of the Aboriginal Health Impact Statement are:
 - Is the proposal linked with any Aboriginal-specific initiatives?
 - Will the proposal have an Aboriginal impact? (nil, low, or high) Explain.
 - Have Aboriginal stakeholders been engaged, and will they continue to be?
- > Each LHN, DHW and SAAS must develop a local procedure or process to assess and approve Aboriginal Health Impact Statements for proposals with a high Aboriginal impact.
- > The Aboriginal Health Directorate or division within each LHN, DHW and SAAS must review Aboriginal Health Impact Statements to apply an Aboriginal health lens for all proposals (with nil, low or high Aboriginal impact).

6. Mandatory related documents

The following documents must be complied with under this Policy, to the extent that they are relevant:

- > [Statewide Consumer, Carer and Community Engagement Strategic Framework](#)

7. Supporting information

- > [Aboriginal Health Impact Statement Guideline](#)
- > [Aboriginal Health Program Development Guideline](#)

8. Definitions

- > **Aboriginal impact:** means any controllable impact, low or high, positive, or negative, on Aboriginal people's health and wellbeing, Aboriginal health services, Aboriginal people's access to mainstream or Aboriginal-specific health services, Aboriginal people's attitudes and beliefs of health and wellbeing and/or the SA Health Aboriginal workforce.
 - If the proposal is Aboriginal-specific in nature, it has a high Aboriginal impact.
 - If the proposal is for large capital works, delivery or funding of significant services, health reforms, significant service systems (such as ICT, workforce training, communications) or other large scale projects, it has a high Aboriginal impact
- > **Proposal:** means any formal plan or suggestion put forward for consideration or approval at executive. Proposals may include new projects, programs, policies, or services.
- > **Senior executive groups:** means committees comprised of senior executive positions within SA Health.
- > **Statewide services:** means Statewide Clinical Support Services, Prison Health, SA Dental Service, BreastScreen SA and any other state-wide services that fall under the governance of the Local Health Networks.

9. Compliance

This policy is binding on those to whom it applies or relates. Implementation at a local level may be subject to audit/assessment. The Domain Custodian must work towards the establishment of systems which demonstrate compliance with this policy, in accordance with the requirements of the [Integrated Compliance Policy](#).

Any instance of non-compliance with this policy must be reported to the Domain Custodian for Aboriginal Health and the Domain Custodian for the Risk, Compliance and Audit Policy Domain.

10. Document ownership

Policy owner: Domain Custodian for the Aboriginal Health Policy Domain

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11. Document history

Version	Date approved	Approved by	Amendment notes
3.0	27/10/2023	Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Governance	Policy transferred into new template and Policy Framework requirements. Minor update made to list of supporting documents, removed outdated names, updated hyperlinks.
2.0	13/11/2013	Director, Aboriginal Health	Formal review in line with review date.
1.0	01/09/2007	Portfolio Executive	

12. Appendices

Nil