

30 JUNE 2017 TO DECEMBER 2021

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Looking Forward Moving Forward Project



Chief Investigator, Dr Michael Wright, on behalf of the Looking Forward Moving Forward project team, commits to this Statement in collaboration with the senior leaders of the following Service Partners:

Hope Community Services
MercyCare
Palmerston Association
Richmond Wellbeing
Ruah Community Services
St John of God Health Care Midland
Western Australian Association for Mental Health Services
Western Australian Council Of Social Services
Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
Western Australian Mental Health Commission

Contact Michael Wright, Curtin University
m.wright@curtin.edu.au | 0404 055 435

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT

This statement is an affirmation of the partners' five-year commitment to working actively together to enhance and build meaningful relationships to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people living in Western Australia.

WORKING TOGETHER OBJECTIVES

Service partners and researchers will work together to effect changes that will have both a positive and sustained impact that improves the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Working together strategies will impact on three levels:

- Shared learning and mutual support between partner organisations;
- Shared experiential learning that will be integrated across each organisation;
- Using their collective expertise and authority to translate the findings of the project to the broader sector.

The working together intentions

Together, the partner organisations will:

- Commit to the Working Together Objectives by being prepared to:
 - engage in experiential learning and for these learnings to be integrated across each organisation;
 - share ideas and provide support to each other;
 - identify strategies (including mapping spheres of influence) for wider impact.
- Acknowledge that as service partners their relationship with Aboriginal people has not been working, and a change is needed.
- Acknowledge that as service partners the key to building trust with Aboriginal people is to gain respect and establish meaningful relationships.
- Expect that all members of the group are here because they care and are committed to working for change.
- Keep the focus of the work on having a tangible impact at the grass-roots level.
- Commit to staying with the process over the time of the project.
- Commit to taking responsibility to ensure the membership of the group remains consistent (i.e. being proactive about succession planning within each organisation).
- Respect confidentiality of issues that arise within the group.
- Listen deeply, explore others' viewpoints, and be prepared to compromise to accommodate the views of others and note that all viewpoints matter.
- Accept that group decisions may not be universal, but that dissenting or alternative views will still be included in the record of the meeting.
- Bring service delivery issues and feedback to the group for discussion, and take insights and recommendations from the group back to their respective service for integration and implementation.



**LOOKING
FORWARD**
MOVING FORWARD

The Looking Forward Moving Forward Project is a research partnership between service providers in the mental health and drug and alcohol sector, Aboriginal Elders and the Looking Forward Moving Forward Project research team. The Project aims to make services more accessible and responsive to Aboriginal families.

