

First Nations First Health Budget 2024-25

Over the next 4 years, an additional **\$324.7 million** will be dedicated to accelerating efforts to address health inequities among First Nations Queenslanders.

This significant investment in prioritising First Nations' health and wellbeing demonstrates the government's unwavering commitment to closing the gap by 2031.

We recognise the significant role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector, in particular, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH).

This investment is delivering on the Miles Government's commitment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Our key priority is to strengthen and empower the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector, and respond to the failings highlighted in the 2024 Productivity Commission's review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

It directly addresses the recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the National Health Reform Agreement Addendum 2020–25 (released in October 2023), with a clear commitment to working with, and investing in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector.

We are building on the 2009 and 2020 Closing the Gap commitments and the amendments to the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 (2020)* and *Regulation 2012 (2021)*, which require all 16 Hospital and Health Services to co-design health equity strategies and include First Nations membership on their boards. These also address the Auditor-General's report – Health Outcomes for First Nations People (14:2022–23), which was publicly released in June 2023.

Our investment will deliver on Queensland's First Nations First Strategy 2032 across 4 priority areas.

- Eliminate racism
- Reshape the system
- Transform care
- Strengthen our workforce

The First Nations First Strategy 2032 is a comprehensive plan that underscores our commitment to accelerating reform, in an endeavour to achieve excellence in care and health equity for all First Nations people in Queensland by 2032.

Queensland Health respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands, waters and seas across Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, while recognising the role of current and future leaders in shaping a better health system.

We value the culture, traditions, and contributions that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to our communities and recognise that our collective responsibility as government, communities and individuals are to ensure equity and equality, recognition and advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Queensland in every aspect of our society.

Queensland Health acknowledges the First Nations peoples in Queensland are both Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and supports the cultural knowledge, determination, and commitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in caring for their health and wellbeing.



Eliminate racism

\$2.4 million

By 2032, First Nations people will receive care from a system free of racism.

This **\$2.4 million** investment over 4 years will:

- lay the foundations to eliminate racism by transforming government organisations so they work better for First Nations people
- support building the foundations for culturally capable health care and putting cultural capability into practice
- develop a statewide anti-racism learning and development framework and a Queensland Health treaty readiness action plan.



Reshape the system

\$156.7 million

By 2032, the healthcare system will be reshaped to meet the needs of First Nations people.

Strong sector, strong system

An investment of **\$9 million** over 4 years will be provided to the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council to:

- uphold a key priority in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap by strengthening and empowering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector
- strengthen and establish formal partnerships and shared decision making with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector
- improve and share access to data and information to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to make informed decisions
- shift health care from hospitals to community health services run by Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health organisations, recognising the cost-effectiveness of early intervention, prevention and comprehensive primary health care
- improve access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled and comprehensive primary health care and provide a better and more coordinated pathway between community, hospital-based care and other social services.

Integrated health and wellbeing precinct at Station Road, Logan

An investment of **\$20 million** over 4 years will:

- expand the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service in Logan into an integrated health and wellbeing precinct serving the local population of 4,000 First Nations people
- provide a one-stop shop for primary care, medical specialists, allied health care, family wellbeing programs, housing services, youth health services, early education, youth justice services, disability and aged care services, and the Jajumbora Birthing in Our Communities (BiOC) Hub.

Strengthen the capability and capacity of the sector across Queensland

An investment of **\$35.2 million** over 4 years will support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector by:

- increasing the capacity and capability of regional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health care providers to lead the planning, development and commissioning of integrated healthcare services for First Nations people – involving a networked system of care with Hospital and Health Services, Primary Health Networks and other providers to meet local needs
- increasing health care managed in a community setting to reduce visits to the emergency department, shorten hospital stays and lower re-admission rates, creating better patient experiences
- supporting the creation of a health commissioning fund and establishing an independent, community-controlled healthcare commissioner for the Cape York and Torres Strait regions to strengthen and establish formal partnerships and share decision making.

Unleash the potential of the sector in South East Queensland

An investment of **\$92.5 million** over 4 years to the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health will:

- support the expansion of 5 community-controlled First Nations health and wellbeing service hubs in areas with the highest population growth, increasing the number of clients able to be supported from 2,500 to 7,200 per hub
- ease pressure on public services by enhancing access to primary care, maternity care, allied health and mental health services
- integrate with a broader range of social services, including medical specialists, aged care, disability services, child protection, legal services and housing and homelessness support within the South East Queensland First Nations network.



Transform care

\$20 million

By 2032, we will have a connected health system that First Nations people can access.

This **\$20 million** investment over 4 years will support the transformation of care in areas that significantly impact First Nations Queenslanders' mortality and morbidity rates, including:

- transforming heart health in remote communities by implementing community-designed interventions that support the prevention and early detection of acute rheumatic fever, a precursor to rheumatic heart disease in remote communities
- finalising the Yarrabah and Badu Island Healthy Housing Initiative and expanding this program to Doomadgee and Mornington Island communities.



Strengthen our workforce

\$145.6 million

By 2032, the First Nations workforce will be empowered to deliver flexible care across service boundaries, increasing the number of First Nations health care professionals, improving cultural competency and coordinating care across different healthcare settings.

An investment of **\$30.8 million** over 4 years will:

- support the future First Nations workforce by providing pathways from high school to higher education and frontline services, including statewide Deadly Start traineeships and university cadetships
- build training infrastructure through the expansion of U-me Koola to provide on Country and on-the-job learning to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce
- support the wellbeing and professional development of the First Nations workforce, including our First Nations leadership, so people are empowered and equipped to respond to community needs and expectations
- grow the First Nations leadership to embed First Nations perspectives and strengthen First Nations voices across our health system.

An additional **\$114.8 million** investment over 4 years will support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce in delivering culturally and clinically safe care across Queensland by:

- leading the nation in competitive compensation
- supporting cultural leave of up to 10 paid days
- providing incentives, development support and additional aid for the workforce in remote areas.

These First Nations workforce initiatives are also included in the Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland to 2032 and the Health Workforce Strategy for Queensland to 2032 Investment Plan.

