



## Factsheet 2

### Summary - Individual Scope of Practice Summary

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner Scope of Practice Guideline provides information to inform the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner's scope of practice.

As registered health care professionals, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners are recognised as having their own scope of practice. Although they work under direct or indirect clinical supervision, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners may initiate and undertake a specified range of clinical activities in the normal practice of their work.

A clearly defined scope of practice:

- reduces ambiguity and helps to ensure that the individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner practices safely within their scope
- gives the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner the awareness and confidence to articulate when an activity is outside their scope
- helps to identify activities which could reasonably be brought into scope – with or without further training
- provides clear information to share with other team members to enhance mutual understanding of roles

The individual scope of practice developed upon commencement of employment in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner position and documented in a Practice Plan should be periodically reviewed.

Scope of practice is informed by many factors. The following should be considered in defining (and reviewing) an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner's individual scope of practice:

- individual skills, experience and knowledge
- individual qualifications, training and competencies
- registration conditions, undertakings or notations
- supervision arrangements
- service models of care
- context and acuity of service provision
- skills mix in team settings
- patient profile
- location where services are provided
- legislative, regulatory and policy authorisations.