cohealth acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices stand and pays respects to Elders past and present.

We acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and the impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We acknowledge that this land is a place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ living culture has a unique role in the life of this region.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team at cohealth provides a culturally-holistic and safe service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in metropolitan Melbourne’s north and west, operating from Fitzroy in the north and Braybrook in the west. Our services are part of the wider cohealth community, giving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members free priority access to all cohealth services. You can yarn to one of our friendly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team members about accessing services at cohealth.


‘Wellness Dreaming’ marks the historic moment when North Yarra Community Health, Doultta Galla Community Health and Western Region Health Centre merged to form cohealth. This merge is represented by three individual artworks that together make one. Different tones and animals portrayed in each of the paintings also signify the uniqueness of each organisation and local community, as well as all we share in common.

Ngardarb Francine Riches is a member of the Antyol clan of the Bardi/Djow/ Karajarri tribe. Ngardarb Francine worked with cohealth and lived in Melbourne’s west for many years.
We know the importance of building our own awareness and understanding, and demonstrating respect in our communication and actions. We know the value of fostering community connections to culture and identity, as well as choice and control in wellbeing and health.

We commit to supporting the development and advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through leadership opportunities, education and employment.

Key action areas in our work for Reconciliation:

Community engagement
• Maintain strong relationships and links with local communities
• Encourage input and feedback to help improve our services

Partnerships
• Continue to strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and collaborate to achieve shared goals
• Build and promote referral pathways so people get the services they need, when they need them

Culturally-safe and welcoming services
• Promote free and prioritised access to our services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and encourage healthy lifestyles
• Build holistic approaches to health and wellbeing and culturally-welcoming environments where people feel safe to identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Organisational change and leadership
• Promote leadership for Reconciliation among all staff and Board members
• Demonstrate innovative, evidence-based approaches, and advocate for change
• Learn from and share with others

Communication
• Promote our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and services
• Build our capacity for respectful communication and engagement
• Share our achievements with each other and the community

Contact our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Team at:
Fitzroy - 03 9411 3555
Braybrook - 03 9334 6699

Call us to find out about services in and near:
Collingwood, Fitzroy and Melbourne CBD – 9411 4333
Flemington, Moonee Ponds and Niddrie – 9377 7100
Footscray, Braybrook, Werribee and Melton – 8398 4100

Workforce development
• Grow and strengthen our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce
• Provide forums for staff engagement, networking, training and capacity building to enable safe, culturally-responsive services

Planning
• Maintain an active Reconciliation Action Plan, developed with communities
• Capture our approaches in policy and procedure, and resource staff with information and support

Research and evaluation
• Build our understanding of local communities to plan services that are easier to access and serve their needs
• Work with our communities on research, evaluation and continuous quality improvement that is ethical and respects culture and traditions

cohealth provides a range of health and support services to people in Melbourne’s north and west. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been coming to our services for many years to get free, priority access to quality health care.

We work in partnership to offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a range of medical, dental, mental health, counselling and specialist services including paediatrics (for kids); podiatry (for feet); optometry (for eyes); diabetes clinics; food; recreation activities; and community arts programs.

coh ealth focuses on building relationships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to better understand their needs and to make sure services are accessible, safe and welcoming.

The staff on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health team are supported by management to reach out to the community and raise awareness of our services.

coh ealth’s Commitment to Reconciliation guides our work to improve service access and outcomes, strengthen partnerships, and actively engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Our cohealth Reconciliation Collaborative (a working group of staff and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members) informs and monitors our progress against our Reconciliation Action Plan.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to cohealth’s Reconciliation work, and those who will help us bring it to life in the years ahead.

To find out more about cohealth’s commitment to Reconciliation email reconciliation@cohealth.org.au