

MEDIA RELEASE

FRIDAY 6 AUGUST 2021

National Day of Recognition for the resilient leadership of Aboriginal Health Workers

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), in collaboration with the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), encourages all Australians to acknowledge and celebrate the National Day of Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners on the Saturday 7 August 2021.

The unique workforce of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Practitioner is the important link between the community and the health provider that provides:

- A significant and unique role in obtaining better health outcomes by reducing anxiety and improving the quality of communication for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients through cultural brokerage.
- The basis for the value we place on building rapport, trusting relationships and on-going engagement with both clients and community.
- Culturally safe navigators through the health system.
- Empowerment of Aboriginal people and communities to take control of their own health, and to care for their families.
- Cultural safety that enhances the delivery of health services by identifying the power relationship between the healthcare professional and the person receiving care, and empowering the service user to take full advantage of the health care service offered.

The dedication and success of the Aboriginal Health Worker and Practitioner workforce has underpinned their recognition as world leaders in innovative, culturally-safe health care practice.

“AMSANT acknowledges and applauds the commitment and unstinting work of our Aboriginal Health Workers and Practitioners in continuing to provide essential primary health care and trusted support to their communities”, AMSANT CEO, John Paterson said.

“I encourage young people to consider the Aboriginal Health Worker and Practitioner profession as a career that is both rewarding and greatly valued by the community”, Mr Paterson concluded.

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