

Industry comes together for the first meeting of reconciliation network

October 22, 2021

A group of companies will come together today for the first meeting of the Reconciliation Action Plan Health Industry Network.

The new network has been formed out of the Pharma Australia Industry Group (PAIG) and currently includes over 20 companies from the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors. They are welcoming new members.

The goal is to create a regular forum for sharing lessons and learnings between organisations on their own reconciliation journey.

Fiona Sheppard, the co-chair of PAIG and diversity, equity and inclusion Leader at J&J, helped establish the new RAP Health Industry Network after receiving positive feedback on the PAIG sessions focused on reconciliation.

“Across the industry, we are all at different stages of our reconciliation journey. Through this collaborative network, we hope organisations across the pharmaceutical and medical device industries can have open discussions, share knowledge and reflect on learnings to help each other progress meaningful action around reconciliation with Indigenous communities,” she said.

According to Kris Ashpole, global community impact leader at J&J and RAP lead, “There are already a few industry networks in this space, but none focused on connecting organisations in pharmaceutical and medical device sectors. Our industry is uniquely placed to help address health inequities experienced by First Nations Peoples, and it is important we have a forum to share our knowledge, learnings and experiences and to collectively advance reconciliation in Australia.”

The kick-off meeting will also be attended by a number of guest speakers to help generate discussion, thoughts and insights, including Peter Morrison from Reconciliation Australia who will share the experience of other industry RAP networks.

Nathan Daly from Red Dust will also attend as an indigenous representative and share his perspective from working across the corporate and healthcare sectors.