

Asking the Question

Are you of Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander origin?

The Council of Australian Governments is committed to the Closing the Gap (CTG) initiative from 2007. CTG aims to address the critical health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and other Australian communities.

Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander peoples experience some health conditions that can be managed if known at an early stage. Research suggests the best way to collect this information is to directly ask if someone identifies as an Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander Australian.

Important health checks and treatments may be missed if your health practitioner is not aware of your Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander Australian status. Informing your service provider will help with the design and delivery of an appropriate health care plan, including health checks, immunisations and preventative health care screenings.

Aboriginality identification is one of the standard questions asked to everyone at each appointment regardless of appearance, place of birth or the staff member's prior knowledge. Responding to the question is your choice.

Identifying your Aboriginality helps to:

- Plan and design services according to need;
- Better understand which services and policies produce the best outcomes;
- Improve health care outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians; and
- Better appreciate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians' preferences for services.

Strengthening
primary care in
western Victoria

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