

National Allied Health Practice Engagement Toolkit

Communications pack for Allied Health



Acknowledgements

The Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) led the development of the Toolkit.

HNECC PHN worked closely with a Steering Group of members which included Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA), Indigenous Allied Health Association (IAHA), Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Services (SARRAH), Department of Health and Aged Care Chief Allied Health Office and PHNs from the National PHN Cooperative's Implementation Framework Group (for the National PHN Allied Health in Primary Care Engagement Framework), Brisbane South PHN, Central Eastern Sydney PHN, Northern Sydney PHN, Northern Queensland PHN, Nepean Blue Mountains PHN, Primary Health Tasmania, Western Queensland PHN, and Western Sydney PHN.

We extend our thanks to all allied health providers, individual peak bodies, associations, other PHNs, and stakeholders who contributed to the development of the Toolkit.





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What is the National Allied Health Practice Engagement Toolkit?

The Toolkit is a new resource designed to support allied health professionals across six key areas.



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- 1 Understanding the **local health care system** you operate in, including your **local PHN** and how to connect with other primary care professionals and referrers
- 2 Understanding more about the services and resources that are offered by **Allied Health peak bodies**
- 3 Accessing **learning and education** opportunities to build skills and capabilities to improve patient care
- 4 Improving **safety and quality** in allied health care through tools that support improvement approaches
- 5 Understanding and utilising funding streams and accessing grant opportunities to support businesses efficiency and growth
- 6 Understanding the use of different **digital health** care systems to improve integration and connectivity of the health care system, and to support practice efficiency.

The Toolkit is one element of the reform agenda to strengthen engagement between PHNs and the allied health sector. It is part of a broader ongoing process and builds on the National PHN Allied Health in Primary Care Engagement Framework launched in 2022.

For more information about the Toolkit, please contact:

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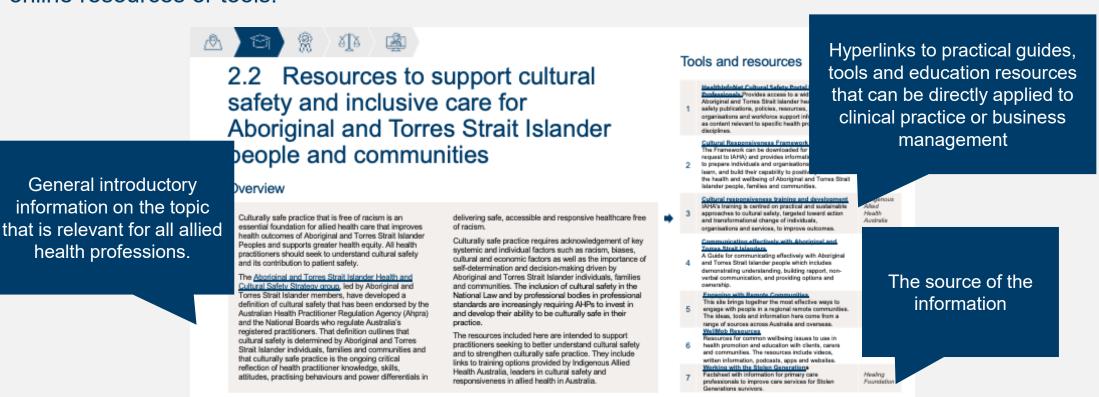
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What is in the Toolkit?

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Each chapter includes a series of topics, with a brief introduction to the topic and a list of (mostly) online resources or tools

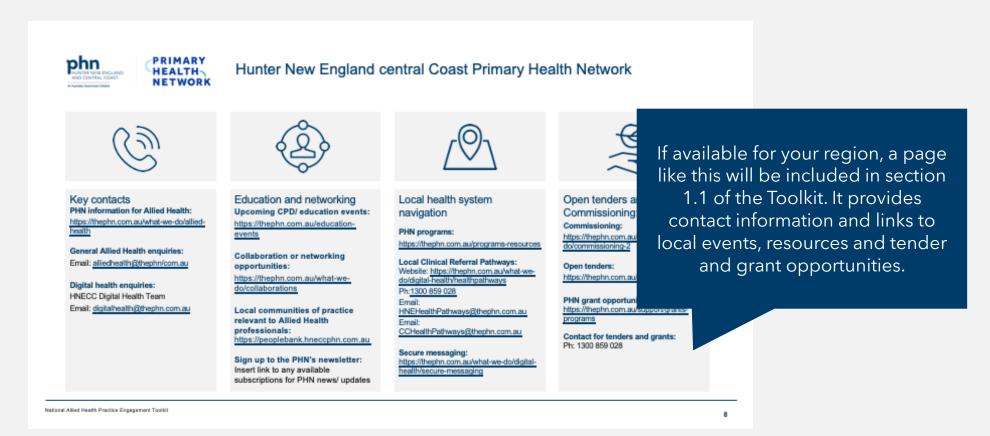


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Does the Toolkit include localised information?

The Toolkit was developed nationally and provides general information that is relevant across all PHNs. However, some PHNs have included localised information in the Toolkit.



How was the Toolkit developed, and by who?

The Toolkit was developed with oversight and consultation with Allied Health associations, Allied Health providers, Allied Health First Nations providers, PHNs, the Chief Allied Health Office, and the Australian Digital Health Agency.

The Implementation Framework Group (IFG) is overseeing the implementation of the National PHN Allied Health in Primary Care Engagement Framework. The Toolkit is one element of this. The IFG have provided oversight and input throughout the Toolkit development process and endorsed the final Toolkit.













Hunter New England & Central Coast PHN provided leadership, support and approvals throughout the project delivery.









Together the consultant and **AHPA** co-delivered the stakeholder consultation process, reviewed resources, and drafted and finalised the Toolkit.





Toolkit consultation and development

	Allied Health provider survey May 2024	Consultation workshops June 2024	Resource collection and stocktake July 2024	Review and feedback September 2024
Key activities	 Launched allied health provider survey 400 responses from across all states and territories and 25 different professions. 	AHPA and consultant co-facilitated 7 workshops with a total of 122 attendees, including: • Allied Health associations (x2 workshops) • Allied Health providers (x 2 workshops) • Allied Health First Nations providers • PHNs (x 2 workshops) • Consultation interviews with SARRAH, IAHA, CAHO and Aust Digital Health Agency	 Conducted stocktake of available resources against the focus areas that were collected through consultation process plus desktop research. Ran a collection exercise of resources from Allied Health peaks and PHNs. 	IFG session to discuss feedback and seek endorsement Feedback received from an additional 8 PHNs
Purpose	 To understand the interest of allied health providers in the initial topics of the Toolkit. 84% of Allied Health responded were members of an allied health peak group. Clinical quality and improvement, and local health system navigation were the top rated topics of interest. 	 Identified and confirmed the priority focus areas for the Toolkit. Education and networking was a recurrent theme and hence an additional focus area. Identified the topics of interest to address in each of the focus areas. 	Resources were vetted for: relevance to the whole allied health sector longevity reliability of the source	Refine and finalise Toolkit and Implementation Plan based on feedback

Contacts

PHN members of the PHN Cooperative allied health Implementation Framework Group

Brisbane South PHN

Central Eastern Sydney PHN

Hunter New England Central Coast PHN

North Queensland PHN

Nepean Blue Mountains PHN

Primary Health Tasmania PHN

Sydney North PHN

Western Sydney PHN

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Contact for the Toolkit



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