



| |
|--|
| HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY |
| TITLE: Accreditation Of Training Leading To Entitlement To Registration As An Aboriginal Health Worker In The Northern Territory Policy and Framework |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: 26 February 2008 |
| BOARD: THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS BOARD OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY |

Purpose

The framework for accreditation of courses and training providers providing entitlement to registration in the category of Aboriginal Health Worker in the Northern Territory has been developed to ensure graduates of those courses are competent practitioners who recognise and value the importance of the partnership the profession has with the community. The framework also provides guidance to organisations that provide, or intend to provide, educational programs leading to registration as an Aboriginal Health Worker.

The statutory responsibility of the Board is to protect and promote the public interest through the maintenance of Aboriginal Health Workers' standards of conduct and competence. To assist in achieving this purpose, the Board has a statutory mandate to approve and monitor educational programs that lead to registration.

The Health Practitioners Act, section 10 states in part that: the Board has the following functions: -

- (f) to monitor competence of health practitioners
- (g) to accredit courses for entry into the category of health care practice for which it is established;
- (h) to accredit educational institutions to conduct course referred to in paragraph (g)

1. Policy Statement

The accreditation framework reflects the Board's statutory responsibility under the *Health Practitioners Act* and is consistent with contemporary regulation principles and practices. In developing the framework for the accreditation, conduct and monitoring of Aboriginal Health Worker programs, the Board aims to:

- 1) Ensure a safe standard of Aboriginal Health Worker care is provided to the community;
- 2) Ensure that Aboriginal Health Worker graduates are prepared with the appropriate knowledge, skills and values to meet community requirements and the standards of practice articulated by the profession; and
- 3) Encourage Aboriginal Health Workers to demonstrate high standards of conduct and competence by promoting continuous improvement to Aboriginal Health Worker practice.

2. Accreditation Framework

The Board

- 2.1 Endorses the decisions of the Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority for the registration of organisations providing nationally recognised training and assessment services;
- 2.2 Endorses the decisions of Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority for the accreditation of nationally recognised courses;
- 2.3 Requires Registered Training Organisations provide evidence to the Board of their Registered Training Organisation scope of registration;
- 2.4 Requires Registered Training Organisations provide evidence to the Board of their registration as a Registered Training Organisation; and
- 2.5 Requires Registered Training Organisations to include a Board representative at delivery and assessment review meetings and validation forums.

3. Accredited Aboriginal Health Worker Education Programs

- 3.1 A member of the Aboriginal Health Workers Board or its delegate must be included in Delivery and assessment review / validation processes.
- 3.2 The Board requires a minimum of 90 days prior notice of the following:
 1. Any changes to an accredited program;
 2. Changes to major concepts; and
 3. Major changes to allocated resources.