MEDIA RELEASE

NATASHA FYLES
MINISTER FOR HEALTH

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Minister for Health

Putting culture at the centre of Indigenous health care

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The Northern Territory Health Minister has launched a new framework, placing culture at the centre of Indigenous health service delivery.

The Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework provides a 10 year guide to improving health services through the delivery of culturally safe, responsive and quality health care to Aboriginal Territorians.

“Cultural security means building a system where Aboriginal people feel safe, confident and able to participate fully as both consumers and providers of health care without fear of judgement or discrimination,” Natasha Fyles said.

“Indigenous people make up almost 30 per cent of the NT’s population and account for the majority of the NT’s public health service consumers.

“The Northern Territory has an important role in setting appropriate standards for cultural security in health, and demonstrating the benefits to be gained through the delivery of culturally secure services.”

The Framework will apply to all staff and services across NT Health, providing a consistent approach to action in health care design and delivery for Aboriginal Territorians.

“We have to recognise that culture is central to health if we want to enhance service access, equity and effectiveness,” Ms Fyles said.

The framework will be embedded into operational and service delivery plans, with regular reporting and appropriate monitoring.


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