



HHS, CACH & QAS
working together

Our Way - Together

SOUTH WEST HHS FIRST NATIONS HEALTH EQUITY CUNNAMULLA PLACE-BASED ACTION PLAN 2026 - 2027

Culturally safe, community-led, connected care



**Better outcomes
for our community**

This Action Plan adopts a place-based approach to advance health equity in Cunnamulla, ensuring that action is grounded in local priorities, informed by community voice, and responsive to the realities of rural and remote life. Engagement has demonstrated that many community members have not experienced or observed meaningful progress toward achieving health equity, highlighting the need for more visible, practical, and locally relevant action.



**Seamless,
connected care**

Health equity means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have access to care and opportunities that are culturally safe, appropriate, and free from systemic barriers, enabling equitable health outcomes. Achieving this requires more than system-level commitment—it requires targeted, community-informed action that addresses the unique challenges and strengths of place.



**Co-design
with community**

In Cunnamulla, health and wellbeing are shaped by a complex interplay of social, cultural, environmental, and geographic factors. Distance, access to services, workforce availability, and continuity of care all influence how people experience the health system. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, these challenges are further compounded by the need for care that is culturally safe, trusted, and consistent.

This Action Plan responds to these realities by moving beyond one-size-fits-all approaches and embedding a coordinated, place-based model of care. It strengthens local leadership, aligns services and partners, and prioritises practical actions that improve access, integration, and cultural responsiveness.



**Shared
planning**

Over the next twelve (12) months, the plan will drive focused, locally informed action that reflects what the community has shared. It establishes a framework for shared accountability and ongoing engagement, ensuring that progress is not only planned, but experienced, recognised, and sustained by the Cunnamulla community.

Ultimately, this approach ensures that health equity is not an abstract goal, but a lived reality—delivered through services and systems that work for Cunnamulla, with community at the centre.



HOW WE WILL TRACK PROGRESS



Workforce
growth



Community
feedback &
engagement



Patient
journey
improvements



Strength of
partnerships &
collaboration



Evaluation &
continuous
improvement

OUR PRIORITY AREAS



Work together with Cunnamulla First Nations peoples, Traditional Owners, staff and partners to create culturally safe programs guided by local knowledge.

Addressing KEY PRIORITY AREA 1 & 5



- Co-design cultural safety program, aligning with mandatory South West HHS Cultural Practice Program, with Traditional Owners, partners and staff.
- Embed local Cultural Reflections part of training program.
- Create learning schedule.
- Deliver Cultural Reflections for incoming staff to Cunnamulla.
- Provide more ways for community to give back.



By September 2026:

- Co-design program model with key stakeholders in Cunnamulla
- Identify opportunities for staff participation

By December 2026:

- Develop learning schedule
- Delivery of Cultural Reflections
- Invite local and visiting staff to participate
- Trial new feedback options

By June 2027:

- Continue delivering Cultural Reflections
- Monitor participation and gather feedback
- Review outcomes and improve the program



This work is led by the Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Engagement, supported by South West HHS teams.

It is delivered in partnership with:

- Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH)
- The Cunnamulla community



Support holistic connected care for First Nations people in Cunnamulla and surrounding communities by promoting services and roles that work together across organisations.

Addressing KEY PRIORITY AREA 4 & 5



- Promote Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Navigator, Midwife and Indigenous Liaison Officer role in community.
- Strengthen collaboration between South West HHS, Queensland Ambulance Service, CACH.
- Work together with partners to provide clear information on how services can support community.



By September 2026:

- Strengthen collaboration between South West HHS, QAS and CACH to promote these roles and how they can benefit patient's journey.
- Establish a working group to lead community awareness on services.

By December 2026:

- Develop clear and targeted information about services and roles.
- Maintain regularly meetings between all stakeholders.

By June 2027:

- Review consumer feedback and service data to assess collaboration and service delivery.



This work is led by the Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Engagement, supported by South West HHS teams.

It is delivered in partnership with:

- Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH)
- Queensland Ambulance Service
- The community partner organisations



Strengthen transport, accommodation and discharge support while continuing to make Cunnamulla facility culturally safe and welcoming for community.

Addressing KEY PRIORITY AREA 2



- Improve communication between Cunnamulla MPHS and the community through regular updates.
- Provide information about services.
- Explore options to create more culturally safe and private spaces.
- Work with community members and local First Nation artists to develop welcoming signage.



By September 2026:

- Establish communication channels and improve communication with regular service updates
- Develop easy-to-understand community information

By December 2026:

- Embed regular information sessions
- Establish community yarnning circles
- Begin planning for culturally safe spaces and signage
- Review and improve transport processes
- Develop a patient journey guide

By June 2027:

- Continue community engagement activities
- Review and evaluate patient journey with feedback



This work is led by the Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Engagement with service delivery support from Cunnamulla MPHS staff, Quality and Safety and Cultural Capability and Engagement Officer.

It is delivered in partnership with:

- Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH)
- The Cunnamulla community



Attract, retain and develop First Nations staff through targeted initiatives and shared placement opportunities.

Addressing KEY PRIORITY AREA 6



- Expand programs like Deadly Start and First Nations cadetship program across services.
- Work with local schools to promote health careers and support work experience for students.
- Create clearer pathways into training, jobs and careers in health.



By September 2026:

- Review how Deadly Start and Cadetship opportunities can be implemented across services in Cunnamulla and wider HHS.
- Work with schools to strengthen work experience pathways and promote to Year 9 and 10 students to support future traineeships.

Long term goal:

- Deliver a community expo in Cunnamulla.
- Grow local training, placement and employment opportunities.
- Partner with organisations to support career pathways across different roles and services.



This work is led by the Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Engagement with support from workforce, education and health service leaders.

It is delivered in partnership with:

- Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health (CACH)
- Local schools and training providers
- Community organisations and interagency groups