Aboriginal Cultural Security

Northern Territory Department of Health, Office of Aboriginal Health Policy & Engagement
Presentation Objectives

• Provide an overview of the NT Health Aboriginal Cultural Security Framework 2016-2026 - development and implementation process

• Outline the initiatives to support the implementation of the Framework

• Highlight challenges and early lessons
• Launched by Minister in December 2016
• Identifies six domain areas for action
• Aim is to provide further guidance and strategies for all employees on implementing cultural security
Northern Territory Demographic

- Population of 244,005 (at June 2014)
- 29.6% of our population is Aboriginal
- The vast majority of Aboriginal people live:
  - Outer Regional Area – 20.3%
  - Remote Area – 21.4%
  - Very Remote Area – 58.3%
- Geography: 1.4 million km or 17.6% total land mass
- More than 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects spoken

Data Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2014 report: Northern Territory

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The journey

- Evidence / Current practice
- Consultations – Health Services
Where did we land?

Domain 1: Workforce
Domain 2: Communication
Domain 3: Whole of Organisation Approach
Domain 4: Leadership
Domain 5: Consumer Participation
Domain 5: Quality Improvement, Planning, research and Evaluation
Mechanisms supporting implementation

- Communication and Engagement Plan
- Aboriginal Cultural Security Toolkit
- Aboriginal Health Innovation Sponsorship Fund
- Monitoring, Reporting and Learning Framework
- Service Delivery Agreements with Health Services
- Training
Lessons Learnt

• This is a journey
• Defining roles / responsibilities
• Tight fiscal environment
• Expectations
• Value add and Ownership
• Accountability
• Engagement and Communication
• Celebrate / acknowledge what is already being done (demystifying)
• Maximise efforts / small wins
Benefits of Cultural Security

- Skilled and culturally reflective workforce
- Consumer participation and self-determination
- Responsive organisational culture
- Policies, procedures and systems

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For further information contact the Northern Territory Department of Health, Office of Aboriginal Health Policy and Engagement on 8999 2871 AboriginalHealth.DoH@nt.gov.au