

# My Life My Lead - Opportunities for strengthening approaches to the social determinants and the cultural determinants of Indigenous health: Report on the national consultations December 2017



PRIORITY AREA 6

## Health service access



"Cultural practices, languages and communication styles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are often not understood by health professionals, nor their significance appreciated.

As a result, there are difficulties in establishing positive patient-health professional relationships."

(Online submission, Palliative Care Australia)



Of Indigenous Australians reported that **they needed to but didn't go to a health care provider** during 2012-13<sup>1</sup>

Between July 2013 and June 2015, **Indigenous Australians** were discharged from hospital against medical advice at

**7X THE RATE OF Non-Indigenous Australians.**



Indigenous people are also more likely to leave Emergency Department without waiting to be seen.<sup>2</sup>

### NEXT STEPS

A collaborative approach that builds on existing efforts to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to culturally competent and culturally safe services they need, when they need them, will:

- Improve access to mainstream health services;
- Improve access to oral and ear health services;
- Enhance coordination of wrap around services throughout the justice system;
- Support better access through digital health; and
- Support service coordination.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 Report, AHMAC, Canberra

<sup>2</sup> Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 Report, AHMAC, Canberra