

4 December 2020

The Commissioner  
National Mental Health Commission  
Level 29, 126 Phillip Street,  
Sydney, 2000



Dear Commissioner,

### **Consultation submission on the Vision 2030 Roadmap**

QAIHC as the peak body for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisations (ATSICCHOs) in Queensland, wish to express the collective views on behalf of its Members, in response to the Vision 2030 Roadmap: Key Concepts Consultation Paper 2020.

QAIHC was established in 1990 by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders within the community-controlled health sector. From our first meeting 30 years ago, QAIHC has grown to be a national leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health as a voice for our 26 Members, two regional bodies and 14 Associate Members. ATSICCHOs provide culturally appropriate, holistic, comprehensive, primary health care services across more than 60 services in Queensland.

QAIHC acknowledge the Commission's effort on leading the development of a national direction for mental health and wellbeing to create a successful, connected mental health and suicide prevention system to meet the needs of all Australians. QAIHC also note the recent substantial consideration given to this topic by the Productivity Commission in their Inquiry into Mental Health.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experience a disproportionate burden of mental ill-health compared with non-Indigenous people. Substantial barriers exist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, preventing them from experiencing good mental health and wellbeing. These barriers include inter-generational trauma, institutional racism, inequitable access to culturally safe mental health and wellbeing services and social-economic factors such as grief and loss, poverty, unemployment, education, homelessness, substance misuse, risks of violence and physical ill health, high rates of incarceration.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' mental health and wellbeing is an active concern for QAIHC and our Members; and we are interested in being part of the solution to establish an efficient mental health system that meets the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

QAIHC support the development of a Roadmap which incorporates solutions that will fundamentally improve system level structures and address socio-economic determinants that meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

However, due to the limited timeframes available for consultation and feedback on the Consultation Paper, QAIHC are unable to undertake adequate engagement with Members to prepare a considered response on this occasion.

We request the Commissioner notes the following QAIHC submissions and incorporates our recommendations in the design of the draft Roadmap:

1. QAIHC Submission to Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Australia into the discussion paper on renewing the 2013 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Strategy (November 2020)
2. QAIHC Submission to the Healing Foundation into the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Strategy (May 2020)
3. QAIHC Submission to the Productivity Commission into the Mental Health Draft Inquiry (February 2020)

QAIHC is working collaboratively with NACCHO and are aware that a draft Vision 2030 Roadmap will be circulated for further consultation shortly which we hope to engage with.

Yours sincerely,



**Cleveland Fagan**

Chief Executive Officer (Acting)

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council