

Policy Concordance: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health, Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



The Centre of Best Practice in
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Suicide Prevention



Policy Concordance: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health, Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention, government policies are critically important because they influence what services are available and how they are delivered – with enormous consequences for people’s lives.

This Concordance is a collection of guides to policy and decision-making at national and State/Territory levels. It includes:

- profiles of key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, government departments and agencies and other organisations with an important role in policy processes
- formal policies that describe governments’ commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, and how they intend to deliver on them
- other essential documents – for example community submissions to policy processes and the most influential research reports.

The Concordance is for anyone seeking information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention policy in any part of Australia, including government and ministerial policy staff, researchers, service providers and community organisations. The focus is on current

policy documents. However some older publications are included where they have been particularly influential, and policies and strategies are included after their intended finish date if they have not yet been replaced and are still guiding practice.

Social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention are complex and multi-faceted and do not fall neatly into a single policy domain. This Concordance focuses on the organisations, processes and policies most directly related to these issues, acknowledging that important policy work also takes place in other domains – including education, justice and family services. The Concordance is a living resource and the CBPATSISP welcomes suggestions for additional inclusions.

This section of the Concordance focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention policy in South Australia. Chapters on the other States and Territories, and national policy, can be found at cbpatsisp.org.au.

Key organisations

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

Organisation	Purpose
Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Limited (AHCSA)	AHCSA is the peak body representing Aboriginal community-controlled health and drug and alcohol services in South Australia. It is the 'health voice' for all Aboriginal people in South Australia, advocating for the community and providing support for Aboriginal health programs. It is SA's NACCHO affiliate and a Member of the Coalition of Peaks.

Government

Organisation	Purpose
Preventive Health SA	Preventive Health SA incorporates SA government mental health and wellbeing initiatives, building resilient communities and engaging with the people of SA to co-design and develop projects and strategies that respond to community mental health and wellbeing needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> works across primary and secondary prevention to lead system change and better support community health and wellbeing; Primary prevention: we are promoting wellbeing and supporting people to lead healthy lives. Secondary prevention: we are supporting people to prevent risk factors developing into established disease.
SA Health – Mental Health	SA Health provides and commissions hospital and community-based mental health services.
SA Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation	The Office of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation sits within the SA Attorney-General's Department. It has a wide-ranging remit in promoting rights, culture and equity.

Policy documents

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Date	Title	Organisation	About
2023-2031	SA Aboriginal Health Care Framework 2023-2031	SA Health	<p>This high level framework situates health delivery for Indigenous people in SA within the context of national and state commitments, including the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>The Framework sets the direction for SA Health's investment in Aboriginal health by outlining four strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Healthier Aboriginal communities Strengthen Aboriginal workforce Improve health service access and delivery Partner for better outcomes
2021	South Australia's Implementation Plan for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	SA Government	<p>This Implementation Plan includes detailed commitments to Aboriginal mental health, social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a South Australian Aboriginal Mental Health and Wellbeing Centre Developing a South Australian Aboriginal Suicide Prevention and Wellbeing Plan

Whole of community

Date	Title	Organisation	About
2023-2026	South Australian Suicide Prevention Plan 2023-2026	SA Health	<p>This plan includes a section on Aboriginal people (p13), which focuses on social and emotional wellbeing as a protective factor including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining connection to Country, spirituality, ancestry and kinship networks. • The capacity for self determination. • Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal knowledge systems. • Strong positive cultural identity, pride and sense of belonging. • It also makes a commitment to trauma-informed, Indigenous-led suicide prevention approaches.
2020-2025	South Australian Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 - 2025	SA Health	<p>The South Australian Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2025 is a high-level commitment to community and acute care service planning and delivery. It includes a commitment to develop an Aboriginal Health Care Framework.</p>
2020-2025	SA Mental Health Services Plan 2020-2025	SA Mental Health Commission / Office of the Chief Psychiatrist	<p>The SA Mental Health Services Plan aligns with the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan and is organised in three high-level categories:</p> <p>Personalised care and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People receiving services are actively engaged as partners in their care • Perinatal, infants, children (0-12) and families have improved access to and engagement with mental health services and support • Young people (12-24) have positive mental health and early intervention services access for any emerging mental health issues • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to culturally safe and appropriate initiatives determined by local communities • Older people have access to mental health programs and support that reduce the impacts of mental illness <p>Integrated Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People obtain timely and effective mental health care and support that promotes wellbeing and respects diversity • Services work together in partnership to provide a coordinated response to meet individual needs • People with a mental illness will have better physical health and live longer <p>Safe and High Quality Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving safety and quality in mental health services to reduce harm, uphold human rights and support inclusion • Mental Health Services promote fairness, inclusion, tolerance and equity in all interactions • The workforce is supported to provide the best care
2022-2026	Bilateral Schedule on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	South Australian Government, Commonwealth Government	<p>The Bilateral Schedule is the South Australian agreement under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, which sets out the shared intention of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to work in partnership to improve the mental health of all Australians, reduce the rate of suicide toward zero, and ensure the sustainability and enhance the services of the Australian mental health and suicide prevention system.</p> <p>The Bilateral Schedule include SA-specific commitments including funding allocations and sites for service expansion.</p>