



CATSINaM

15 April 2014

The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs
Inquiry into harmful use of alcohol in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the national health professional peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives CATSINaM's purpose is to

honour an holistic and culturally safe approach to achieving optimal health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. We develop and promote strategies to ensure that this holistic and culturally safe approach is understood and applied by nurses and midwives working in Australia.

A key component of our work is to promote health (and community) services to become culturally safe working environments for nurses and midwives, as well as providing culturally safe services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Culturally secure service provision is paramount in achieving best health outcomes and should be the basis of any strategy to minimise harmful alcohol use. Accordingly we wish to endorse the position put forward by the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) and to provide the Committee a copy of our Cultural Safety Position Statement.

We trust that any response to this matter incorporates the cultural rights and values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly with the health and community services systems to ensure they provide the best outcomes possible.

Yours sincerely

Janine Mohamed
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: CATSINaM Cultural Safety Position Statement

CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER NURSES AND MIDWIVES

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