INNER EAST PRIMARY CARE PARTNERSHIP

Inner East Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Community Profile

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Inner East Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Community Profile

1.   Preamble

This community profile has been prepared by IEPCP as a data source document to support our partners with their planning, submissions, service support, and advocacy, and to contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work and play in our catchment.

While this profile is drawn from the 2016 Census, it is does not reflect the wider population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may study or work in the Inner East, nor the wider Victorian Aboriginal Community with ongoing cultural and ancestral connections to this region. This profile also does not attempt to identify the health and wellbeing needs of residents. Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in the Eastern Region will have their own statistics and understandings about the composition and needs of the Aboriginal Community. Reference should be made to these agencies for more recent and nuanced information about Community needs and priorities.

2.   Overview

According to the 2016 Census, the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population in the Inner East was around 1,300. The Inner East covers the local government areas of Boroondara, Manningham, Monash and Whitehorse. In metropolitan Melbourne, the population was 23,301 in 2016, of which Inner East's share was 5.6%. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in the Inner East Region constitute a significant population cohort. While the numbers are comparatively small, population size is less relevant than status as First Nations peoples, whose ancestors have been in Australia for thousands of years and generations and to whom respect and acknowledgement is owed. For the health and community services sectors, there is also the broader community context of longstanding inequalities in health and life chances between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians due to the continuing intergenerational impacts of colonisation and dispossession.

The Inner East Region is located on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation, part of which is formally acknowledged as Wurundjeri country (Manningham, northern sections of Boroondara and Whitehorse local government areas). Monash and southern sections of Boroondara and Whitehorse fall within land claimed by both the Boon Wurrung/Bunurong and Wurundjeri clans: these overlapping land claims are yet to be formally resolved by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council.[1]

The Wurundjeri has formal recognition as the traditional owners and custodians of the Yarra River (Birrarung).[2]

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[1] Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council see https://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/registered-aboriginal-party-applications-council

[2] *Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act* 2017 (Victoria). This Act was legislated as an integral part of the Victorian Government's Yarra River Action Plan. Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning 2017. See https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/waterways-planning/yarra-river-protection

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Inner East are drawn from diverse communities across Australia, many residents will have ancestral, family and community affiliations with the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung/Bunurong clans, and ongoing cultural connections to the land and waters of this region.

The cultural heritage values and spiritual significance of this area remain, despite the vast changes to the natural environment that have been wrought since European occupation commenced in 1835, and the forced removal from Country of the traditional owners during colonisation. Much of the Inner East forms part of the lower catchment and floodplains of the Yarra River, known as Birrarung in the Woi wurrung language ('river of mists and shadows') and has long played a vital role in community life, providing important places of spiritual and community activity such as birthplaces, ceremonial and burial grounds, as well as resources.[3] [4]

Photo: Philip Mallis November 2017 Flickr Wurundjeri Stories at Pound Bend in Warrandyte State Park is an Indigenous Interpretative Signage Trail highlighting one of the many sites of significance in the Inner East.

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[3] Melbourne Water (2009). Know your river: Yarra River. Melbourne Water Corporation. See p.14 See also Manningham Council Wurundjeri Stories at Pound Bend Visitors Information Guide https://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/indigenous-and-reconciliation
[4] Aboriginal land management was highly sophisticated and is set out at length in Pascoe, Bruce. (2014) *Dark Emu*. Magabala Books, Broome, and Gammage, Bill (2011) *The Biggest Real Estate on Earth*: How Aborigines made Australia. Allen & Unwin, Sydney.

3.   Census Profile

Note that the comparisons for each indicator by local government area in the tables below are with the Census results for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander population of Victoria, not the population of all Victorians.

Population distribution in the Inner East

Table 1: Inner East Region Indigenous Population				
LGA	Aboriginal	Torres Strait Islander	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Total Indigenous Population
Boroondara	291	18	8	317*
Manningham	182	25	8	213*
Monash	367	21	19	414*
Whitehorse	322	27	7	358*
Inner East Region	**1,162**	**91**	**42**	**1,302*[5]**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile, Boroondara, Manningham, Monash & Whitehorse

Almost 90% of Indigenous residents in the Inner East identify as Aboriginal. Families and individuals who identify as Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander have a different cultural identity and traditions and practices that also need to be acknowledged.

Population Age Structure

Table 2: Inner East Region Population Profile Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples							
Age	Local Government Area				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
0-4 years	22	20	40	31	113	8.7	11.5
5-14 years	35	41	71	65	212	16.4	21.8
15-24 years	81	43	108	69	301	23.2	19.0
25-34 years	60	21	49	37	167	12.9	13.7
35-44 years	38	28	52	42	160	12.4	11.0
45-54 years	29	25	50	39	143	11.0	10.6
55-64 years	17	16	23	31	87	6.7	7.3
65 years +	23	18	25	47	113	8.7	5.3
Total	**305**	**212**	**418**	**361**	**1,296**	**100**	**100**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Profile, Boroondara, Manningham, Monash & Whitehorse[6]

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[5] * ABS makes small random adjustments made to all cell values to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals. Totals in the above table may also differ slightly from totals in other ABS summaries.

[6] Note that totals are indicative. As above, ABS makes small random adjustments made to all cell values to protect the confidentiality of data. These adjustments may cause the sum of rows or columns to differ by small amounts from table totals. Totals in the above table may differ slightly from totals in other ABS summaries.

The Victorian Aboriginal population generally is young: 52 per cent are under the age of 25 compared to 31 per cent of non- Aboriginal Victorians. In the Inner East, 48 per cent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population are under the age of 25, compared with 31% of the Inner East population generally. There is a lower percentage of children and adolescents aged 14 years and under, and a higher percentage of young people aged 15-24 years. This reflects the much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are living in the Inner East and attending universities (see Table 4 below).

While the proportion of the Inner East Aboriginal population aged 65 years and over is higher than for the Aboriginal population of Victoria (8.7% compared with 5.3%), it is much lower than for the Victorian non-Indigenous population more generally: 8.7% compared with 15.6% Victoria.

The average age of Aboriginal Victorians is 23 years compared to 37 years for non-Aboriginal Victorians. In Inner East, however, the median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents is slightly higher than for Victoria generally.

Table 3: Inner East Region Median Age Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Residents	
LGA	Median Age
Boroondara	26
Manningham	24
Monash	24
Whitehorse	27
Victoria	23

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash & Whitehorse

Household Composition

Table 4: Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Household Composition							
Family/Household Type	LGA				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
One family household: Couple family with no children	49	27	32	42	150	20.0	17.0
One family household: Couple family with children	53	38	59	49	199	26.5	29.3
One family household: One parent family	22	27	44	44	137	18.2	25.5
One family household: Other family	3	3	10	5	21	2.8	1.9
Multiple family household: Couple family, no children	0	0	3	3	6	0.8	0.6
Multiple family household: Couple family with children	0	7	3	3	13	1.7	1.0
Multiple family household: One parent family	0	3	4	3	10	1.3	1.5
Multiple family household: Other family	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.1
Other household	64	22	53	77	216	28.7	23.1
Total	**191**	**127**	**208**	**226**	**752**	**100**	**100**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Whitehorse & Victoria

Other household constitutes the largest household category. This includes lone person households and group households (shared housing of various types). Couples, family with children (26.5 percent) and couples, family with no children (20 per cent) are largely similar proportionately to the household composition for Aboriginal Victorian households. There is a much lower percentage of one parent households among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households in the Inner East than for Victoria, although this is still above the proportion in the wider community (15 per cent in Greater Melbourne, for example).

Education

Table 5: Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Residents Type of Educational Institution Attended							
Institution Attended	**LGA**				**Inner East Region**		**Victoria**
	Boroondara	**Manningham**	**Monash**	**Whitehorse**	Total	%	%
Preschool	4	8	11	7	30	5.8	7.1
Primary	18	25	43	45	131	25.3	35.5
Secondary	34	24	39	29	126	24.3	24.7
Technical or further education	10	3	16	7	36	7.0	6.2
University or tertiary	36	13	43	37	129	24.9	8.6
Other	3	0	4	3	10	1.9	2.9
Not stated	16	4	19	17	56	10.8	15.0
Total	**121**	**77**	**175**	**145**	**518**	**100**	**100**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash Whitehorse & Victoria

The higher percentage of shared households may be influenced by the higher rates of participation in tertiary and further education in the Inner East.

William Cooper Institute Monash University

Around 40 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents were in educational institutions in 2016. Some 165 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents were attending either technical or further education or a university or tertiary institution in 2016; almost 32 per cent of residents in education. This is much higher than for Aboriginal Victorians in higher education, and is higher than for the Greater Melbourne metropolitan area more generally (26 per cent of the population).

While this will be linked to the location of key higher education campuses in the Inner East, it may also reflect increasing attendance rates in higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over recent years. The Closing the Gap report of 2018 reported a surge in university enrolments over the decade. However, the CTG report also highlighted the importance of supporting students to complete

their studies; the dropout rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within the first year of university is still twice that of non-Indigenous students.[7]

Swinburne University of Technology Reconciliation Pit, Hawthorn Campus

Previous research by the Inner East Primary Care Partnership reported that almost 1,000 students of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background were attending university and TAFE institutions in the Inner East, at campuses of Monash University, Deakin University, Swinburne University of Technology and Swinburne TAFE Hawthorn, Box Hill Institute and the campuses of Holmesglen in Chadstone and Glen Waverley.[8] Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending higher education institutions in the Inner East were predominantly living outside the region and travelling to these campuses. It is therefore important to keep in mind that the resident population of the Inner East does not represent the total population of Indigenous Victorians who either live, work or study in the region.

Kim Bradford, former Koori Liaison Officer – Student Life Box Hill Institute and CAE was a key contributor to the IEPCP Koolin Balit project, Health and Wellbeing Services Supporting Aboriginal Tertiary Students in the Inner East.

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[7] Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2018 p.68

[8] Clifford, S (2015), Health and Wellbeing Services Supporting Aboriginal Tertiary Students in the Inner East: understanding the picture. Koolin Balit Project, Inner East Primary Care Partnership. See p.21. https://iepcp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IEPCP-Koolin-Balit-Project-Final-Colour-Report-2015.pdf

The IEPCP *Koolin Balit* study identified gaps in health and wellbeing services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in the Inner East. Further research is needed to assess whether the recommendations for improving access to local community services have been implemented, and to examine whether there has been any change in the suite of services, including counselling, available to students on campus.

The report recommended that community services and higher education institutions work together to explore partnerships to strengthen referral pathways and avoid duplication of services.[9]

As Table 6 below shows, the population in the Inner East is more highly educated than the Victoria-wide Aboriginal population with 17.5 per cent having a bachelor degree or above. While this is below the rate for Victoria more generally (24.3 per cent), it nevertheless represents positive societal change. The proportion of graduates with advanced diploma and diploma level qualifications is just below the rate for Victorians (9.2 per cent). Year 12 attainment is above the rate for the wider Victorian population (15.9 per cent). More students also have Certificate Level III and IV than for the population of Victoria.[10]

Educational levels may be associated with proximity to the higher education institutions in the Inner East, but are also likely to reflect increased rates of school completion as reported in the Closing the Gap report for 2019. [11]

Table 6: Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Residents Highest Level of Educational Attainment							
Institution Attended	LGA				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
Bachelor Degree level and above	67	19	45	38	169	17.6	9.2
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	25	15	18	18	76	7.9	7.6
Certificate level IV	14	11	17	10	52	5.4	4.6
Certificate level III	18	34	31	28	111	11.6	14.4
Year 12	59	16	72	51	198	20.7	13.4
Year 11	21	8	24	19	72	7.5	8.3
Year 10	16	14	31	29	90	9.4	13.4
Certificate level II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Certificate level I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Year 9 or below	18	16	34	34	102	10.7	14.5
No educational attainment	0	3	9	9	21	2.2	0.8
Not stated	22	11	17	17	67	7.0	10.8
Total	**260**	**147**	**298**	**253**	**958**	**100**	**100**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash Whitehorse & Victoria

[9] Clifford, 2015, pp.33-34.
[10] ABS Census 2016 QuickStats Victoria https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/2?opendocument
[11] Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2019 p.90.

Employment Status

Table 7: Labour Force Participation Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Population *People aged 15 years and over*							
Labour force status	Local Government Area				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
Worked full-time	88	50	93	70	301	32.0	50.0
Worked part-time	52	37	49	57	195	20.7	29.6
Away from work	10	0	6	7	23	2.4	6.3
Unemployed	9	10	22	17	58	6.2	14.0
Not in the labour force	93	43	125	103	364	38.7	41.0
Total	**252**	**140**	**295**	**254**	**941**	**100**	**100**

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Whitehorse & Victoria

Workforce participation is at a lower level for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in the Inner East. However, the unemployment rate is much lower than for Aboriginal Victorians generally. Lower levels of workforce participation are therefore likely to be an outcome of the higher rate of participation in tertiary and further education.

Occupation

Table 8: Occupation Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People							
Occupation (top responses)	Local Government Area				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
Professionals	33	16	27	28	104	19.3	15.6
Clerical & Administrative Workers	22	9	35	25	91	16.8	12.6
Community & Personal Service Workers	18	15	20	19	72	13.3	16.0
Managers	16	10	12	11	49	9.1	8.8
Technicians & Trades Workers	16	15	22	19	72	13.3	14.1
Sales Workers	14	11	18	17	60	11.1	9.4
Labourers	12	14	10	8	44	8.1	12.8
Total (occupations)	139	97	159	145	540		

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Whitehorse & Victoria

Inner East Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents were in professional occupations, employed as clerical and administrative workers and managers at higher rate than for Aboriginal Victorians more generally.

Income

Table 9: Median Weekly Income Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People					
Median Weekly Income	Local Government Area				Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	
Personal	$548	$624	$455	$468	$479
Household	$1,933	$1,949	$1,510	$1,306	$1,200

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Whitehorse & Victoria

With a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents being more highly qualified and working in professionals or occupations that are more highly paid, the median personal and weekly household incomes across each local government area not surprisingly exceed, in the main, the income levels for Aboriginal Victorians generally.

Tenure

Table 10 below shows that a much higher proportion of residents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background in the Inner East owned their homes outright in 2016 than for Aboriginal Victorians generally. This may be a product of the higher income status of residents, although a lower proportion have mortgages. Overall, a similar proportion of households either owned or were purchasing their dwelling they lived in. The higher costs of housing in the Inner East may present a barrier to entry into home ownership for many. Over half of households rent, consistent with the state-wide trend. By comparison, around two thirds of households in Greater Melbourne owned their own homes outright or were paying off mortgages. Around 30 per cent rent.

Table 10 : Tenure Occupied Private Dwellings Inner East Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People							
Tenure	Local Government Area				Inner East Region		Victoria
	Boroondara	Manningham	Monash	Whitehorse	Total	%	%
Owned outright	42	27	44	53	166	22.0	14.2
Owned mortgage	35	37	47	49	168	22.3	29.1
Rented	108	50	107	113	378	50.1	51.7
Other tenure type	0	0	3	0	3	0.4	0.8
Tenure not stated	11	3	12	13	39	5.2	4.1
Total	196	117	213	228	754	100	100

Source: ABS Census 2016. Extracted from Census QuickStats. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Boroondara, Manningham, Monash, Whitehorse & Victoria

4.   Summary of Key Census Data

- Around 1,300 people who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders lived in the Inner East at the time of the Census in 2016
- This resident population does not include the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who also work or study in the Inner East, or have continuing cultural and Community connections with the region
- There is a higher proportion of young people aged 18-24 years living in the Inner East, and a higher proportion of residents aged 65 and over, and a lower proportion of children and adolescents
- There is a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents attending tertiary and further education than for Victoria generally. Almost 25 per cent are attending universities.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents are more highly educated than Aboriginal Victorians generally, with a higher percentage of residents have a bachelor degree or above.
- More are in professional occupations and employed as managers or in clerical and administrative roles than the state-wide population
- Households generally have higher incomes, and more residents own their own homes outright than for the Victorian Aboriginal population. However, over half of the households live in rented accommodation, at a higher rate than all residents of Greater Melbourne generally.
- While this profile is drawn from the 2016 Census, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in the Eastern Region will have their own statistics about the composition and needs of Aboriginal Community members.

5.   Victorian Policy Context

The Victorian Government identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a high priority population group across portfolios and within the Victorian community. The Victorian Government's Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023 (the VAAF)[12] provides the overarching, whole of government approach, setting strategic directions and goals for delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians over key dimensions of life: children, family and home; learning and skills; opportunity and prosperity; health and wellbeing; justice and safety; and culture and country. The VAAF is underpinned by a commitment to promoting self-determination for communities and aims to ensure that 'all Aboriginal Victorian people, families and communities are healthy, safe, resilient, thriving and living culturally rich lives'p.13).

The Victorian Government's approach to health and wellbeing is set out in *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017-2027.[13] *Korin Korin Balit-Djak* embeds **a** cultural determinants approach to addressing social determinants of health, wellbeing and safety, recognising the positive impacts of culture on the lives of Aboriginal people: identity, language, spirituality, and connection to country, family and Community.

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[12] Victorian Government (2018). Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023. Department of Premier and Cabinet &Aboriginal Victoria. https://www.content.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/Victorian-Aboriginal-Affairs-Framework_1.pdf
[13] DHHS (2017). *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*: Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017-2027. Victorian Government. https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/aboriginal-health/korin-korin-balit-djak

Korin Korin Balit-Djak aims to create and sustain a health and human services system that it 'inclusive, non-discriminatory and accessible', with the mainstream service system better able to understand and respond to diverse spectrum of Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety.

Korin Korin Balit-Djak is complemented by Balit Murrup: Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework 2017-2027. The Aboriginal concept of social and emotional wellbeing is an inclusive term that enables concepts of mental health to be recognised as part of a holistic and interconnected Aboriginal view of health which embraces social, emotional, physical, cultural and spiritual dimensions of wellbeing.[14]

Other strategies include Wungurilwil Gapgapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement and Strategic Action Plan 2018[15], Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way - Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families, Aboriginal-led agreement to address family violence in Aboriginal Communities (2018)[16] and Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja, the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement 2018.[17]

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[14] DHHS (2017). Balit Murrup: Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework 2017-2027. Victorian Government, Melbourne, p.10. See https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/balit-murrup-aboriginal-social-and-emotional-wellbeing-framework

[15] DHHS (208) Wungurilwil Gapgapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement and Strategic Action Plan 2018. Victorian Government, Melbourne. See https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/publications/wungurilwil-gapgapduir-aboriginal-children-and-families-agreement

[16] DHHS (2018). Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way - Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families. Victorian Government, Melbourne. See https://www.vic.gov.au/dhelk-dja-partnership-aboriginal-communities-address-family-violence
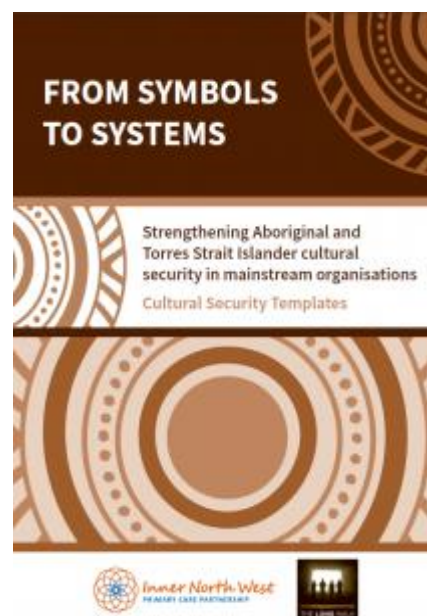
[17] See https://www.aboriginaljustice.vic.gov.au/the-agreement

These strategies have broader relevance across the health, human and community services sector, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety framework 2019.[18]

Cultural safety is commonly defined as "… an environment which is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience, of learning together with dignity and truly listening" (Williams, 1999)[19]

Inner North West PCP and the Working Two Worlds Working Group has produced a framework for mainstream health, community and justice organisations to improve cultural security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and staff. [20] The *From Symbols to Systems* framework builds on an earlier pilot and framework developed by Garralak Consulting. The framework emphasises that cultural safety is an outcome of cultural security: organisations can speak to Cultural Security and Aboriginal People can speak to Cultural Safety (see p.10).

All Victorian Government strategies are underpinned by a commitment to self-determination, recognising the importance of Aboriginal Community leadership in driving change, tailored to community needs. Each strategy has been developed through extensive consultation and leadership from Aboriginal Communities and community organisations with the relevant government departments.

The Victorian Labor Government has a commitment to the Treaty process that is embedded in legislation. The election of a First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria was finalised in November 2019, and held an inaugural meeting in December 2019. The First Peoples' Assembly has responsibility for developing the Treaty Negotiation Framework and establishing an Elders' Voice within the Assembly. [21]

6.   Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and IEPCP Partner Organisations

Key partner organisations for the Inner East PCP have mandates under their funding guidelines to provide priority access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This includes community health services, family violence services, public health providers, and child and family services organisations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are identified as a special needs population group for the provision of aged care support and for disability services support under the NDIS. Partners providing mental health services also deliver priority access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents to counselling and support services.

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[18] DHHS (2019). Part One: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety framework for the Victorian health, human and community services sector. Victorian Government, Melbourne. Note this is not available online as of February 2020.
[19] Williams, R. (1999), 'Cultural safety: what does it mean for our work practice?' *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 213–214. Republished online May 2008.
[20] Inner North West Primary Care Partnership and The Long Walk (2019) *From Symbols to Systems*: Strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural security in mainstream organisations, INWPCP, Brunswick. http://inwpcp.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/FS2S_Final_11th-December-2019_webversion.pdf
[21] See https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/

Partner organisations with dedicated Aboriginal programs include:

Carrington Health, which provides Baby Makes 3 in partnership with Aboriginal Communities in the Eastern Region. The program is guided by an advisory group of Elders and works closely with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, including Oonah.

Carrington Health: artwork by Mandy Nicholson (Wurundjeri)

Another IEPCP partner, **Manningham City Council**, is currently updating the council's Reconciliation Action Plan, drawing representation from local residents of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background, and consulting with the Wurundjeri Tribe Council and other Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
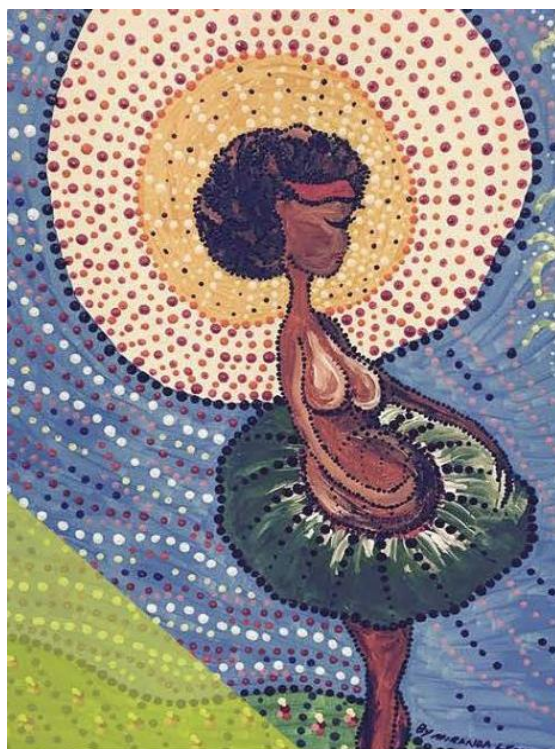
Eastern Health has a dedicated Aboriginal Health Team and an extensive portfolio of primary health and social and emotional wellbeing services, including outreach to families and communities and school-based programs.

EACH, an associate partner of IEPCP**,** has a longstanding commitment to Aboriginal health and wellbeing working with Communities across the eastern region. The EACH Health Promotion Team has a focus on promoting culturally inclusive and safe environments in the early years and schools through their Aboriginal Small Grants projects, led by Vanessa Murdoch, EACH Aboriginal Health Promotion officer.[22] EACH has continues to work in partnership with the Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service

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[22] See https://www.each.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/EACH_Aboriginal-Small-Grants-Project-Stories-Report-VR3_14-11-19.pdf

(BWAHS). BWAHS became an independent Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation in March 2019.

Other associate partners, Box Hill Institute, Monash University, Deakin University, Swinburne University of Technology, Latrobe University, and the University of Melbourne have dedicated Indigenous research centres and support programs and hubs for students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. These centres include the Moondani Toombadool Centre at Swinburne, the William Cooper Institute at Monash University, and the Institute of Koorie Education at Deakin.

Baby Makes 3 Carrington Health. Artwork by Miranda Madgwick (Worimi)

7.   Key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations in the Eastern Region

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Ringwood East
Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP) is a Community Controlled Organisation that is committed to retaining, promoting and strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural identity in the Eastern Metropolitan region of Melbourne. MMIGP provides a wide range of services for Community.
See https://www.mmigp.org.au/

Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service (BWAHS)
Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service provides a culturally safe service that assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their healing journey from the impact of family violence.
See https://www.bwahs.com.au/

Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation
Oonah, known in the past as Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association Incorporated (HICSA), provides a diverse range of programs and services for Community members that are focused on building a healthy, strong and skilled community.
See https://hicsa.org.au/

8.   Peak Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

Partner organisations also work with

- Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
- Ngwala Willumbong Ltd: peak organisation for specialist drug and alcohol rehabilitation and outreach counselling

9.   Key Issues for IEPCP and Partners working in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the Inner East

- Alignment with key Victorian Government strategies and frameworks for Aboriginal Community health, social and emotional wellbeing, and child, family and community safety
- Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents as a key population group in the Inner East with diverse needs
- Promoting wider community awareness of Aboriginal history, connections to land and country, cultural protocols and perspectives, and recognition and respect for First Nations status
- Promoting wider community understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social, health and wellbeing issues, strengths and challenges
- Promoting Aboriginal Community leadership in community engagement
- Promoting cultural security and cultural safety in all aspects of engagement and service delivery, in line with the *From Symbols to Systems* framework
- Improving access to mainstream services by critically reviewing barriers and enablers to accessing services
- Ensuring all work environments and service areas are welcoming, safe and inclusive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents
- Reviewing opportunities to proactively recruit, mentor and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates in the workplace
- Reviewing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in higher education institutions in the Inner East

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