

First Nations Health Outreach Service



Introduction

The First Nations Health Outreach Service (FNHOS) supports the continuation and consolidation of the Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP) and Healthy Ears – Better Hearing Better Listening (HEBHL) into a single FNHOS program. The intended outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- new and expanded existing services that primarily focus on management of chronic and ear diseases as well as ophthalmology services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- improved collaboration between local and visiting health professionals
- improved capability of local health professionals through upskilling and training
- improved culturally appropriate care.

The FNHOS is managed by CheckUP as the jurisdictional fundholder of the Outreach programs in Queensland.

Aims

The program's objectives are to:

- increase access to culturally responsive multidisciplinary care in primary health care settings
- increase the range of health services offered by visiting health professionals to prevent, detect and manage chronic and ear disease more effectively
- reduce/remove the financial disincentives that create barriers to outreach service provision to First Nations people.

Funding eligibility

The program supports a range of health professionals who provide best practice chronic disease prevention, treatment, management and follow-up. Professionals supported include:

- health workers and health practitioners
- allied health practitioners and students
- general practitioners
- medical specialists and registrars
- nurses.

Reimbursement

Through the program, reimbursement may be available for:

- coordination and administration support
- travel expenses
- cultural responsiveness training for participating service providers
- upskilling local health professionals
- professional support associated with outreach services.

About CheckUP

CheckUP is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities in need, especially those in rural, regional, and remote areas. We are committed to advancing equity in healthcare by strategically collaborating at both regional and local levels, ensuring that health and community services are more accessible and responsive to people who need them most.

Since our foundation in 1998, CheckUP has built a broad service footprint across more than 170 communities in Queensland, delivering innovative health programs and community-focused initiatives to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

The Outreach programs are made possible through funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.