



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN Australian Psychological Society AND Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association

The Australian Psychological Society (APS) is the largest professional association for psychologists in Australia, representing more than 25,000 members. APS is committed to advancing psychology as a discipline and profession. It strives to promote quality psychological practice, and foster learning and growth, by setting high standards of professional education and conduct. The mission of APS is to represent, promote and advance psychology within the context of improving community wellbeing and scientific knowledge.

The Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) is the peak representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists. AIPA is committed to achieving equitable participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within psychology. AIPA provides leadership and advocacy for social and emotional wellbeing. This includes access to culturally responsive, evidence-based psychological care and best practice for the provision of psychological services within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contexts.

This Memorandum of Understanding between the APS and AIPA is the next step in an ongoing relationship between the APS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists. This relationship has included landmark events such as the 2009 Boatshed Racism Roundtable Declaration, and the 2016 APS Apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These actions acknowledged the profession's role in the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the erosion of culture, and ongoing implications of systemic and direct racism on the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities.

Purpose

This MOU formalises a commitment between the APS and AIPA to work collaboratively in achieving equity in psychology and social and emotional wellbeing, including the promoting of Indigenous psychology and the development of best practice approaches working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Values

First Nations peoples deserve equitable access to services and supports that promote social and emotional wellbeing of themselves and their communities.

Culture underpins the foundation of social and emotional wellbeing, and is ever-present in how we understand and respond to promote wellness. We recognise that psychology as a profession and field of study is not culturally neutral, and often marginalises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We will elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative voices, knowledge, research and practice, recognising the benefits of Indigenous Psychology to our profession.

We stand against all forms of racism and discrimination and will advocate for social justice.

Objectives

The organisations are committed to the following:

- (i) to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control, governance and leadership within the profession and practice of psychology
- (ii) to recognise and promote the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in holistic wellbeing;
- (iii) to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice and leadership in research and publication in psychology where possible

- (iv) to promote the science and practice of Indigenous psychology;
- (v) to promote the availability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander evidence-based approaches to promote social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including prevention and treatment;
- (vi) to support the equitable participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within psychology, including increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists
- (vii) to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives being embedded in psychological education, training and continuing professional development to improve the cultural safety and responsiveness of psychology and practice
- (viii) to promote education and training in cultural safety and responsiveness;
- (ix) to promote joint initiatives between the APS and AIPA, consistent with the mission statements of the two organisations

Activities

The organisations will collaborate on joint initiatives, consistent with the mission statements of the two organisations and the shared purpose, values and objectives of this document, through the development, implementation and review of annual action plans

Representatives from each organisation will meet as needed as part of broader industry consultation or as required for particular activities.

The organisations will work together in promoting Indigenous psychology and cultural safety and responsiveness within the profession through a joint executive working group, involving the APS President and CEO, the AIPA Chairperson(s) and other Board representatives as agreed meeting at least twice per year to discuss the relationship and future directions.

Term

This MOU will commence on the date it is signed by both of the parties. It will be renewed every three years on the anniversary of the date of signing, unless either party provides written notice to the other party at least three months in advance of any renewal date of its intention not to renew this MOU. Either party may withdraw from this MoU after providing 3 months written notice to the other party of their intention to withdraw.

Signed:



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