

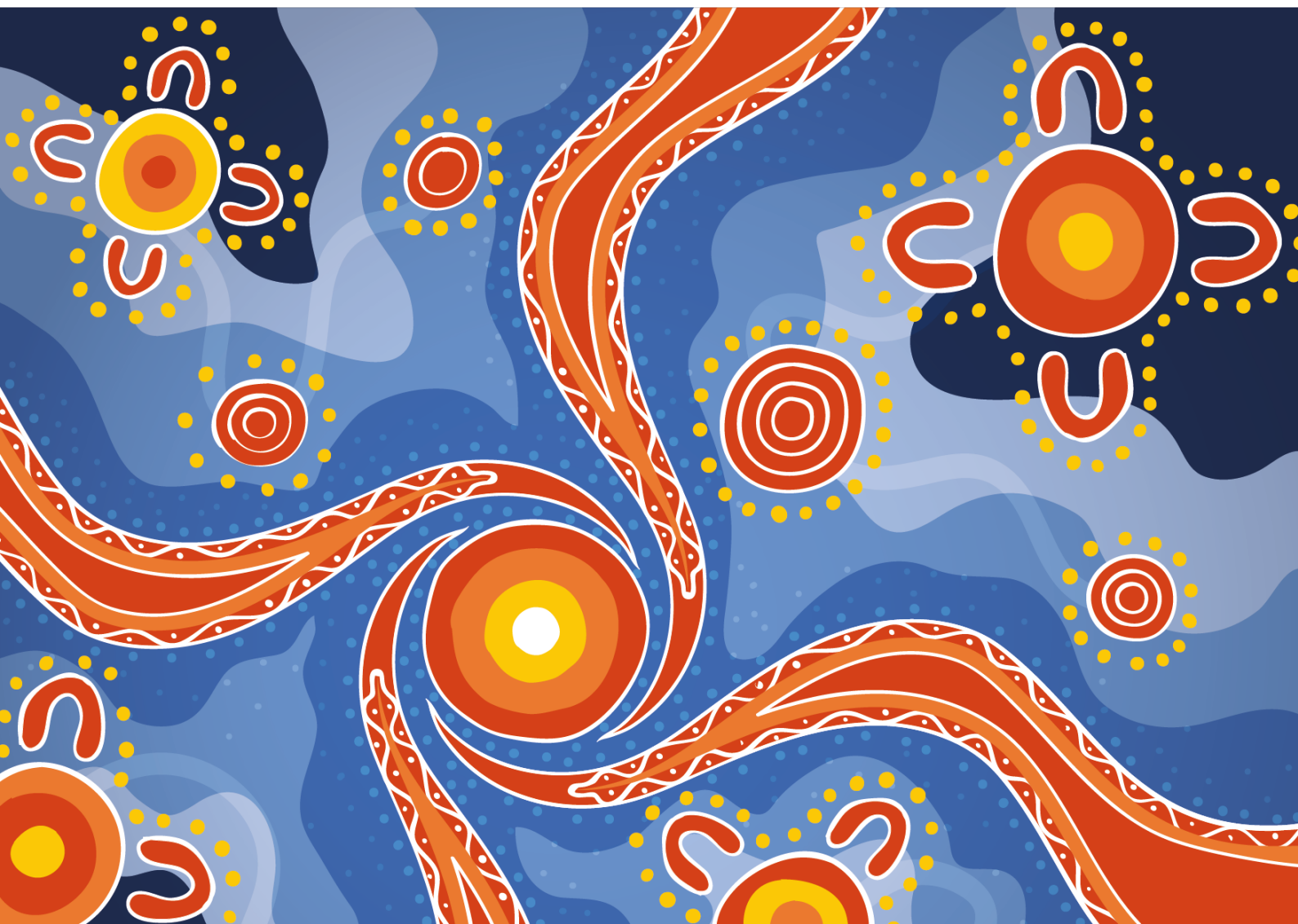


Aboriginal Leaders' Forum 10

26 October 2018, 8:45am–12:30pm

Tauondi College, Lipson Street, Port Adelaide

OUTPUT REPORT



Health Performance Council



Government of South Australia
Health Performance Council

Output report prepared by the Health Performance Council Secretariat

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Artwork meaning: The Health Performance Council (shown as the largest main meeting place) watches over the health and care journey of people to make sure that they are getting the proper care in every way. The journey paths emanating to and from the meeting place indicate the distance, while the blue colour variations show the landscape types. Around the central meeting place are many communities. Yellow dots around these places keep the people safe through their journeys, ensuring proper care is achieved for everybody and that their needs are properly met.

Artist: Jordan Lovegrove, Ngarrindjeri, Dreamtime Public Relations, www.dreamtimepr.com.

Acknowledgement

The Health Performance Council acknowledges the Aboriginal peoples of South Australia—who in their diversity demonstrate resilience and continue to make significant contributions to South Australia, despite the ongoing effects of colonisation and dispossession.

The Council acknowledges the spiritual relationship Aboriginal peoples of South Australia have with their respective countries, and respects their cultural and heritage beliefs which are still important to them today.

Table of contents

Acknowledgement.....	i
Table of contents	ii
Agenda	iii
Participants	iv
Photos from the forum	v
1. Welcome.....	1
2. Priority areas in Aboriginal health.....	2
3. Devolved health services in Country SA from July 2019	3
4. Progress in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation	4
5. Latest news from the Health Performance Council (HPC).....	6
6. Next steps	7
Summary of review card feedback from the forum	8
About the forums	10
A. Purpose of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums.....	10
B. Previous Aboriginal Leaders' Forums	10
C. Health Performance Council	11
D. Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit	11

Agenda

1. Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country
2. Priority areas in Aboriginal health identified with the Premier at the ninth forum—Update and discussion on progress.
3. Devolved health services in Country SA from July 2019—Discussion of new arrangements.
4. Progress in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
 - a. Premier's *South Australian Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan*—Presentation by Nerida Saunders, Executive Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
 - b. Update on *Closing the Gap*—Presentation by Kirstie Parker, Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.
5. Latest news from the Health Performance Council
6. Next steps



Participants

The forum was facilitated by Klynton Wanganeen

Cathy Leane (Women's and Children's Health Network)
Chris Thyer (SA Aboriginal Education and Training Consultative Council)
Dale Agius (Office of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement)
Darrien Bromley (InComPro Aboriginal Association Incorporated)
Denise Black (InComPro Aboriginal Association Incorporated)
Doug Turner (Flinders University)
Douglas Clinch (South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute)
Emma Richards (University of Adelaide)
Frank Lampard
Herb Mack (Country Health SA Local Health Network)
Ian Sansbury (Aboriginal Sobriety Group)
Jackie Ah Kit (Women's and Children's Health Network)
Jennene Greenhill* (Health Performance Council)
Kirstie Parker (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation)
Lisa Jackson Pulver* (Health Performance Council)
Margaret McCallum (SA Health)
Mark Waters (Reconciliation SA)
Nerida Saunders (Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation)
Nola Whyman (Southern Adelaide Local Health Network)
Sharon Clarke (Women's and Children's Health Network)
Sharron Williams (Aboriginal Family Support Services)
Steve Tully* (Chairperson, Health Performance Council)
Steven Newchurch (InComPro Aboriginal Association Incorporated)
Tamara Mackean (Flinders University)
Tanya McGregor (SA Health)
Yvonne Buza (Nebe Consultancy)

Health Performance Council Secretariat

Jane Austin (Director)
Andrew Wineberg
Nicholas Cugley
Trudi Duffield

* Health Performance Council member

Photos from the forum



Photos were taken with participants' knowledge and consent. People were welcome to opt out if they chose.



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1. Welcome



Facilitator Klynton Wanganeen opened the forum with an Acknowledgement of Country.

We acknowledge the land that the forum meets on is the traditional lands for Kurna people and we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today.

We pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people attending from other areas.

Thank you to all that attended, including Aboriginal leaders who travelled long distances.

Apologies

Klynton noted apologies from invited speakers who unfortunately could not attend today:

- Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia
- Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit—Prof Alex Brown, Theme Leader; Dr Odette Pearson, Senior Research Fellow; Ms Kim Morey, Manager Knowledge Translation and Exchange.

Updates since the last forum

Klynton updated delegates on news since the last forum:

- Language revival initiatives—securing the future of endangered languages:
 - Barngarla language reclamation project (more info: www.barngaralanguage.com)
 - Tauondi College is adding a Narungga language course to its Aboriginal Languages qualifications, to complement its Kurna and Ngarrindjeri language courses.
- April Lawrie has been appointed inaugural Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young people. In her new role, April will advocate for health, education, child protection and justice policies to improve the lives of Aboriginal young people.
- The 2019 World Indigenous Housing Conference will be held on the Gold Coast in May 2019 (more info: www.2019wihc.com).
- Mark Waters is leaving Reconciliation SA. On behalf of the forum, Klynton thanked Mark for his many important contributions and achievements in his role as State Manager of Reconciliation SA.

Klynton reviewed outcomes and summary of feedback received from the previous Aboriginal Leaders' Forum (no. 9) held on 22 May 2018.

Eulogy for Ms Egan

Steve Tully (Chair, Health Performance Council) paid tribute to the life and work of Ms Egan, former Complaints & Capacity Development Officer in the Health and Community Services Complaints Commission, who passed away recently.

The eulogy was followed by a minute's silence.

2. Priority areas in Aboriginal health



At the previous forum (22 May 2018) the Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia gave the opening address, outlining his government's policy approach to Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and its commitment to working across disciplines and across government portfolios to achieve better outcomes.

At that forum, delegates identified potential priority topic areas in Aboriginal health where quick progress can be made and agreed to report back to the Premier in six months' time.

The Health Performance Council (HPC) has been working with the Aboriginal Leaders Forum (via its planning group) and Premier's Office to develop these initiatives.

Discussion

A forum "Premier's Group" consisting of Klynton Wanganeen (Aboriginal Leaders' Forum facilitator), Shane Mohor (Aboriginal Health Council of SA) and Alex Brown (Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit)—working with the forum planning group and supported by the HPC—has progressed action against priorities areas.

HPC wrote to the Premier on 18 September 2018 on behalf of the Premier's Group, outlining four priority topic areas identified by the Group:

1. Implementation of the SA Academic Health Science and Translation Centre's Aboriginal Chronic Disease Consortium Diabetes, Heart & Stroke, and Cancer plans
2. Workforce—including recruitment, training, participation and distribution
3. Tackling racism
4. Social and emotional wellbeing, focussing on "first 1000 days", adolescent health, and healthy ageing.

Alex Brown met with the Premier on 11 October 2018. Key points:

- Alex was meeting with the Premier in his capacity as Theme Leader of Wardliparingga, not on behalf of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forum. However Alex reiterated the four priority topics outlined in HPC's letter above.
- The Premier's priorities in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation include language revival, suicide prevention, national work that relates to SA, psycho-social links to poor health outcomes, and development of the South Australian Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan via the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council.

Delegates agreed to invite the Premier to attend the next forum (provisionally planned for May 2019) to update on progress of the priority areas and progress of the Action Plan, and as a platform for delegates to continue to bring issues directly to the Premier.

3. Devolved health services in Country SA from July 2019



The State Government is reforming SA Health’s governance arrangements, including establishing ten Local Health Networks (LHNs)—six in Country SA—each with its own governing board.

These reforms will take a staged approach, with the most significant changes to take place from 1 July 2019 when the new governing boards become fully operational.

Under the *Health Care Act* (the Act), the membership of each board must comprise of persons who between them have knowledge, experience, and expertise in specific professional fields. At least two members of each board must be health professionals and one member must have expertise in Aboriginal health.

The boards are legal entities with responsibilities including workforce and finance.

Devolving decision-making and responsibilities to the local level involves significant planning. This requires detailed consideration of functions, roles, responsibilities and accountabilities across SA Health. The main part of this work will be undertaken in the lead up to 1 July 2019.

The SA Health Chief Executive and the senior leadership team will rely heavily upon engagement with clinicians, staff and stakeholders to inform the future shape of SA Health.

For more information on the new SA Health governing boards, see:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/governance+reforms/governing+boards

Discussion

The forum discussed the new arrangements. Key points:

- Under the new structure, how will Aboriginal people be involved?
- With half of the Aboriginal population in South Australian living outside the metropolitan area, how will they be engaged under the new structure?
- Forum noted that the Act specifying that “one board member must have expertise in Aboriginal health” is not necessarily the same thing as one board member must be an Aboriginal person.
- Aboriginal people must be encouraged to apply for board positions to ensure representation.
- Health Performance Council agreed to take the questions on notice and will respond to delegates via the planning group.
- Jennene Greenhill, HPC member, agreed to assist with board applications.

4. Progress in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation



South Australian Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan

Nerida Saunders—Executive Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation—presented on progress of the Premier’s South Australian Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan. Key points:

- Plan developed initially in a ‘top down’ process by government with agencies identifying a series of interim actions.
- Criteria for agency-identified actions in developing the first Plan:
 - evidence-based
 - place-based meaning for local communities
 - action-focussed
 - new initiatives, not agency ‘business as usual’
 - demonstrably improves the lives and outcomes for Aboriginal people
 - provides economic opportunities for local communities
 - includes self-determination and self-government by communities, in conjunction with leadership development.
- Launch of the Plan by Premier in late November or early December—will come with announcement on exactly what the actions will be.
- Plan will go out to for statewide consultation in 2019 to identify issues and priorities—facilitated with communities by Roger Thomas, Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement.
- Considerable consultation, engagement and discussions with communities expected with launch of first plan.
- It is amendable to change. However, conversations with communities will not be taken as an excuse by the Premier for no action.
- Conversations on how the SA Aboriginal Advisory Council will work still ongoing (eg. terms of reference being developed).



Update on Closing the Gap

Kirstie Parker—Director, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation—provided an update on the Closing the Gap program. Key points:

- Despite considerable consultation with Aboriginal communities, limited progress on achieving Closing the Gap targets—four of the seven targets expire this year.
- Feeling among Aboriginal people that they haven't been a part of the process.
- Closing the Gap to be significant item on agenda at next Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on 12 December 2018:
 - Numeric targets being worked on across 15–25 priority areas developed with Aboriginal communities (eg. justice targets now included, even though a state responsibility)
 - Some priority areas won't have numeric targets, recognising there is no data available or that there is no confidence that progress can be made.
 - Closing the Gap targets for Aboriginal health are now life expectancy and low birthweight (was child mortality).

Other updates

Nerida updated the forum on other initiatives in Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation:

- Plans to build a world-leading Aboriginal art gallery on the old Royal Adelaide Hospital site—\$60m in budget includes plans for a totally new and immersive gallery.
- Discussions between state and federal governments on new Aboriginal housing arrangements.
- Discussions on setting quotas for Aboriginal participation and representation on government boards and committees.



5. Latest news from the Health Performance Council (HPC)



Steve Tully, HPC Chair updated the forum on recent work of the Council, including:

- Monitoring implementation of Transforming Health
- Report on health of people in prisons
- Advocating for better Aboriginal data collection in Census
- Overhaul of *State of our Health* omnibus report
- Consumer engagement—HPC travelled to Berri and Renmark to talk to Riverland Aboriginal Elders, regional leaders and other stakeholders firsthand about local health system issues and population health outcomes in their communities. Output reports from the Riverland leaders' forums are available at: www.hpcs.com.au/get_involved

Andrew Wineberg from the HPC Secretariat updated the forum on the Council's post-implementation review of Country Health's Aboriginal Community & Consumer Engagement Strategy.

Overall findings of the review:

- It's a good strategy
- Implementation has been patchy
- Good things have flowed from it
- More needs to be done.



Background to the review

In 2017, HPC finished a review of governance arrangements of country Health Advisory Councils. During this work, HPC decided it was worthwhile making a more comprehensive separate project to review the implementation of Country Health SA's Aboriginal Community & Consumer Engagement Strategy (the Strategy).

Country Health launched the Strategy in May 2015 as its new model of engagement with Aboriginal consumers and community in country South Australia. HPC wanted to review the Strategy's implementation to assess whether it was achieving what it set out to do, and to uncover remaining gaps and identify areas for future focus in engagement activities for the Strategy to achieve its aims.

Review methods

HPC's review was designed by an advisory group, chaired by HPC member and Wiradjuri Koori women Prof Lisa Jackson Pulver, and with representation from a variety of Aboriginal perspectives.

The group designed a 'mixed-methods' review, consisting of a desktop search of documents and data, a set of stakeholder surveys and a series of face-to-face focus group discussion sessions across country SA.

Review findings

HPC's final report will be completed and submitted to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing by the end of 2018 and published on HPC's website not long after. In the meantime, a presentation of emerging findings is available at: www.hpcsa.com.au/reports/2018-post-implementation-review-of-country-health-sas-aboriginal-community-and-consumer-engagement-strategy

6. Next steps

In a facilitated discussion with Klynton Wanganeen, delegates identified potential priority topics to discuss at future forums in 2019:

- Guiding the South Australian Aboriginal Affairs Action Plan
- What is the role of the South Australian Aboriginal Advisory Council? How does it operate? How does it engage and consult?
- Youth—child protection, education and emerging leaders
- The impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) on Aboriginal people and Aboriginal health services.
- Prisoner health
- Self-determination and self-governance and their impacts on Aboriginal health and wellbeing.
- Mental health with a focus on suicide prevention

Postscript

- At a subsequent forum planning group meeting on 6 November 2018, the planning group agreed to add effectiveness of Aboriginal engagement—with a focus on representation from hard-to-reach groups—to the 2019 agenda of potential priority topics.
- Also, the Health Performance Council will take measures to ensure that in future its work is better communicated to Aboriginal leaders.

FORUM CLOSED AT 12:30pm

Thank you to all participants for your valuable contributions

Summary of review card feedback from the forum

Review cards were distributed to seek feedback from attendees on the value of the forum and how the HPC Secretariat might improve forums in the future. Review card feedback is considered by the planning group.

Method

Review cards were distributed on the attendees' seats before lunch. The facilitator reminded people to fill the cards in and leave them with HPC secretariat staff.

Response rate

A total of 31 participants attended the forum including facilitator, speakers, delegates and other guests, HPC members and secretariat staff.

A total of 17 completed review cards were collected. If we exclude secretariat staff (4) and the facilitator from the denominator (as they were directly involved in organising the forum) the response rate is 17/26 or 65%.

Q1. How do you rate the event in terms of its outcomes and outputs?

The average score was 7.7 out of 10, with a range of 6–9.

Q2. How do you rate the event in terms of its design and running?

The average score was 8.3 out of 10, with a range of 7–10.

Q3. What was best about the event?

There was overwhelming positive feedback from attendees about the opportunity to collaborate on topics of importance and network with peers and colleagues.

Three comments that captured the overall tone of responses to this question include:

- “The best thing about these events is always the opportunity to network and hear what is happening more broadly in the health space.”
- “It's a great opportunity for community leaders to come together to engage in discussions around health issues that impact on Aboriginal people.”
- “Informative presentations and discussions.”

Q4. What would you like to have been different?

Some respondents feel these forums need to go for longer with more time needed for discussion. Other feedback worth noting was a request for young, new and emerging leaders to be more involved and the need to “capture more voices” generally.

Q5. What will you tell others?

Again, feedback to this question was very positive. Respondents said they encourage others to attend as the forums are informative with opportunities to engage with key people. Three typical comments that captured the overall tone of responses to this question include:

- “I always tell other people that I know or that I meet to come along these forums as you can find out what is happening in the Aboriginal arena. Also it is an inclusive forum.”

- “Good place to come and meet with others and discuss/hear about what else is happening in this space, a bit outside the regular health space.”
- “This is a very important space to engage in the issues affecting Aboriginal people in South Australia.”

Q6. What should happen next?

Feedback to this question can be generalised as respondents are keen to see a follow-up with the Premier on the priority areas in Aboriginal health identified in Next Steps (see Section 6 of this output report).

Q7. One word summarises how you feel now?

Participants were asked to identify one word that best summarised how they felt at the end of the forum. A ‘word cloud’ was generated from this feedback using *Wordle* (www.wordle.net). The image below represents the frequency of the word by size. Where a respondent wrote multiple words, or a sentence, the primary word was used (eg. ‘Very informed’ was truncated to ‘informed’).



About the forums

A. Purpose of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums

The purpose of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums is to engage with leaders in the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal people who are leaders in the health system to:

- establish the health priorities of Aboriginal communities in South Australia
- guide the Health Performance Council in its monitoring and review of Aboriginal health status and performance measures in areas where the health system provides a response to Aboriginal people's health needs.

The Health Performance Council regularly co-hosts these forums in co-operation with the South Australian Health and Medical Institute's (SAHMRI) Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit. The sessions are facilitated by Klynton Wanganeen and feature presentations by guest speakers, updates on progress of issues that impact on the health of Aboriginal people in South Australia, and resolution of future directions on Aboriginal health research topics.

B. Previous Aboriginal Leaders' Forums

The inaugural Aboriginal Leaders' Forum took place at Tauondi College on 25 October 2013. A condensed summary of topics covered at previous forums is tabled below:

Forum	Date	Key topics
1	25 Oct 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aboriginal health and Aboriginal leadership▪ The Health Performance Council's role and the purpose of these forums▪ Governance, leadership and Indigenous rights▪ The role of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector in Aboriginal health leadership▪ How Aboriginal Leaders Forums should work in the future▪ Overcoming cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal people
2	29 May 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Aboriginal health data stories – Spotlighting the health system's performance▪ What it means to be an Aboriginal leader
3	5 Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ How the health system can be held accountable for its Aboriginal health care outcomes using internal and external means▪ How will we hold the health system to account for getting better Aboriginal health outcomes?▪ What specific actions for improving health system accountability for Aboriginal health outcomes will we recommend to the Minister for Health and the Premier?▪ What specific action can we take to continue the momentum of the Aboriginal Leaders' Forums?
4	27 Nov 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keynote speaker: Ngiare Brown on Aboriginal leadership▪ Panel discussions with guest speaker Dorothy Keefe, SA Health's Clinical Ambassador for Transforming Health on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– understanding Transforming Health and the directions the government is taking– how Transforming Health can improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal people– how Aboriginal people generally can be made aware of the reforms and be included in consultations and decision-making that affects them
5	18 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Keynote speaker: Daryle Rigney, Dean, Office of Indigenous Strategy & Engagement, Flinders University, on Indigenous governance and nation building▪ Update on progress of Transforming Health, including formation of an Aboriginal Advisory Group▪ Guest speaker: Michael Cousins, Chief Executive, Health Consumers Alliance of SA, on engaging Indigenous consumers▪ Presentation of preliminary results from research topic analysis by the Health Performance Council and Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit

6	24 Nov 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transforming Health: A conversation with Dorothy Keefe, SA Health's Clinical Ambassador for Transforming Health and Jackie Ah Kit, Chair, Transforming Health Aboriginal Expert Advisory Group on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Transforming Health is improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people How Aboriginal people are being made aware of the reforms and included in consultations and decision making that affects them. Impact of drugs, alcohol and addiction on Aboriginal communities – Presentations and panel discussion with James Ward (Head Infectious Diseases Research Aboriginal Health, SAHMRI), Chris Holmwood (Addiction Medicine Specialist, DASSA), and Mark Thompson (Coordinator Aboriginal Clinical Services, DASSA) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epidemiology of drug and alcohol use in Aboriginal rural and remote communities Patient pathways for people presenting to hospital for acute drug abuse Drug and alcohol services program delivery.
7	31 May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speaker: Lisa Jackson Pulver, HPC member, on findings emerging from the latest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics following the 2016 Census. Launch of the consultation draft of the HPC's Aboriginal health case study SAHMRI's Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit on the implementation of the Aboriginal heart and stroke, diabetes, and cancer plans
8	15 Nov 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speaker: Treaty Commissioner for South Australia, Dr Roger Thomas on progress of Treaty negotiations between the South Australian government and South Australian Aboriginal nations. Update from the Health Performance Council on progress and achievements to date in its 2015–2018 review program.
9	22 May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speaker: The Hon Steven Marshall MP, Premier of South Australia, outlined his government's policy approach to Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and its commitment to working across disciplines and across government portfolios to achieve better outcomes. Followed by a Q&A session. Health Performance Council member Rick Callaghan presented on his business, career and personal experiences. Introductions by Chris Burns, South Australian Mental Health Commissioner and Grant Davies, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner. Updates from Odette Pearson and Kim Morey on current research by the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit and implementation of the South Australian Aboriginal Chronic Disease Consortium's plans.

C. Health Performance Council

The Health Performance Council (HPC) is the South Australian Government's statutory Ministerial advisory body established under the *Health Care Act 2008* to provide advice to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on the performance of the health system, health outcomes for South Australians and specific population groups and the effectiveness of community & individual engagement.

We publish reviews of South Australian health system performance on our website: hpcsa.com.au.

D. Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit

The [Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit](#) within the South Australian Health and Medical Institute (SAHMRI) conducts research that is of direct relevance to Aboriginal people in South Australia. Research is focused on the significant gap between the health status and life opportunities available to Aboriginal people when compared to other Australians. Wardliparingga's goal is to generate positive, long-term change for Aboriginal families and communities in South Australia.

