



FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S ELDER ADVISER

BACKGROUND

A proposal by the Queensland Women's Health Network Incorporated (QWHN) to develop the role of a 'First Nations Women's Elder Adviser' is unique in acknowledging and respecting the valuable role that First Nations women Elders play in all aspects of health outcomes relating to family, culture and community.

The concept of a First Nations Women's Elder Adviser role was raised in 2021 by Aunty Peggy Tidyman, a Gunggari Elder and Member of QWHN, to enhance our commitment towards partnering with and improving health and cultural access for First Nations women across Queensland.

The role acknowledges the deep importance of First Nations women's health and well-being as central to improved health outcomes for women of all ages through the guiding principles of Care, Share and Respect.

Listening to the voices of First Nations women's health concerns will give rise for the QWHN to link to 'Close the Gap' targets for better health outcomes across regions through an effective and efficient communication strategy.

GOALS:

1. To represent the aims and objectives of the QWHN as the First Nations Women's Elder Adviser.
2. To support QWHN representatives to connect with First Nations Elder networks on cultural perspectives that incorporate Close the Gap targets for First Nations women's health and well-being outcomes.
3. To create a shared understanding of cultural links to health practices and strengthening partnerships with First Nations women Elders at the community level.
4. To raise the profile of the First Nations Women's Elder Adviser of QWHN throughout other networks as a priority.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Act in a professional manner at all times as First Nations Women's Elder Adviser for QWHN.
- Collaborate with QWHN representatives on cultural matters when required.
- Create a regional contact list of First Nations women Elders/groups across QWHN regions.
- Gather current health research information and submit ideas for inclusion in QWHN publications (newsletters, Facebook, website, e-Bulletins).
- Identify opportunities for QWHN representatives to partner with First Nations women Elders to explore new initiatives across identified areas of health and well-being, for inclusion in QWHN publications.
- Promote the role of the First Nations Women's Elder Adviser and seek opportunities to engage in cultural/health training with other First Nations community groups to support the development of a recognised cultural framework.

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