

## Pen CS and Indigenous Health

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**Pen CS is currently working with Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC), Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT), providing health informatics software to their health services. We also support Aboriginal health and medical research.**

Since 1995, Pen CS has been working with the Indigenous sector to improve patient outcomes and Close the Gap, by increasing efficiencies in healthcare.

At the outset, Pen CS worked with Aboriginal Medical Services providing a Primary Health and Information System, 'Ferret', which enabled the Indigenous sector to collect and store patient information.

In 2007, we strengthened our ability to affect change and empower policy makers through the release and implementation of our Clinical Audit Tool (CAT) in a number of healthcare initiatives undertaken by peak Indigenous bodies. CAT's ability to extract and analyse data from health services and general practices, has been essential to Indigenous organisations such as VACCHO, QAIHC and AHCSA, in gauging the epidemiology of Indigenous health issues.

From 2011 to 2014, the Pen CS platform uploaded data to OCHREStreams in order to assist the Department of Health in reporting on National Key Performance Indicators (nKPI's) and identify specific health challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

From 2014, in collaboration with PHNs and ACCHOs including National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC), QAIHC, VACCHO, AMSANT and AHCSA, Pen CS has further refined the CAT platform to reach the current status where the information collected represents a gold standard of quality.

In June 2016, the Pen CS platform was used for nKPI reporting with the Indigenous Health Division (IHD).

### Examples of Pen CS Projects in Indigenous Healthcare

- iSISTAQUIT which supports healthcare providers' provision of smoking cessation care to pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, with University of Newcastle.
- NACCHO's Sexual Health module.
- VACCHO's Smoking Cessation project.
- Hepatitis B screening for Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network.
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance's (NCIRS) program to boost adult and adolescent immunisations in the community.
- The South Coast AMS' Substance Misuse Module.
- Australian Primary Care Collaborates Report (APCC Report).
- QAIHC Report.
- Healthy For Life Report - a program funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) which aims to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- National KPI Report - as part of the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA), the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Department of Health and Ageing, in partnership with the state and territory.