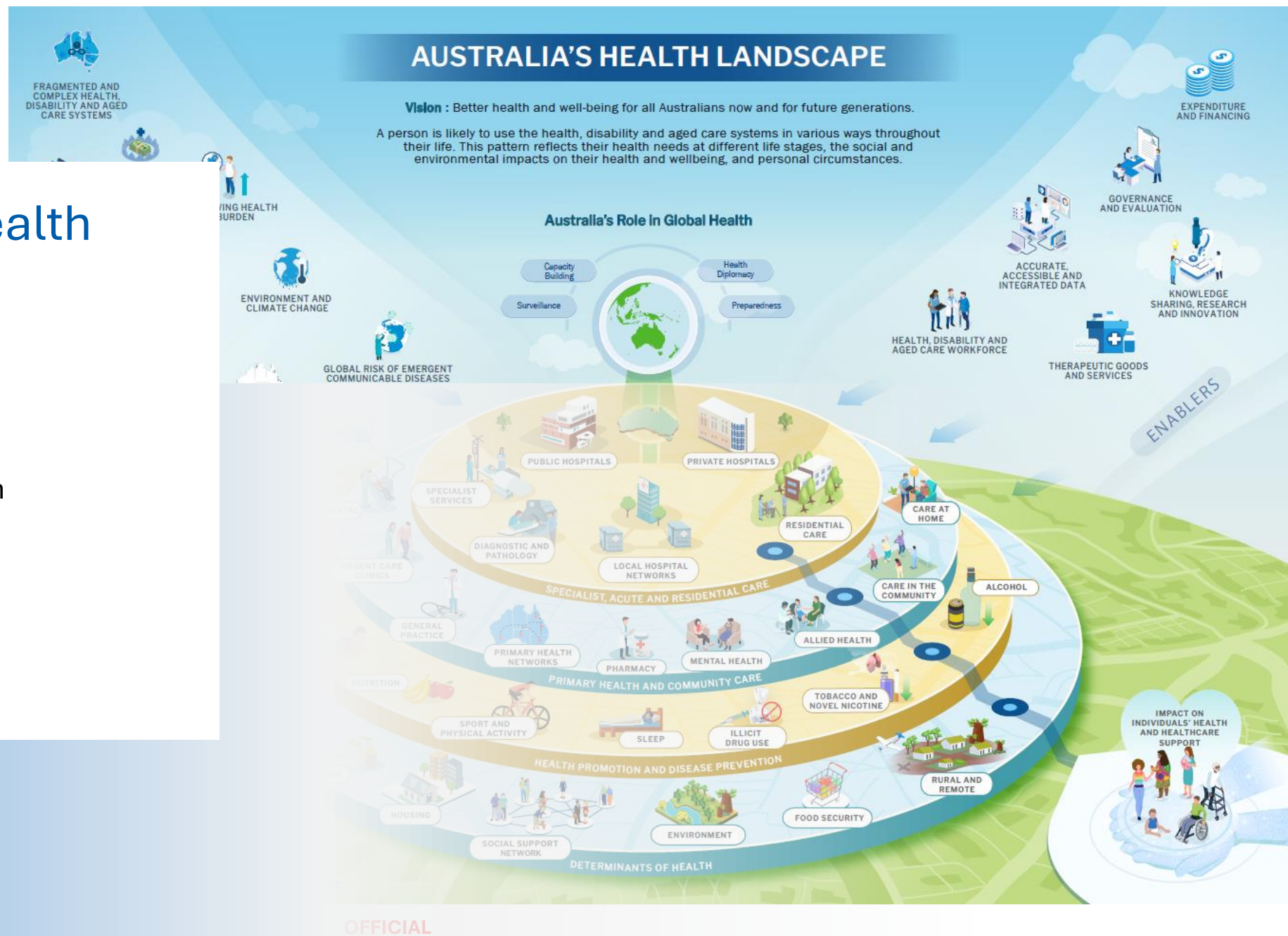
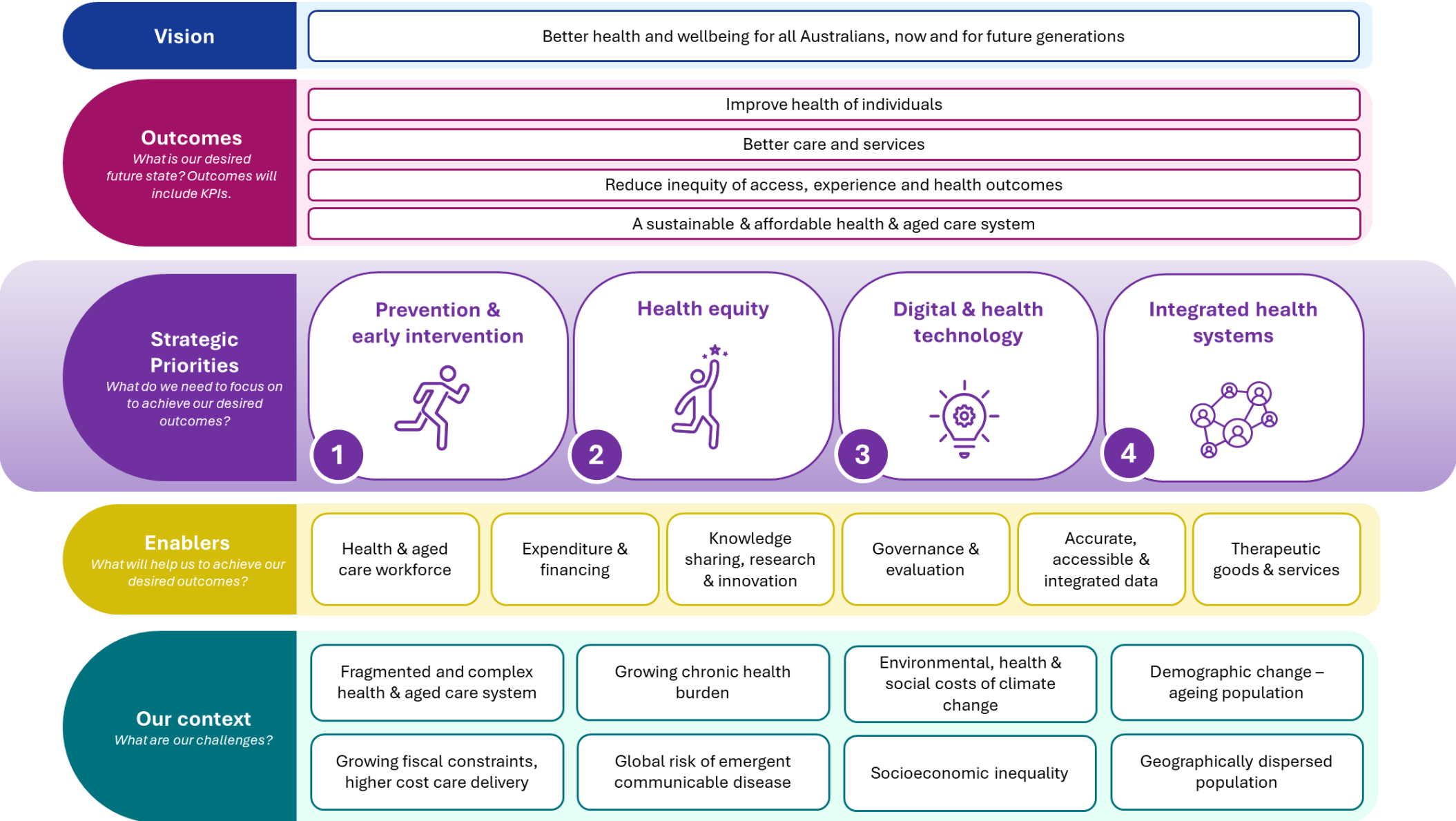


Governance for Health Equity

Ross Hawkins
First Assistant Secretary
Health Systems Strategy Division



Future Direction – Placemat



AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH LANDSCAPE

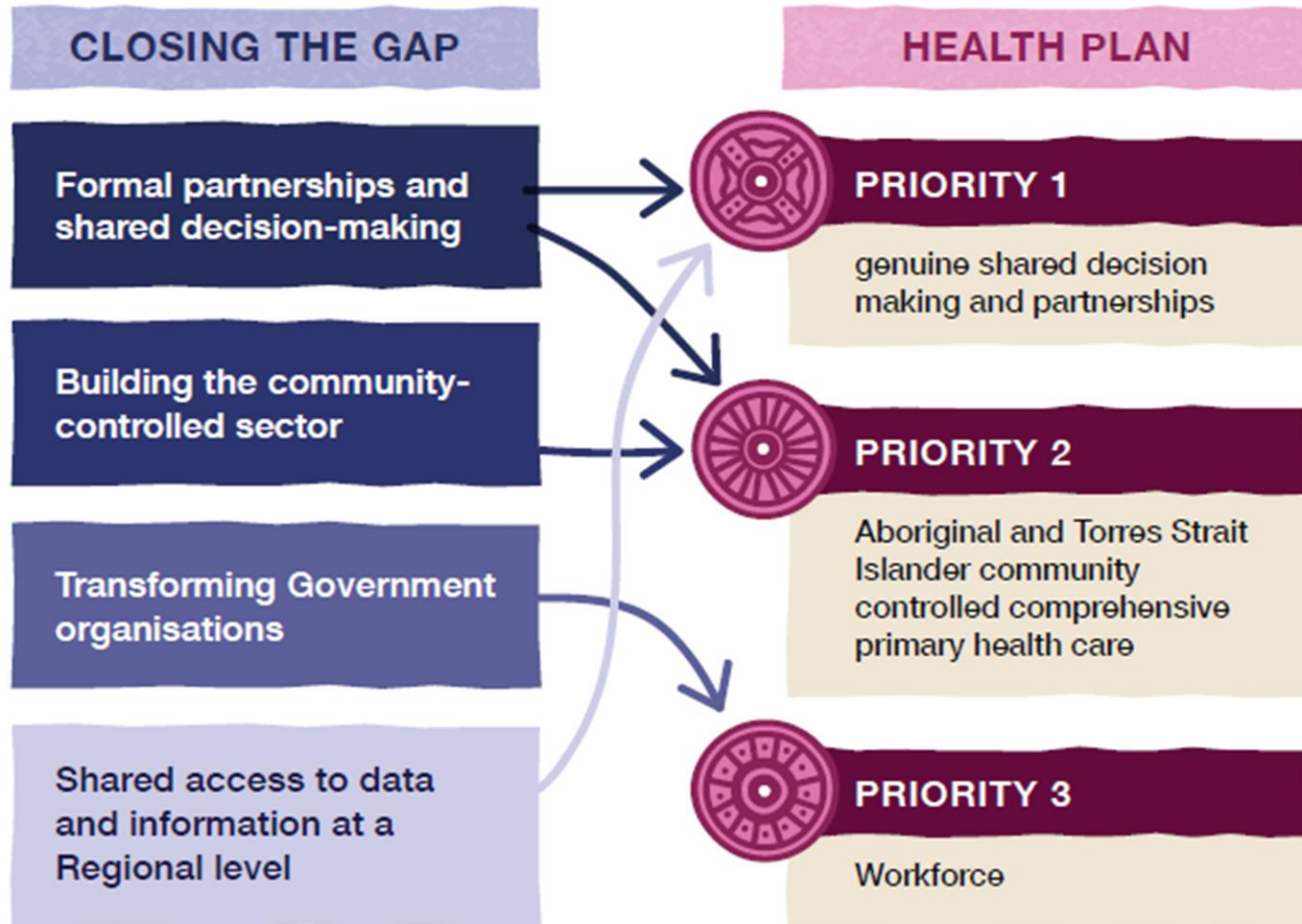
Vision : Better health and well-being for all Australians now and for future generations.

A person is likely to use the health, disability and aged care systems in various ways throughout their life. This pattern reflects their health needs at different life stages, the social and environmental impacts on their health and wellbeing, and personal circumstances.

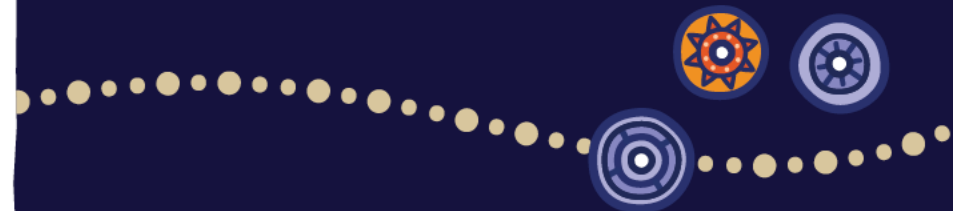


Overarching Policy Context

CLOSING THE GAP PRIORITY REFORM AREAS



Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reforms

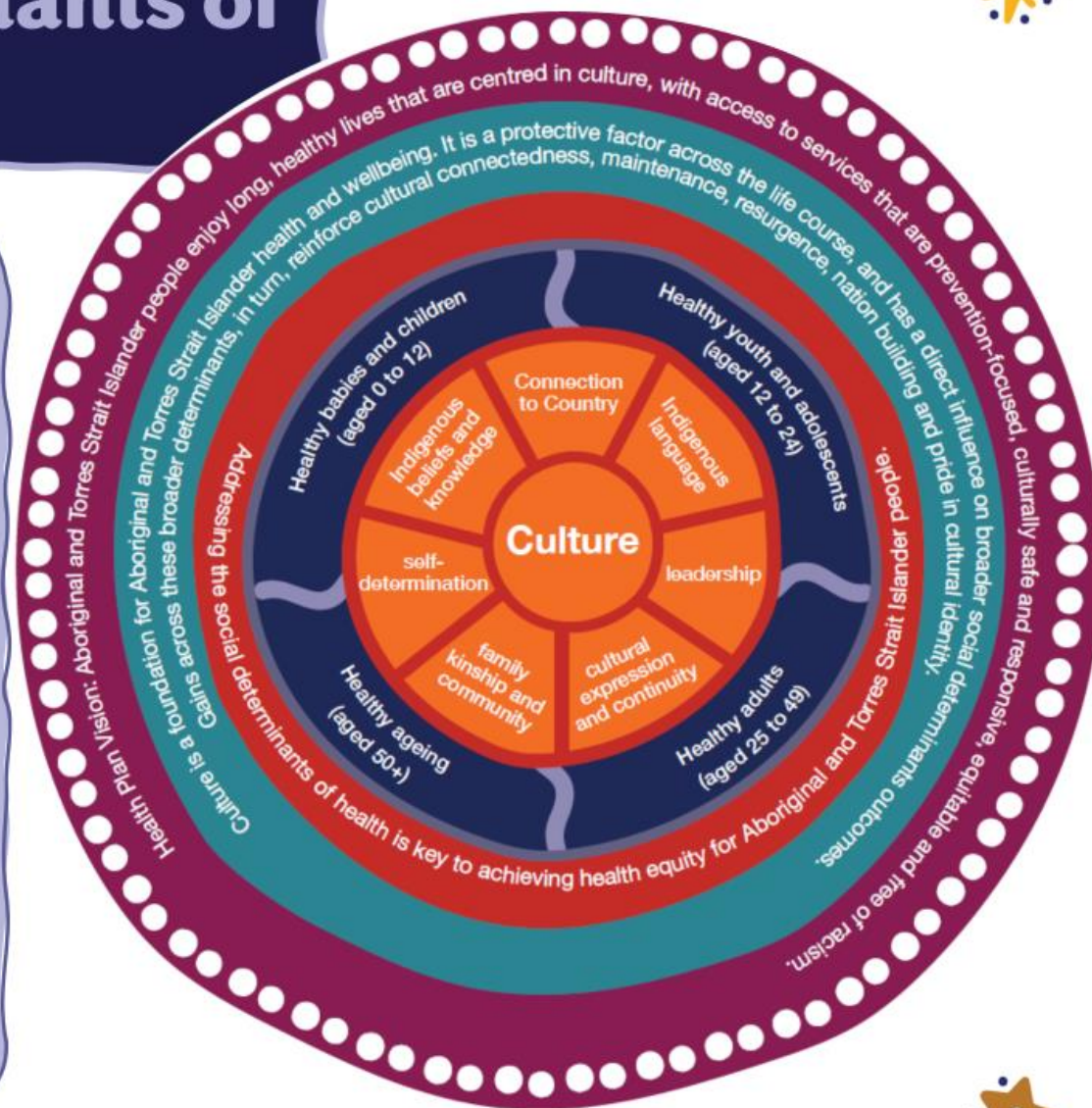




Social and Cultural Determinants of Health



- ❁ Social and cultural determinants of health are both equally impactful on the wellness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- ❁ For First Nations people, cultural identity and participation in cultural activities, access to traditional lands along with connection to family and kinship, are recognised as protective factors and can positively influence overall health and wellbeing.
- ❁ As an issue for the whole of government, we recognise that more must be done so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can also access culturally safe and responsive care from all health services. The Health Plan and National Agreement seek to embed cultural safety across the health system, with the intention that First Nations people are likely to experience better outcomes when engaging with services.



Birthing on Country

- **10 unique First Nations-led initiatives** that provide culturally safe, community-based, First Nations-led care across the antenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum periods.
- **Grounded in First Nations knowledge and practices** and offer holistic, respectful and empowering wrap-around maternal health care.

Health Results

- **Models of care resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in preterm birth rates.**
- Women enrolled in the service are more likely to:
 - **attend more antenatal visits;**
 - have **reduced maternal and infant morbidity** outcomes;
 - demonstrate **higher rates of breastfeeding;** and
 - **demonstrate lower rates of smoking.** Smoking is the number one contributing factor to healthy birthweight.

Wider Social Benefits

- **Reductions in child protection involvement** and reduced removals of First Nations babies.
- Odds of removal are **63 per cent lower for mothers** compared to standard care.
- As a preventive measure, it is disrupting **generational cycles of child protection contact, trauma, and maltreatment**, and contributing to short and long-term health and wellbeing benefits for mothers and babies.

