



# Griffith Health First Peoples Health Unit

*The Griffith University Health Group is committed to being a university of influence in improving the health outcomes for Australia's First Peoples through innovative evidenced based education and training approaches.*

The First Peoples Health Unit (FPHU) is an initiative of Health IDEAS which enables the Health Group to focus its change strategy and draw on consolidated resources and expertise to establish sustainable mechanisms for learning and teaching enhancement. The FPHU also provides a visible point of reference for the Health Group and for Community Organisations, Industry and Partners in First Peoples Health.

The FPHU leads the implementation of the Griffith Health First Peoples Health Plan (2016-2022). The Plan is the Health Group's statement of a broad vision for what the FPHU, the Health Group, schools, programs and its First Peoples Health community organisations, industry and partners can achieve to contribute to closing the gap in health outcomes between Australia's First Peoples and other Australians.

The priority for the FPHU is the development and growth of a highly skilled, highly educated First Peoples Health workforce and the promotion of the cultural safety of the wider health workforce.

**Bec Simpson**  
*Kourna People*  
Bachelor of Psychology  
(Honours) student

**BE REMARKABLE**

## Vision

To be influential leaders valuing collective knowledges towards better health and wellbeing outcomes for Australia's First Peoples.

## Mission

To embed First People's knowledges in policies, practices and procedures to meaningfully contribute towards closing the gap in health outcomes between Australia's First Peoples and other Australians.

## Statement of values and commitments

Griffith Health draws upon the First Peoples Health Unit graphic to represent their statement of values and commitment to First People's Health.

The graphic incorporates both traditional and contemporary artwork to symbolise the fusion of Indigenous and western ways of knowing, being and doing. The graphic is encapsulated in and consists of many interrelated circles presented in the university corporate colours to signify the cyclical and holistic nature of First Peoples' understandings of health inclusive of engagement, learning and teaching and research.

## Key focus areas

The First Peoples Health Plan has five key focus areas that align with Griffith Health and the University's strategic, core activity and supporting plans including the Reconciliation Action Plan. Each of these areas contains an overarching goal, and a set of sub goals with corresponding targets, strategies, responsibilities and timeframes.

- First Peoples Health Engagement
- First Peoples Health Sustainability
- First Peoples Health Learning and Teaching
- First Peoples Health Research
- First Peoples Health Internationalisation

## Key roles and functions

Key roles and functions of the First Peoples Health Unit as they relate to our work in the recruitment, retention, completion and employability of First Peoples students, and the cultural safety education of the wider student cohort are:

- Developing knowledge, tools and resources that enable the Health Group, Schools, Programs and academics to enhance the cultural safety of services so that **First Peoples** students can access timely high quality tertiary education.
- Supporting the Health Group in the translation and operationalisation of key national, state and local policies i.e. Universities Australia, Australian Health Practitioners Regulatory Authority (AHPRA), Council of Australian Government (COAG) Closing The Gap Initiative
- Convening and supporting key governance structures accountable for ensuring continuous quality improvement and performance in First Peoples Health
- Ensuring cultural integrity by developing First Peoples Health Curriculum standards to drive the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework
- Identifying, supporting and transitioning emerging areas of First Peoples Health research to build the research capacity of the First Peoples Health Unit and First Peoples health students
- Strengthening international partnerships in First Peoples Health and cultural safety to elevate the research program led by the First Peoples Health Unit
- Engaging with community organisations, industry and our partners in First Peoples Health to develop programs and projects which meet their unique needs
- Providing internal consultancy services relating to the Health Group and University wide corporate services in First Peoples Health.

The Griffith Health First Peoples Health Unit's innovative strategies promote the recruitment, retention and employability of First Peoples Health students. The Health Group believes in the potential for all First Peoples to be remarkable and deadly, to capture opportunity, to make a difference and create sustainable change in the future.



**Tyrone Smith**  
Mununjali People  
Bachelor of Exercise  
Science student

## Contact us

+61 7 5678 0508  
fphu@griffith.edu.au

[griffith.edu.au/  
first-peoples-health-unit](http://griffith.edu.au/first-peoples-health-unit)