

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples - Preferred Terminology to be Used

Document Number PD2005_319

Publication date 27-Jan-2005

Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Information and data
Clinical/ Patient Services - Records

Summary "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples" should always be printed in full and terms such as "ATSI" should not be used.

Author Branch Aboriginal Health

Branch contact 9391 9497

Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Hospitals

Review date 27-Jan-2010

File No. 03/173-3

Previous reference 2003/55

Issue date 23-Jul-2003

Status Active

Director-General

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

CIRCULAR

File No	03/173-3
Circular No	2003/55
Issued	23 July 2003
Contact	Policy and Planning Unit Aboriginal Health Branch (02) 9391 9497

**PREFERRED TERMINOLOGY TO BE USED WHEN REFERRING TO
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC), the peak body representing Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW, has provided advice that the use of the shorthand term "ATSI" to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is not appropriate. This advice is consistent with NSW Health Circular No 94/1 issued on 7 January 1994.

In line with this advice, it is requested that "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples" should always be printed in full and that terms such as "ATSI" should on no account be used.

Please also note that, although reference to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples may be required at times, within NSW Health, the term "Aboriginal" is generally used in preference to "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander", in recognition that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of NSW.

Robyn Kruk
Director-General

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

A 55	B	C 43	D	E	73 Miller Street North Sydney NSW 2060
F	G	H 43	I	J 20	Locked Mail Bag 961 North Sydney NSW 2059
K	L	M	N	P	Telephone (02) 9391 9000 Facsimile (02) 9391 9101

In accordance with the provisions incorporated in the Accounts and Audit Determination, the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and their equivalents, within a public health organisation, shall be held responsible for ensuring the observance of Departmental policy (including circulars and procedure manuals) as issued by the Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Health.