

Closing the Gap

- Training and employment of Aboriginal people contributes to councils' social responsibilities such as Reconciliation Action Plans and Closing the Gap
- Local Government is a 'natural fit' for training and employment of Aboriginal people who are:
 - a pool of local talent
 - less likely to relocate than non-Aboriginal people
 - a young and growing population and
 - have strong community links*
- A review of the Training Program in 2009 identified Aboriginality had increased from zero to over 17% in the NSW Health environmental health workforce

The Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit can visit councils to present and discuss the Training Program with the relevant staff (General Manager, Environmental Health and Human Resources teams).

*Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government 2010 Indigenous Employment Program Green Paper

Who can apply?

Aboriginal people who:

- have an interest and passion to protect health and prevent disease by improving the environments where people live, work and play
- are school leavers with the ATAR required for entry into the university course
- are non-school leavers with TAFE Certificate III or similar

Applicants who do not meet university entry requirements may still be eligible. They are employed initially for up to six months while completing a university preparation course with TAFE or similar, after which time they may be offered a full time traineeship.

The Training Program is managed and administered by NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit (AEHU).

For more information please contact AEHU:

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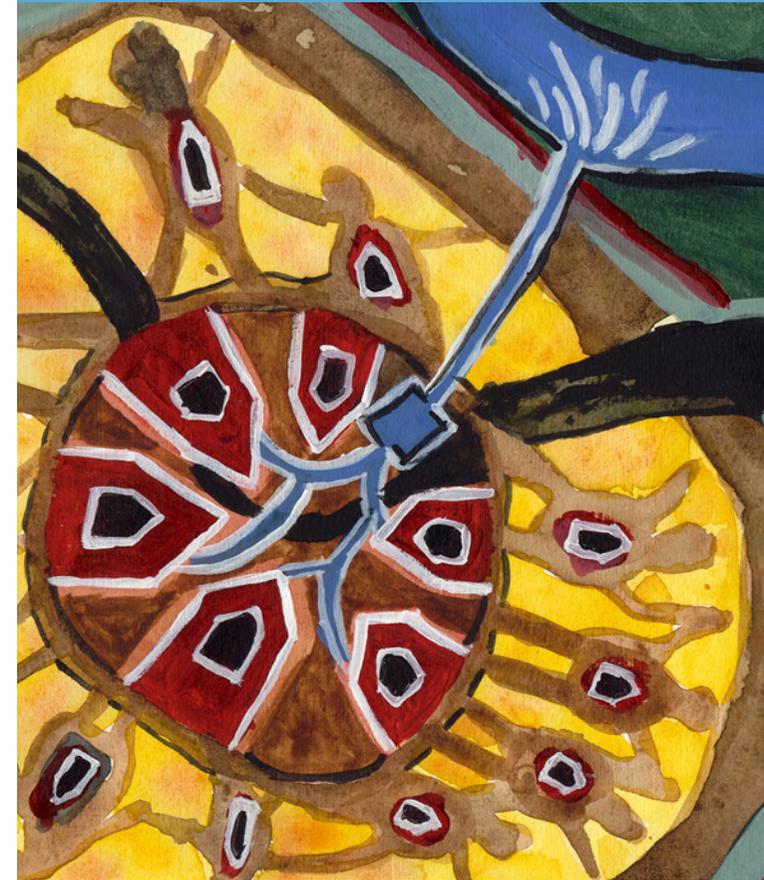
Visit: www.health.nsw.gov.au

Artist: Peter Waples-Crowe "A healthy community begins with a healthy living environment"

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Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program

Information for councils



An opportunity to access funds and support to employ Aboriginal Trainee Environmental Health Officers

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The NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program (Training Program) was launched in 1997 to develop an Aboriginal workforce with the leadership and technical skills to progress environmental health issues.

NSW Health is offering Local Government (councils) 50/50 co-funding partnerships to employ Aboriginal Trainee Environmental Health Officers.

The Training Program provides employment and training, university education and support for the Aboriginal Trainee Environmental Health Officer over a six year period.

Employment and Training

Trainees are employed full-time as an Aboriginal Trainee Environmental Health Officer. A qualified, experienced and designated Environmental Health Officer supervises and guides the workplace training and professional development of the trainee.

The Training Program provides an Environmental Health Officer Training Program Competency guide and trainee assessments to support training.

Education

Trainees undertake a Bachelor of Natural Science (Environment and Health) course part-time by distance learning at the Western Sydney University (or other approved course at different universities).

The Training Program funds travel to university and core expenses such as course fees for successfully completed subjects, required text books, technical equipment and graduation cost.



Some graduates from the Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program.

Support

Support provided to the trainees includes:

- Study Leave
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Information session for trainees' family and support people
- Face to face skill share and peer support meetings

Training Program Partnerships

- NSW Health and council each co-fund 50% of the trainee's salary, education and training costs (approximately \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year for each party) and different models of partnerships are available
- The Training Program works closely with university staff who provide academic advice on recruitment, tutoring and trainee support
- Trainees play a role in ensuring the success of environmental health projects with Aboriginal communities; strengthening relationships between councils and NSW Health
- The Training Program has been successfully delivered for over 15 years and has a strong network of support from trainees and graduates
- Training is supported by the local Public/Population Health Unit
- The Training Program is a highly subsidised and timely solution to environmental health succession planning and Aboriginal workforce issues