Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker

Summary Of Occupation

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers liaise between health care professionals and Indigenous patients to improve the quality of services provided and health outcomes for those patients. They help to bridge the cultural differences that can exist in healthcare settings, by acting as an interpreter to ensure both the healthcare professional and the Indigenous patient understand each other. These workers may also provide counselling and/or treatment for physical diseases or injuries. They may also make house visits to monitor patient progress, and provide support to patients and their families to encourage them to learn more about health issues.

Knowledge Skills and Attributes

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker needs:

- to be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- good communication and negotiation skills
- a good understanding of Indigenous culture and health promotion, sensitivity
- an ability to work independently and as part of a team
- a commitment to improving the health of Indigenous communities.

Working Conditions
Salary Details

On average, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers can expect to earn between $1,000 and $1,249 per week ($52,000 and $64,999 per year), depending on the organisation they work for, and their level of experience.

Tools and Technologies

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers are expected to be able to apply first aid in an emergency and should be able to use appropriate first aid equipment.

Education and Training Entrance Requirements

To become a qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, you usually need to gain a qualification in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care work.

The Certificates III and IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care and the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice are offered at registered training organisations throughout Western Australia.

You can also undertake a traineeship. The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health care worker (level 3) and (level 4) traineeships usually take 12 and 24 months to complete. The Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health care worker (level 2) traineeship takes 12 months to complete is available as a school-based traineeship.

Only persons who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander are eligible for registration as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner.

To work as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner in Western Australia, you will need to obtain registration from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia.

You may also need to obtain a Working with Children Check from the Department of Communities.