



## STATEMENT ON THE HEALTH OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

### 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1 This document is a statement of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine relating to the health of the indigenous peoples of Australia and New Zealand.
- 1.2 The statement is applicable to all emergency departments in Australia and New Zealand.

### 2. POLICY

- 2.1 The College recognises that Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Maori people have a range of poor population health measures.
- 2.2 The College recognises a wide variety of factors brought about by the impact of colonisation as contributors to these poor health measures.
- 2.3 The College recognises that improving the health of the indigenous peoples is among the highest health priorities of Australia and New Zealand.
- 2.4 The College is committed to improving the health of the indigenous peoples through appropriate training of its members, and by encouraging accessible, appropriate and high quality emergency medical care for indigenous people.
- 2.5 The College recognises that Maori have a unique position as *tangata whenua* (original people) of Aotearoa (New Zealand), and is committed to upholding the principles and articles of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi between the Crown and Maori.
- 2.6 The College supports the statements of the Medical Council of New Zealand regarding cultural competence and best practices when providing care to Maori patients and their *whanau* (family).
- 2.7 The College supports the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing policy of Improved Access to and Responsiveness of the Mainstream Health System to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.