715 health checks are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of all ages. Health checks have been specifically designed to support the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and provide preventative and early intervention strategies.

**Key facts**
- Only 3 out of 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people currently receive a 715 health check.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are 2.3 times more likely to experience burden of disease than non-Indigenous Australians.
- 715 health checks can be undertaken by any general practice or Aboriginal Medical Service.

**A whole of practice approach**
Patients may interact with various staff within a health service. It is important all staff are aware of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

**Is your service culturally safe?**
- Do you acknowledge the local Traditional Owners of the land?
- Have staff undertaken cultural awareness or cultural safety training?
- Do you employ an Aboriginal Health Worker or Aboriginal Health Practitioner?
- Do you have a male and a female practitioner on staff for patients to choose who they are comfortable with? This is culturally important for women’s and men’s business.
- Is community transport assistance available?
- Are there any out of pocket costs to be incurred by the patient? Make sure these are mentioned at the time of booking.
- Does the patient have family members that should also consider a 715 health check?
- Do you support patients to bring someone with them to the health check? Some patients may be visiting a health service for the first time and feel more comfortable bringing someone with them.
- Do you explain confidentiality? Some patients may be concerned or worried about what happens to the information they provide.

**Prescription medications**
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a chronic disease (or at risk of a chronic disease) may be eligible for the Closing the Gap PBS Co-payments. It provides prescription medication at a lower price, or free of charge with a Health Care Card.

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Visit [www.health.gov.au/715-health-check](http://www.health.gov.au/715-health-check) for more information, including a full list of MBS items for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.