

Diverse Needs: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Warning: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples should be aware that this page deals with topics like end-of-life and sorry business.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples represent many First Nations culture and language groups across Australia. They are 3.8% of our population. About 75% live in NSW, Queensland, and WA with NT having the highest proportion.

Experience of disadvantage

Colonisation and racism have led to health inequalities for First Nations people. They have shorter life spans and poorer health outcomes. Many have experienced forced relocation and child removal causing lasting trauma.

Complex overlaps

Many live with the impact of past trauma, loss of family and culture (members of Stolen Generation), poverty, social stigma, ill-health, disability and dementia.

The impact on end-of-life care

First Nation people may distrust support services and feel unsafe when using them. Kinship, which extends beyond immediate family, is crucial support. Ask who is the carer and who should participate in decisions and "sorry business" (mourning period). Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups for respectful and culturally safe end-of-life care.



Download [PEPA's Cultural Considerations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander](#) to find out more.

Watch the video - [Final Footprints](#) by Palliative Care Australia.

