

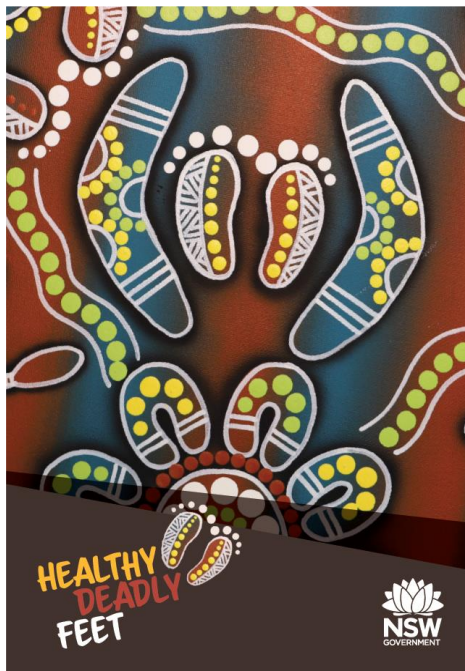
Healthy Deadly Feet – improving access to care and outcomes for Aboriginal people living with foot disease

Background: Diabetes and diabetes related foot disease are disproportionately prevalent in the Aboriginal population. In NSW, Aboriginal people experience almost a four-fold amputation rate due to diabetes-related foot disease when compared to non-Aboriginal people. A literature review* in 2016 recommended an increase in the NSW Aboriginal workforce in foot care and podiatry to provide culturally safe and community focused care for Aboriginal people with diabetes related foot disease. The NSW Ministry of Health, along with partners, developed the Healthy Deadly Feet (HDF) Project. In line with improving access to High Risk Foot Services in NSW this project aims to increase the Aboriginal workforce in foot care and podiatry and improve diabetes related foot disease outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Pillars of the Program

1	2	3	4	5
LBVC High Risk Foot Services initiative	LHD/SHN support and roadshows	Workforce Initiative	Aboriginal Community Access	Education and Training
Underpinned by a set of minimum and best practice standards this initiative is increasing access to High Risk Foot Services across NSW	The NSW Ministry of Health is seeking engagement from all LHDs/SHNs to adopt the initiative.	A key goal is to increase the Aboriginal workforce across both clinical and non-clinical roles with a particular focus around allied health.	Increased Aboriginal community access into foot care services in a culturally safe environment.	Roll out cultural responsiveness training and development of the Health Deadly Foot Learning Pathway for appropriate workforces.

Strategies: Partners are working with four Districts and one network in the HDF pilot project. The HDF Project will work with Podiatrists, Aboriginal Health Workers, Aboriginal Health Practitioners, and Aboriginal/Non-Aboriginal Allied Health Assistants in participating LHDs and SHNs in NSW.



Outcomes: The increase in the Aboriginal workforce in foot care services and establishment of HRFS across NSW will improve access for Aboriginal people to culturally safe foot care services and increase screening and early intervention. This will lead to an improvement in patient reported experience and outcomes, a reduction in diabetes related foot disease and complications, such as amputations, and an overall improvement in the health and quality of life for Aboriginal people. There will also be a reduction in the variation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in prevalence, access to care and outcomes for diabetes related foot disease.

Thanks to our dedicated partners



CCLHD, HNELHD, ISLHD, SVHN, WNSWLHD

* Service for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health Report- Addressing Diabetes Related Foot Disease in Indigenous NSW Dr Hassan Kadous & HDF team Hassan.Kadous@health.nsw.gov.au