

World-first Indigenous healing portal launched in Perth

People working to heal the trauma affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians will be able to more easily collaborate across sectors and locations from today.

The innovative online healing hub, launched in Perth this morning, is a partnership between Edith Cowan University's Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation.

"Healing our people involves a range of sectors including health, education, child protection and justice, and a joint effort from frontline staff, policy makers and researchers," Healing Foundation CEO Richard Weston said.

"So much positive work is taking place around the country to heal our Stolen Generations, their descendants and everyone affected by colonisation and past government policies but because this work spans many sectors and locations, it hasn't been easy for people to share their knowledge.

"For the first time, the portal brings together information about what is working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healing in one accessible resource.

"It will enable everyone involved in healing our people to learn from best practice healing initiatives, share tools and resources and work together to develop healing opportunities in our communities.

"The portal will facilitate the joint effort that is required across our country to heal the trauma affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," Mr Weston said.

The portal provides culturally appropriate information and the latest research on topics such as trauma, Stolen Generations, children and young people, men's and women's healing, and education, training and employment.

According to HealthInfoNet Director Professor Neil Drew, the portal is all about making information as accessible as possible and encouraging collaboration.

"We bring together the vast amount of information available in the area of Indigenous healing and make it available for everyone, from policy makers and academics, to practitioners and frontline workers," Professor Drew said.

"The portal's online 'yarning place' allows people to discuss Indigenous healing issues in real time or through discussion boards or an email list."

The portal can be accessed at www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/related-issues/healing.

A short video about the portal is available at <https://youtu.be/EuzbKX579Es>.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on building culturally strong, community led healing solutions. More information is available at www.healingfoundation.org.au

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