

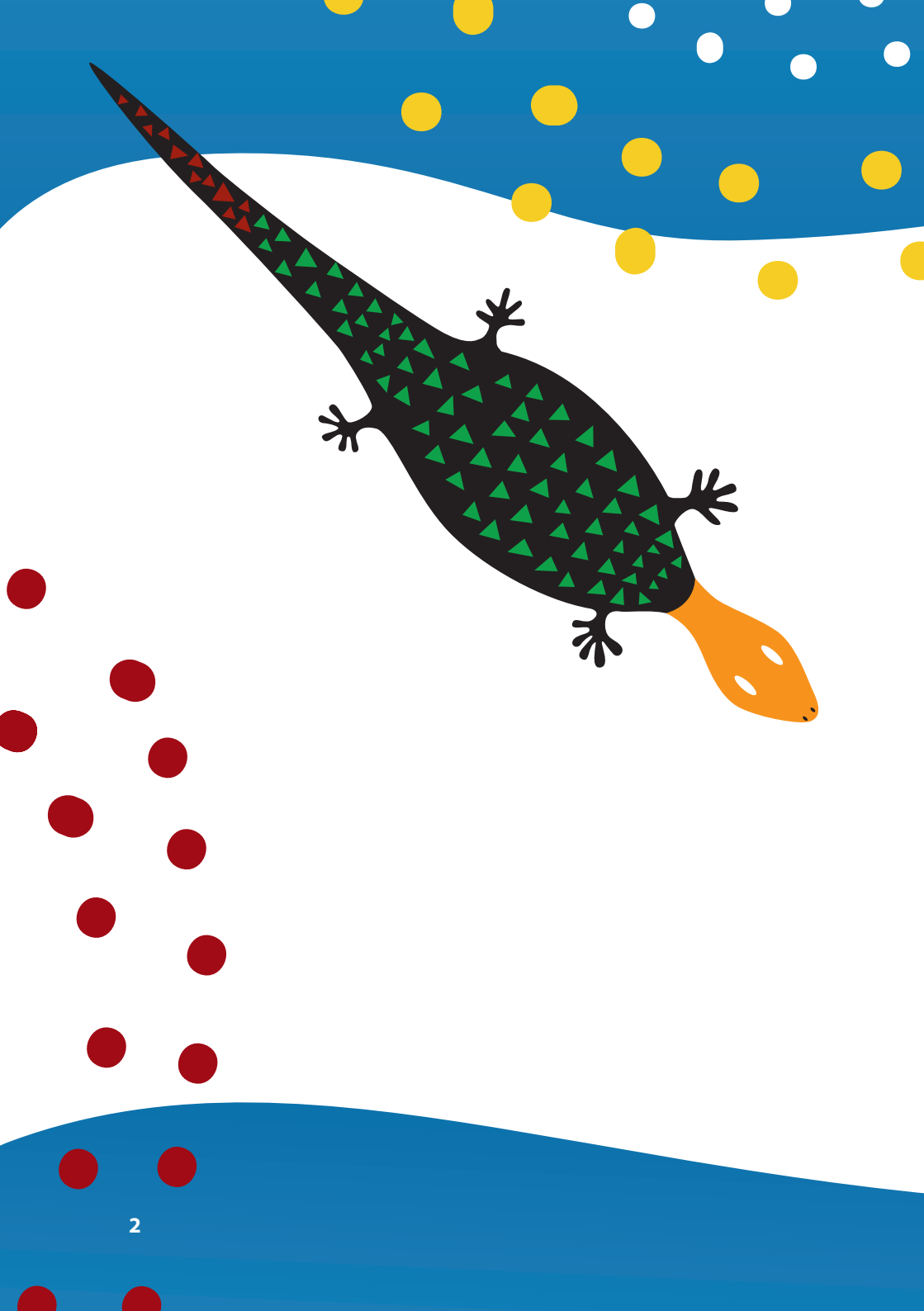


AMSANT

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019 - 2023







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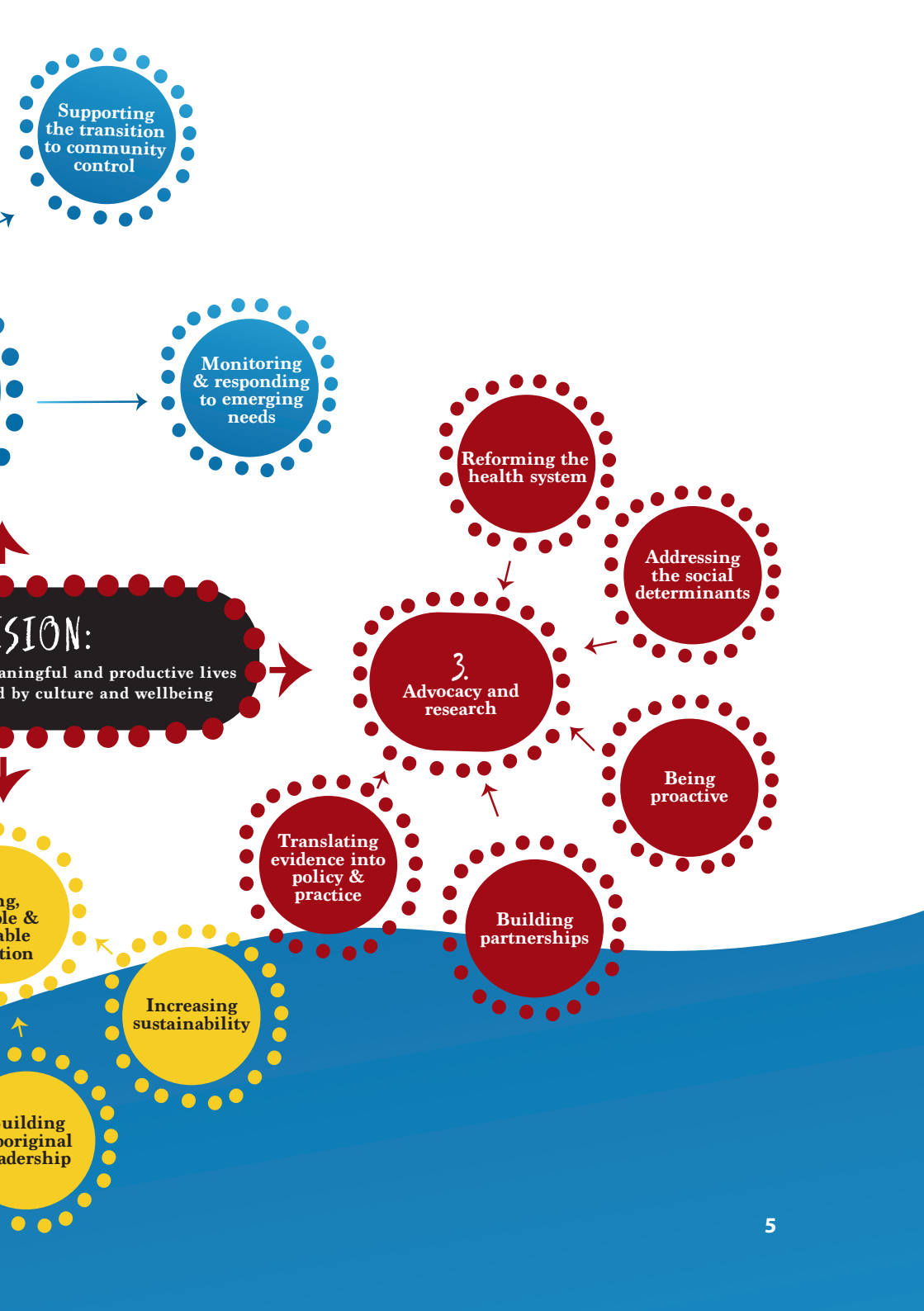
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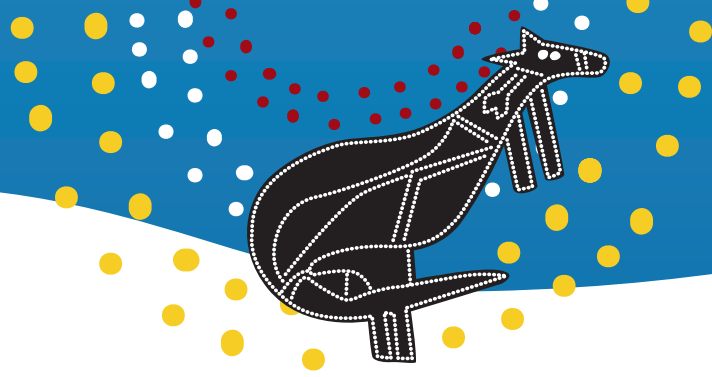
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OUR VISION

That Aboriginal people live meaningful and productive lives on their own terms, enriched by culture and wellbeing.

OUR ROLE

AMSANT is the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) in the Northern Territory. We aim to grow a strong Aboriginal community controlled primary health care sector by:

- supporting our Members to deliver culturally safe, high quality comprehensive primary health care that supports action on the social determinants of health, and
- representing AMSANT Members' views and aspirations through advocacy, policy, planning and research.

OUR PRINCIPLES

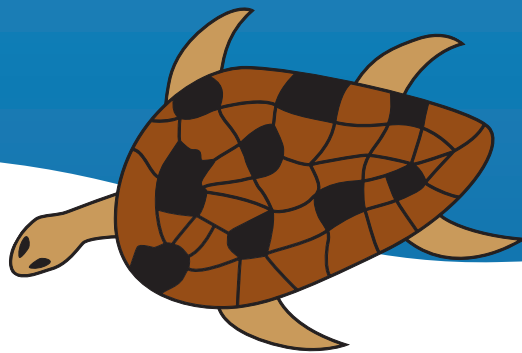
Aboriginal community control is an act of self-determination¹. It ensures that people who are going to use health services are able to determine the nature of those services, and then

participate in the planning, implementation and evaluation of those services.

AMSANT's foundations are the principles of Aboriginal community controlled primary health care as set out by the National Aboriginal Health Strategy (1989) as essential to improving the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people². Our principles encompass:

- a holistic view of health care which includes physical, social, spiritual and emotional health of people
- capacity-building of community-controlled organisations and the community itself to support local and regional solutions or health outcomes
- local community control and participation
- partnering and collaborating across sectors, and
- recognising the inter-relationship between good health and the social determinants of health.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services must be incorporated bodies, with constitutions ensuring control by Aboriginal people under the right to self-determination, and compulsory accountability processes, including annual general meetings open to all members of the relevant Aboriginal community and regularly elected governance committees.



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. Strong and supported AMSANT Members

Our Members are our strength. Working in partnership, we will assist them to deliver culturally safe, comprehensive primary health care services by providing or advocating for support in the areas of health service delivery, governance and leadership, finances, workforce, business management, information technology or other issues that they identify.

- 1.1 **Identifying the needs of our Members:** we will work with our Members to ensure a systematic approach to identifying their diverse needs to maximise the effectiveness and reach of their programs
- 1.2 **Providing support:** wherever possible within our resources we will seek to directly meet the needs of our Members in ways that are effective and sustainable
- 1.3 **Filling the gaps:** where we are not able to provide support directly, we will seek to link Members to other sources of support and/or advocate on their behalf for their needs to be met




1.4 Learning from each other: we will share ideas, resources and data inclusively across the sector to promote best practice and innovation

2. Growing Aboriginal community controlled comprehensive primary health care

We are committed to the principles of Aboriginal community controlled primary health care as the most effective way to address ill health in Aboriginal communities; as a platform for addressing the social determinants of health; and as an act of self-determination.

2.1 Advocating for needs-based resourcing for our sector: we will advocate for appropriate secure needs-based funding for the Aboriginal community controlled health model of comprehensive primary health care as the most effective way to promote health and equity

2.2 Supporting the transition to community control: we will support Aboriginal communities to move along the pathway to community control in the manner and to the degree that they wish



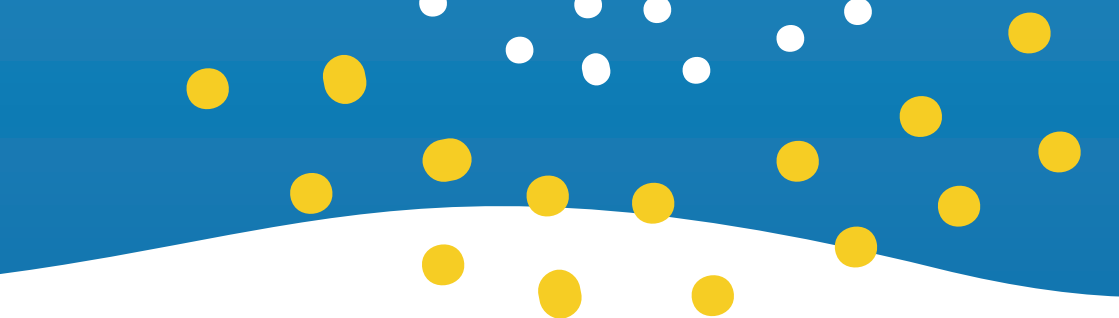
2.3 Monitoring and responding to emerging needs: we will monitor trends affecting the health of Aboriginal communities and seek to ensure that Aboriginal community control is at the centre of responses to emerging issues (for example, child protection and youth incarceration)

3. Advocacy and research

As the peak body for the Aboriginal community controlled sector, we will seek to contribute to the development of a more effective and equitable health system that meets the needs of Aboriginal people, including through engaging in policy and planning processes and ensuring the health system is informed by the evidence. Wherever possible, we will use and support Aboriginal-led research.

3.1 Reforming the health system: We will continue to play a leadership role in the reform of the health system in the Northern Territory and nationally, including through the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum

3.2 Addressing the social determinants: we will advocate for and support the Aboriginal community to determine and control its own responses to the social determinants of health




3.3 Being proactive: We will engage with and influence government and other stakeholders on the policy and program priorities of our Members

3.4 Building partnerships: We will build cooperative partnerships with key stakeholders, including Aboriginal organisations and peak bodies, government agencies and other mainstream organisations

3.5 Translating evidence into policy and practice: we will seek to ensure that both health service delivery and government policy is informed by research and the evidence of what works to improve the health of Aboriginal communities

4. A strong, sustainable and accountable organisation

To deliver on our strategic priorities, AMSANT will continue to develop and implement high quality governance and management systems across the organisation. We will support our staff to ensure an



effective, culturally safe organisation. As an Aboriginal organisation, we will prioritise building the capacity and skills of our Aboriginal staff.

- 4.1 **Strengthening corporate governance:** We will ensure that AMSANT is well-governed and accountable at all levels and that its operations are supported by effective internal management and decision-making
- 4.2 **Supporting our staff:** We will recruit, retain and develop quality staff, providing them with a respectful workplace and ensuring that they have the skills necessary to assist AMSANT carry out its role
- 4.3 **Building Aboriginal leadership:** We will promote initiatives that increase the recruitment, retention and training of Aboriginal staff and support their career pathways at all levels of the organisation
- 4.4 **Increasing sustainability:** We will continue to deliver effective financial management and investigate opportunities to grow and diversify our funding sources

AMSANT member services throughout the Northern Territory





www.amsant.org.au

