

Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners
applying for Credentialling as a Credentialed
Diabetes Educator (CDE)
2022



Your trusted partner in diabetes care

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals with a primary health discipline not currently eligible for credentialling are able to apply as an individual applicant using these guidelines.

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URL - [ADEA | Eligible Primary Health Discipline - ADEA](#)

Abstract

In 2017, the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) Board approved an application from the Indigenous Allied Health Association (IAHA) and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association (NAATSIHWA) to consider individual applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals to apply for credentialling as a Credentialed Diabetes Educator. This approval followed recommendations from the ADEA Credentialling Committee and was for an initial period of three years.

Following a review of the process and outcomes, and the success of the ADEA NDSS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentor Pilot Program, the application from IAHA and the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) has been formally adopted as an ongoing ADEA policy. This document outlines the initial credentialling and eligibility requirements for individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners wanting to become a Credentialed Diabetes Educator.

Keywords

Credentialling

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Practitioner

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enrolled Nurse

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner

Credentialed Diabetes Educator

Initial credentialling requirements

Acknowledgements

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About ADEA

ADEA is the peak national organisation for more than 2,400 multidisciplinary health professionals who are committed to providing evidence-based best practice diabetes education, care and management for all people living with, at risk of, or affected by diabetes, to ensure their optimal health and wellbeing. These health professionals work in various sectors and locations, including metropolitan, regional, and remote areas.

ADEA aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people with diabetes by:

- Credentialling diabetes educators in recognition of their qualifications, skills, knowledge, and experience
- promoting the goal of optimal health and quality of life and advocating for equitable access to quality diabetes education, management and care for all people living with, or affected by, diabetes
- developing and disseminating standards
- supporting and promoting the implementation of best practice diabetes education and care
- accrediting and endorsing diabetes education courses delivered by universities and other organisations
- promoting and conducting research to guide quality diabetes education and actively disseminating research results
- liaising and collaborating with relevant bodies to advance the practice of diabetes education
- providing a range of events, resources and professional development opportunities

For more information, visit our website at www.adea.com.au.

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Background:

ADEA recognises the need to improve the health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with diabetes.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are almost four times more likely to have diabetes or pre-diabetes than other Australians, and diabetes was found to be more than double in remote areas (21%) compared with non-remote areas (9%). Type 2 diabetes is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults.

ADEA is committed to supporting First Nations communities to better health outcomes, improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by diabetes and recognising and enhancing the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professionals. Consideration has been given to the skills, knowledge and competencies required to provide culturally appropriate diabetes education.

Eligibility to Commence the Initial Credentialling Process

Health professional organisations apply to the ADEA Board to have their primary health discipline qualification recognised as having the underlying clinical and chronic health disease knowledge and experience to undertake the credentialling process as a diabetes educator. Further information regarding this process can be found on the ADEA website: adea.com.au.

Rather than one particular organisation applying to ADEA for eligibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professionals who are not already a member of one of the eligible primary health disciplines, individual applications can be submitted where the applicant meets the criteria below. Once an individual application for eligibility has been assessed and approved in accordance with these criteria, the applicant can proceed to apply for initial credentialling.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enrolled nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners can apply to ADEA for an eligibility assessment by submitting evidence that the applicant meets the following criteria:

- works primarily with First Nations people at risk of, or diagnosed with diabetes
- has, at a minimum, a certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice or above, a certificate IV in enrolled nursing, or the equivalent for allied health professional qualifications
- demonstrates foundation knowledge and skills in:
 - anatomy and physiology
 - aetiology and pathophysiology of disease
 - biochemistry and interpretation of clinical laboratory assessments and use in case management
 - human nutrition
 - pharmacotherapy, including quality use of medicines (including traditional medicines and therapies)
 - public health and health promotion
- has an understanding of working within a team environment

- demonstrates how to assess an individual's health status and develop a care plan designed to support the person with diabetes to achieve and maintain health including a plan for monitoring outcomes
- demonstrates knowledge of the role of research and quality activities
- has completed a clinical placement component as part of the certificate IV qualification or allied health qualification
- has been assessed by a manager or supervisor against the competency standards in diabetes for Aboriginal Health Workers and Health Practitioners, developed by ADEA.

Documentation Required to Apply for Assessment of Eligibility for Credentialling as a Diabetes Educator

Please submit the following documentation for assessment:

1. A completed eligibility application form (see Appendix A), or a copy of the statement of completion from the Mentor Pilot Program (see Appendix B)
2. Copy of current AHPRA registration – if applicable. If the applicant does not have AHPRA registration, a letter from their current workplace addressing governance issues such as a complaints and disciplinary mechanisms, and evidence of generalist continuing professional development (CPD) and mandatory training activities for the past 12 months
3. Current resume
4. Evidence of current supervision and/or support program
5. Copy of full academic transcript and copy of unit outline that documents the skills and knowledge obtained by completing the unit(s), and evidence of clinical placement.
6. Workplace plans and programs related to diabetes
7. Current position description, which demonstrates that the role includes supporting people living with, or at risk of developing, diabetes
8. Letter of support from supervisor or manager that confirms the applicant's skills according to the competency standards for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners using the supplied template (Appendix C). The author of the letter must have recently observed the applicant's work and be able to confirm knowledge, skills and experience against the competencies: [National Core Competencies for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Diabetes Health Workers and Diabetes Health Practitioners](#)

Assessment of Individual Applications

Applications will be assessed by two independent assessors, the Chair of the Credentialling committee (CC) and the Chair of the Course Advisory and Standards of Practice (CASP) Committee.

Once the application has been reviewed, a recommendation will be made to the ADEA Board.

The ADEA Board will make the final decision on approving individual applications.

If approved the applicant will be notified that they can commence the initial credentialling process.

Initial Credentialling Process

Once approved as eligible the individual must satisfy the initial credentialling requirements for all CDEs.

This includes:

- Complete a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Management at an ADEA accredited University
- Be an associate member of ADEA and, once the Graduate Certificate is completed, upgrade to a full member of ADEA
- Complete a 6 month mentoring program partnership with a CDE
- Complete 1000 hours of practice in diabetes education and management
- Complete a 12-month CPD Portfolio according to the Credentialling Assessment and CPD Points Guide
- Provide a referee's report addressing the National Competencies for Credentialed Diabetes Educators.

Re-credentialling Requirements

Similar to all CDEs, maintaining credentialling status will require annual submission of:

- 1- Full membership of ADEA
- 2- Copy of current AHPRA registration – if applicable. If the applicant does not have AHPRA registration, a letter from current workplace addressing governance issues such as a complaints and disciplinary mechanisms, and evidence of generalist continuing professional development (CPD) and mandatory training activities for the past 12 months
- 3- A diabetes-specific CPD Portfolio, including 20 points of CPD activities.

Appendix A

Application form for individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Allied Health Practitioners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Enrolled Nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners applying for eligibility to undertake credentialling as a diabetes educator.

Appendix B

Statement of completion from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker/Health Practitioner Mentor Pilot Program

Appendix C

Template for letter of support from supervisor or manager that can confirm the applicant's skills according to the competency standards for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners