

**Deepening relationships and contributing to long-term change:
Bristol Myers Squibb Australia launches Innovate RAP**

(Melbourne, Thursday, 29, November 2023) - Bristol Myers Squibb Australia (BMSA) today launches its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). They join a growing network of over 2,400 corporate, government and non-for-profit organisations that have made a formal commitment to advancing reconciliation through Reconciliation Australia's RAP program.

Bristol Myers Squibb Australia's, Medical Director, Dr Melinda Munns said today's Innovate RAP launch reinforces the companies' commitment to towards lasting and genuine reconciliation.

Innovate stage defined by Reconciliation Australia (RA) is focused on developing and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, engaging staff and stakeholders in reconciliation, and developing and piloting innovative strategies to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“Our Innovate RAP will be guided by our RAP vision to ensure Australia's First Peoples attain the same level of health care and health outcomes as other Australians,” said Dr Melinda Munns.

The actions in the Innovate RAP are designed in four parts: Relationships, Respect and Opportunities and Governance.

- Deepen existing relationships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCHO's), communities and peoples, as well as key stakeholders within our broader network to advocate for healthcare policy and programs, designed for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Continue to encourage organisational understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, knowledge, and rights through embracing cultural awareness training for new and existing employees.
- Build an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee strategy, looking at ways to attract and retain.
- Continue to invest in diversity of suppliers through a corporate partnership with Supply Nation.

Bristol Myers Squibb Australia joined Supply Nation in 2021 and has invested more than \$300,000.00 with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses and made significant changes to procurement practices. In addition, Bristol Myers Squibb Australia updated employment policies to be more culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees. And more than half of their employees completed cultural training with Black Card.

“We are dedicated to playing our part in achieving long-term change. Our Innovative RAP involves engaging with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and leaders and advocating for healthcare policy and programs to support self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“Reconciliation after this year's referendum is more important than ever. We remain committed to standing alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples in their calls for a better future across health, employment, housing and education.” said Dr Melinda Munns.

About Bristol Myers Squibb Australia's RAP artwork

The artwork by national award-winning Wiradjuri Artist Lani Balzan, commissioned by Dreamtime Creative, represents Bristol Myers Squibb and their vision to transform patients' lives through life-saving medicines and innovative medicines. The hands holding Australia are the focus of the BMS brand and a universal expression of healing, giving and receiving. They represent the personal touch BMS bring to their work in every treatment they pioneer. The dot work inside Australia represents BMS belief in the power of science to address challenging diseases and the unprecedented scientific breakthroughs in advancing the treatment of disease. Their shared values of passion, innovation, urgency, accountability, inclusion and integrity are represented by the aqua coloured paths while the spectrum of colour from bottom left and top right represent science growing over time and providing better care for people.

About Bristol Myers Squibb

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at [BMS.com](https://www.bms.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Bristol Myers Squibb

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