

Bendigo Health Treaty Pledge

We, Bendigo Health are proud to acknowledge the Dja Dja Wurrung People, Traditional Custodians of the lands where we do our work across Victoria. As a health service, we acknowledge Djaara have been healing with Country for thousands of years. We recognise and respect their culture and the contribution of all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples across the region and express our commitment to walking together on this continued healing journey. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and remember that sovereignty was never ceded.

As an organisation firmly committed to advancing social justice and equality, we want to play our part in righting the wrongs of the past and be part of creating a better future together.

With profound respect for the sovereignty, culture, and rights of First Peoples, we're pleased to announce that we will walk with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria on the journey to Treaty.

We recognise that when it comes to First Peoples communities, cultures and lands, the experts are of course First Peoples.

The past can't be changed, but we can choose to take steps today that will help heal the ongoing pain caused by the injustices of yesterday. We believe a better tomorrow is possible.

Bendigo Health pledges our unwavering support to the First Peoples' Treaty process in Victoria.

To help build support for the shared journey to Treaty, we will:

- Support and Partner with First Nations People Assembly by holding a Treaty Pledge Forum for leaders and CEOs in the region alongside Dja Dja Wurrung Reserved Seat Representative and member of North-West Region and Dja Dja Wurrung Treaty Engagement Officer
- Publicly support and profile Treaty through organisational communication channels
- Embed cultural safety as a strategic priority in our Strategic Plan 2026-30.



- Expand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural learning opportunities for staff through a formal cultural learning strategy. This strategy will strengthen staff understanding and respect for culture and history, while promoting cultural safety, anti-racism, and awareness of the Treaty process in Victoria.
- Commit to genuine partnership with Traditional Owner Groups and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve health outcomes, and walk alongside the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria in the shared journey toward Treaty

By making this pledge, we affirm our commitment to the self-determination of First Peoples in Victoria as they assert their rights, tell their truths, and chart a path towards, and healing through, Treaty-making.

Together, we will create a future where First Peoples' voices are heard, rights are respected, and justice is realised for generations to come.

