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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** Culturally Literate Health Care: The Role of First Nation Communities in Informing Health Policies and Health Professional Practice  |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Setting/problem** Culturally appropriate healthcare enhances accessibility, acceptability and health outcomes for First Nations people. However, despite significant Australian health investments, rural and remote First Nations people experience poorer health and higher disease burdens than non-Indigenous Australians. Alternative approaches to how health policies are designed and health professionals educated is required to achieve culturally literate healthcare, professional practice and improved health outcomes. **Intervention** In far west New South Wales, Australia, a Local Health District and a University Department of Rural Health has established a collaboration to address these issues, the Paliira Mala Committee. The committee works to ensure responsive local health policies for First Nations people, and professionals and health students have access to cultural education and guidance, providing a foundation for culturally respectful and sensitive care. Whilst these initiatives are valued at the local level, there is acknowledgement of the diversity of First Nations people within the region. Given this diversity, it is imperative to decentralise decision making from the committee and allow the adaptation of cultural education programs to incorporate local sensitivities and histories are shared promoting culturally literate practices.**Outcomes** To date, the Committee has supported the re-orientation of emergency department services to address barriers for First Nations people seeking emergency care. They have also established a First Nations health workforce network to identify other access barriers and provide collegiate support. Work has commenced with a regional Aboriginal Health Service to adapt the current cultural education program for local contexts. This work includes the provision of training and guidance for this service to have carriage of local program delivery.  **Implications** Whilst the work of the Committee and adaptation of the cultural education programs are both in early stages of implementation, significant gains have been made in re-orienting healthcare delivery and engaging regional Aboriginal health providers. This ensures locally responsive, respectful and culturally sensitive approaches to healthcare and the education of health professionals. Regional stakeholders acknowledge that additional investments are required to achieve a culturally literate health sector and professional practice. **Preferred presentation format**Innovation in policy and practice ORAL presentation |