

**The NSW Department of Communities & Justice Policy Update:  
Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) to discontinue use of Personal  
Wellness Index (PWI) with Aboriginal people**

December 2023

The Aboriginal Community of Practice has been advocating for an end to the Personal Wellbeing Index tool and its inappropriate use with Aboriginal people. At Homelessness NSW we've been listening to sector wide concerns around the cultural safety of the PWI tool and advocating to the Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) for a consistent approach across districts and programs.

Homelessness NSW has just received the following update from DCJ in response to our enquiries.

*"Aboriginal Personal Wellbeing Index Update-*

*As previously advised, the Personal Wellbeing Index (PWI) is currently not recommended for use with clients who are Aboriginal. This is due to concerns that the PWI tool may not be entirely appropriate or culturally relevant.*

*DCJ has worked with a number of stakeholders who have guided us to this position. We will continue to work with them and search for an enhanced or replacement wellbeing measure that is regarded as fit for purpose.*

*In the meantime, the PWI does not need to be conducted with Aboriginal clients, and this will have no ramifications for provider data collection requirements."*

This clarifies that the PWI should not be used with Aboriginal clients. This should come with no impact to contractual requirements with DCJ, and if there is any pressure or confusion around this please contact us.

If you are an Aboriginal worker in the sector and would like to contribute to the ongoing discussions around an appropriate replacement or alternative wellbeing measurement tool, you can reach out to Jessie at [jessie@homelessnessnsw.org.au](mailto:jessie@homelessnessnsw.org.au).

For any questions around the implementation of this update or concerns please contact us at [sectorsupport@homelessnessnsw.org.au](mailto:sectorsupport@homelessnessnsw.org.au).