

# Dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander endoscopy pathway improves access to endoscopy services.

E Gonsalkorala (1,2,3), J Bolte (1), S Robinson (1), R Clatworthy (1), L Bell (1), T O'Sullivan (1,2,3), C Brown (4), K Hanigan (3), M Appleyard (1,2,3).

(1) Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS), Herston; (2) University of Queensland School of Medicine; (3) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital; (4) QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute.

## Background

Cancer is now the most common cause of mortality for First Nations people.

### National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) Participation

34% First Nations

40% General Population

Following stakeholder engagement, a dedicated, gender-specific endoscopy list was established at the Surgical Treatment and Rehabilitation Service (STARS).

## Materials and Methods

### Framework

Retrospective observational evaluation using the RE-AIM framework (Reach, Effectiveness, Implementation and Maintenance).



### Timeframe

Compared pre-implementation (Jan–Dec 2024) vs. post-implementation (Jan–Dec 2025).  
Note: Excludes Oct 2024 pilot.



### Analysis

Statistical outcomes evaluated via Student t-test.

## Results

First Nations procedures increased overall from 3.30% (n=267) to 4.25% (n=378).

### System Impact Dashboard

#### Booked

32.6 → 44.5 ↑  
(p=0.001)

#### Completed

24.7 → 31.5 ↑  
(p=0.007)

#### Treated in Time

25.3% → 35.2% ↑  
(p=0.004)

No significant changes were observed among non-indigenous patient metrics, confirming the target intervention drove these improvements.

Cancellation rates increased (20% vs 22%, p=0.004), however, Missed Opportunity to Treat (MOTT) saw no significant change (6% vs 7%, p=0.15).

### Patient Experience



98% felt staff were culturally respectful.



96% felt heard.



97% would recommend the program.

**Conclusion:** Dedicated lists improve access and are highly accepted by First Nations people.

**Strategic Recommendation:** Because Missed Opportunity to Treat (MOTT) remained stable despite higher cancellations, intentional overbooking is recommended as a safe and effective strategy to manage natural attendance fluctuations on these lists.