**NATSIEH 2019 ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

**Template 1**

# Presentation Title *Upper and Lower case letters and no more than 100 characters in length, 10 pt font size*

**Insert Title Here: Reflection- My Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Journey**

**Abstract.** *Submission must be in**Microsoft WORD. Do not use any shading or underlines. Use upper and lower case letters (sentence case) in titles and headings. Abstracts should be text only, no graphics. Single line spacing with one free line between paragraphs. No indentation. Abbreviations should be spelled out at the first occurrence with the abbreviation, in parentheses, immediately following.*

***Word Limit: 500 words or less (approximately 1½ A4 pages).***

**Insert abstract here:**

The NSW Aboriginal Environmental Health Traineeship Program is an initiative that upskills and engages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to become qualified in the field of Environmental Health. The program supports trainees to simultaneously complete a University degree and gain practical experience in the workplace either through a local Council or public health unit. The program allows local Aboriginal people to obtain tertiary qualifications and work on country. Their knowing, and belonging is utilised to assist in linking mainstream services to the Aboriginal community seeing the implementation of Environmental Health projects adapted to suit the individual needs of various communities and address emerging issues across the state.

My presentation will involve discussing projects and programs developed and implemented by the NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit, the importance of cultural sensitivity when working with Aboriginal communities, the advantages of networking with various stakeholders and working groups, rolling with resistance and challenges, key milestones and my personal learnings in my Aboriginal Environmental Health traineeship journey. I will evaluate and reflect on my time spent in the traineeship program and talk about the benefits for professional development and benefits for the community by increasing the rate of Aboriginal people in the workforce to work with Aboriginal communities through development and implementation of environmental health projects that enhance the health and safety of Aboriginal people and community as a whole.

**Abstract Summary.** *A summary of no more than 100 words is required. The summary should be concise and reflect the content of the presentation. This summary may be used in the printed Conference Program distributed to the Conference delegate.*

**Insert summary here:**

Highlighting my journey from the completion of the higher school certificate to pursuing a career in the health sector through the successful completion of a traineeship as an Aboriginal Health Worker in a clinical setting with the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and subsequently progressing to traineeship with the NSW Health ‘Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program’ and successful completion of a Bachelor of Natural Science degree. I will identify challenges, learnings and achievements and experiences that have shaped my ongoing learning journey. Through this unique opportunity I have been privileged to work effectively with Aboriginal people to provide improved health outcomes for Aboriginal communities.

**Main Presenter Biography**

**Biography.** *E.g. Dr Matthew Benson: Biography details. A biography is a short profile (up to 150 words) about yourself and will be used to introduce you to the audience. It should be written in the third person; make the text flow to assist the chairperson who will read out your biography,* ***do not use dot points****. Ideas for inclusion in your biography:*

* *Details of the community/organisations with which you are involved.*
* *Details of your employment, position and how long you have been in the Environmental Health Field.*
* *Details of any achievements or goals.*
* *Any other information about yourself that might be of interested to the audience.*

**Insert biography here:**

Trent Auld, I am 27 years old with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. My great-grandfather originally descended from Murray Island (Mer) and my mob currently live in communities along the far north Queensland coast. I was born and raised in the Illawarra and relocated to Bega on the far Southcoast in my teenage years. I have worked in the health sector for over 8 years and began my career employed as an Aboriginal Health Worker in 2011 with completion of Cert 3 and 4 in Aboriginal primary health care, I was then selected in 2012 to be a part of the NSW Health Aboriginal Environmental Health training program. I moved from the Illawarra and have been living and working within Western Sydney and collaborating with local Aboriginal organisations to develop and implement environmental health projects and programs for the Aboriginal communitie through a range of health focused projects and partnerships. I have recently graduated from Western Sydney University with a Bachelor of Natural Science degree in May 2019. I am passionate about working in the health industry to contribute towards closing the gap for Aboriginal people and helping my people to have better life expectancy and improved quality of life.