

# Adding Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status

A Clinical by MedicalDirector cheat sheet

Entering a patient's self-reported response to the question 'Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?' in the coded 'ATSI' section of MedicalDirector Clinical or Pracsoft, helps patients have an opportunity to access relevant services specifically designed to meet the needs of Indigenous Australians – if they choose.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are under-identified in many health-related data collections. Self-report in response to the standard Indigenous status question is the most accurate means of ascertaining a patient's Indigenous or non-Indigenous status and this information is recorded in the patient record in the section 'ATSI'.

**Question:** Are you [is the person] of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

**Response:** Four standard response options are provided in MedicalDirector Clinical as follows:

1. Yes, Aboriginal
2. Yes, Torres Strait Islander
3. Yes, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
4. No, Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander



### Adding Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status:

1. Open a patient record (F2).
2. Select Patient > Details.
3. Select the ATSI drop-down arrow.
4. Select an option from the list.
5. Save.



6. No, Neither Aboriginal nor Torres Strait Islander

*Note: If the question has not been completed on a returned form, this should be followed up and confirmed with the patient. The ATSI status and Ethnicity fields are different and both should be completed.*

#### Further Information: How to ask about ATSI status

[RACGP "Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australian general practices"](#)

[RACGP "National Guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"](#)

[AIHW "National best practice guidelines for collecting Indigenous status in health data sets"](#)