



Media Release

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ABORIGINAL PEOPLE SAY CANBERRA MUST COMPLY WITH UN HEALTH GOALS

Australia's peak Aboriginal health group has demanded that Canberra immediately address the on-going crisis in Aboriginal health by applying the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for health, both practically and domestically.

NACCHO has called for a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal government — with provisions for compliance on both sides — to ensure the goals are met and not just talked about.

“The federal government treats these health goals as a form of hypothetical foreign policy when what they need to do is to apply those goals practically at the grass roots level, right here in Australia,” said NACCHO Chairperson, Henry Councillor, at the organisation's AGM in Perth.

“Aboriginal people will continue to languish in a state of poor health right across the nation unless federal funding is directed at achieving the eight central Millennium Development Goals.

“Australia may well be a developed country but Aboriginal people continue to experience Third World health outcomes and living conditions, just the same as the peoples of Africa or India.”

The UN's health MDGs include: reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and ensuring universal primary education.

Mr Councillor invited the federal Health Minister to meet with him to discuss the immediate application of the UN's health goals.

“This call for action is driven by the appalling health outcomes many Aboriginal people continue to have,” he said. “We're sure that these outcomes will improve greatly if the government gets serious about the UN health goals and applies them at home, where they are most needed.”

Media inquiries/interviews:

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