



# NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

## Media Release

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### Aboriginal men to benefit from new policy

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO\* the peak body for Aboriginal medical services and the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander male to complete a PHD in the sexual and reproductive health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males, welcomes the government's initiative to start men talking about their health and the development of a National Men's Health Policy.

Dr Adams said "There are number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander champions who have been promoting men's health with very little help or resources".

"The Government needs to engage and consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men about specific issues affecting them" Dr Adams said.

Dr Adams' study found many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men are suffering in silence and have the poorest health compared to other indigenous men in the world.

The research also found that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men attend clinical consultations with their doctors at the same rate as non Aboriginal men, however only 10 percent, compared to 60 percent of non Aboriginal men, seek follow up treatment for their illnesses.

"It is important to have a National Men's Health Policy but it would be useless if there is no commitment, support and resources to implement the policy.

"NACCHO believes men's health has been on the back burner too long and it's time to take a stance to address these issues" Dr Adams said.

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