



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Letter to the editor of The Australian

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11-12-2009

Re Article “Wasting money damages Aboriginal health” by Sara Hudson: The Australian December 10, 2009

Everyone in Aboriginal community controlled health services agrees with the headline, “Wasting money damages Aboriginal health”, above Sara Hudson’s article (commentary 10/12) and we welcome her recognition that Aboriginal community controlled services and cultural appropriateness are important in closing the health gap.

Aboriginal community controlled health services are accountable to their community boards of management and their membership and report at least twice a year to government funding bodies and are externally audited on finances and governance.

There is always room for improvement in our sector as well as in mainstream health services where, for example, whole state government area health services and hospitals have been, in effect, bankrupt.

The best way of stopping wastage of money in Aboriginal health is to make governments properly accountable for their decisions.

Stop diverting money flagged for Aboriginal health to all manner of schemes and mainstream organisations with little or no input from Aboriginal communities and their health services.

The Aboriginal community controlled health sector has over 30 years experience providing front line primary health care and has a good idea of what works in reaching the most marginalised members of the community.

Now that we have a promise of, for the first time, being properly funded to meet the level of need and ill health in the Aboriginal community let’s work in genuine partnership to make it happen.

Yours sincerely

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