



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

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First National Male Health Policy welcomed by Aboriginal men

The Prime Minister's launch of Australia's first National Male Health Policy on Thursday included welcome initiatives and a recognition that, while on average Australian men die five years earlier than Australian women, Aboriginal men die 11.5 years earlier than non Aboriginal men.

Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said the new national policy's six priority areas highlight the diverse needs of men in different populations, regions, age groups and life stages, as well as the need to tailor services and preventative health initiatives to men's needs.

Mr Mohamed said, "Many Aboriginal men took part in meetings to develop NACCHO's own Aboriginal Male Health policy and also contributed to the government's National Male Health Policy

"Some of the needs Aboriginal men have identified included male wellness centres, a concept similar to men's sheds, and more support for men's roles as part of their family

"The Prime Minister recognised these needs in the policy launch package with funding allocated for men's sheds and the *Strong Fathers, Strong Families* programs for Aboriginal Men.

"In consultations, Aboriginal men have often highlighted the importance to their wellbeing of their ties to, and valued roles in, their families and communities.

"The allocation of \$6m, out of the total \$16.7m launch package, for the Strong Fathers, Strong Families program is a significant boost to Aboriginal men and Aboriginal families.

"This new funding can build on the valuable work already being done within urban, regional and remote Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services supporting men and families, which includes support for men's groups and male wellness centres.

"We welcome both the Prime Minister and Minister Warren Snowdon's support for developing this policy", Mr Mohamed said.

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