



## Media Release

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### **NACCHO Co-Chairs Congress Aboriginal Health Forum Advising on New National Plan**

“The importance of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services delivering front line care in their communities is reflected in initiatives announced this morning in Canberra,” says Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

NACCHO will Co-Chair the new National Health Leadership Forum of peak bodies in the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, along with Congress Co-Chair Jody Broun.

“The National Health Leadership Forum will advise Congress and work in partnership with the Federal Government on developing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Plan which Ministers Nicola Roxon and Warren Snowdon announced today”, Mr Mohamed said.

“We welcome the government’s commitment to work with Aboriginal people to develop the new national health plan. It is something NACCHO and our partners in the Close the Gap Campaign have strived for since the campaign began.

“The great advance in today’s announcement is that there is now a mechanism for the partnership to happen.

“The National Health Leadership Forum and the Department of Health and Ageing will Co-Chair a body advising on the development and content of the plan.

“The comprehensive plan will also encompass the social determinates of health such as employment, education, housing and poverty. This is a huge undertaking but it is essential to closing the gap in health outcomes by 2030.

“I see the plan building on the ground breaking 1989 National Aboriginal Health Strategy (NAHS) developed by many involved in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector.

“NACCHO and our partners in the Congress National Health Leadership Forum will be mindful that the NAHS led the way forward, but governments failed to follow.

“We will be working with the government to ensure the new plan will also deliver the desperately needed improvements in the health of our urban, regional and remote communities.

“This year NACCHO celebrates 40 years of caring for our communities since the first Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service was established in 1971 in Redfern.

“Today we have grown to over 150 services across Australia and it is a testament to the expertise and commitment of those in our services that today we are at the forefront of the new National Health Leadership Forum and development of the new plan”, Mr Mohamed said.

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