



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

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“The biggest failure in our health system”

The AMA’s 2011 Federal Budget Submission released today endorses better investment in community-controlled Aboriginal health services to address “the very poor health status” of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples which the AMA President says remains, “the biggest failure in our health system”.

Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) welcomed the AMA’s budget submission saying it offers “practical suggestions for a way forward in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health”.

Like the Prime Minister in her Closing the Gap report last week, the AMA budget submission also emphasises the importance of partnership and the need “to develop and implement in partnership with Indigenous people a long-term national strategic plan to improve the health of Indigenous people, with tangible intermediate goals”.

Mr Mohamed said, “While recognising the significant boost to Aboriginal health in the 2008 COAG package the AMA calls for further funding in the 2011 budget for key areas”.

“These would have big impact on the over 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services which NACCHO represents”

“They include an expansion of the Aboriginal health workforce to be supported by grants to Aboriginal Medical Services for infrastructure, services and training.

“The AMA also champions the need for our services to be able to recruit and retain staff by at least having funds to be able to offer our doctors the salary and conditions that are comparable to State salaried doctors.

“NACCHO also welcomes the AMA’s call for Centres of Excellence in Aboriginal Health to support training and research, the call for grants for capacity building in communities and measures to address urgently the social determinates affecting the health of our communities.

“NACCHO and the AMA also share concerns that, under the health reform agenda, in the transition to the Federal government assuming full responsibility for funding primary health care that community controlled Aboriginal health services are not disadvantaged by losing funding they previously received from state governments and others” Mr Mohamed said.

NACCHO Media Contact: Chris Hallett 04 0770 4788