



# NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

## Media Release

24-3-2011

### **Community Support & Aboriginal Community Control the Lynchpin of Closing the Gap**

NACCHO Chair Justin Mohamed congratulated everyone involved the over 880 events around Australia today expressing support for Closing the Gap and Aboriginal community control of health.

People held diverse events in schools, offices, parks, medical services and hospitals.

Mr Mohamed said, "In addition to the support from community events, the Close the Gap breakfast in Parliament House Canberra demonstrated the bipartisan political support for the campaign".

"Indigenous Health Minister Warren Snowdon, his coalition shadow Senator Nigel Scullion and Greens health spokesperson Senator Rachel Siewert co-sponsored the event. Each spoke of their commitment to progress in Closing the Gap.

"Many ministers and members of parliament also attended and signed the Health Equality Statement of Intent supporting the Aboriginal community having control of the design and delivery of our health services.

"I welcome their support for our 152 community controlled services across Australia which are delivering effective, culturally appropriate, comprehensive primary health care as the lynchpin of advancing Aboriginal health.

"A theme of the Closing the Gap Day video produced by Oxfam for the campaign is the importance of increasing the workforce in Aboriginal health.

"I was especially pleased to be able to highlight the Aboriginal Health Workers in the frontline of our services. They make the care we provide so much more effective in reaching out to the community and often they don't receive the recognition they are due," Mr Mohamed said.

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