



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

22 December 2011

Governance in Aboriginal Health demands highest standards

Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), said today that NACCHO supports any investigations by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) into organisations or individuals when financial irregularities are suspected.

In response to recent public announcements by ORIC, Mr Mohamed said, "Good governance and financial management of any public organisation is essential. NACCHO's members, the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) across urban, regional and remote Australia, have a particular responsibility to manage funds on behalf of their Communities in delivering comprehensive primary health services."

"I am proud to say the vast majority of our services meet the highest standards of financial management and governance. We have an impressive record of providing dedicated frontline primary health care in our Communities since the first service was established forty years ago," Mr Mohamed said.

"It is to the benefit of our entire sector that safeguards and processes are in place to uphold good governance and to investigate and address any anomalies that are discovered.

"Where there are doubts about financial management arising from audits of services, NACCHO welcomes thorough investigation and the pursuit of appropriate action.

"The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector places the highest importance on integrity, transparency and accountability in all matters relating to governance. When this is not done, the people who suffer the most are Aboriginal families and their Communities.

"This is about ensuring that services and the individuals entrusted by the Community to manage them continue to address local health needs effectively and demonstrate governance to the highest standards," Mr Mohamed said.

NACCHO Media Contact Chris Hallett 040770 4788