



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

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Careers in Aboriginal health to help Close the Gap

"Now is a great time for Aboriginal school students and others to think about a career in Aboriginal health" says Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of NACCHO*.

"The Health Heroes campaign launched by Minister Warren Snowdon this week is supported by an extensive and easy to use [website](#)* about careers in Aboriginal health", Mr Mohamed said.

"It includes profiles of Aboriginal role models working in Aboriginal health, describes the range of careers available and how to get a job and qualifications.

"It will also be backed up by resources and school visits targeting Aboriginal students, encouraging them to think of a career in Aboriginal health.

"Over 150 Community Controlled Aboriginal Health Services across Australia represented by NACCHO are especially interested in supporting Aboriginal people to have a career in our services.

"Our services are the largest employer of Aboriginal people in Australia yet there are still many unfilled positions. We need more of all the health professions including Aboriginal health workers, nurses, doctors, administrative staff, allied health workers, dental assistants, and dieticians. There are just some of the jobs profiled on the website.

"Having more Aboriginal people working in our services providing culturally appropriate care encourages more of our community members to seek the health care they need. This improves their quality of life and helps to close the gap in health outcomes.

"Our services are also a great place to work with a great community spirit and a shared common goal. Getting an education and qualifications in health leads to a good job, pride in yourself, and a better future for you, your family and our community.

"I'd encourage everyone to have a look at the website and to send on the link, especially to young people wondering what their options are.

A lot of Aboriginal kids don't know or think, it's achievable to have a career in health, this campaign begins to dispel this myth", Mr Mohamed said.

The Health Heroes commercials will run in Aboriginal media outlets but would also be effective if aired on mainstream media where they will also reach the target Aboriginal audience. Reaching and motivating a larger target audience could help to address education and employment disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal Peoples.

* National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

** <http://www.healthheroes.health.gov.au/>

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