



## Media Release

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### Local Control, National Focus to Close the Gap

The Chair of the peak body in Aboriginal health has welcomed the post election examination of regional and local involvement in national politics.

Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) said, "NACCHO's Board and our members' services across the country look forward to sharing our expertise in Aboriginal health and working with all the members of parliament to close the gap in Aboriginal health outcomes".

"We should get beyond bipartisanship, or multi-partisanship, into a national agreement on the way forward in Aboriginal health," Mr Mohamed said.

"I trust and encourage that the vision for Aboriginal health will be a feature of the briefing from the Department of Health and Ageing requested by the independent MPs, Mr Katter, Mr Oakeshott and Mr Windsor.

"In the election the major parties agreed on a health reform theme of giving local communities more control of their health services, including those outside the capital city powerbases.

"This is welcomed among NACCHO members as local community control is the basic principle of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across the country.

"We have over 150 services across the nation in almost every urban, rural and remote electorate.

"More Aboriginal communities also want the chance to take responsibility for their health and their local health services.

"Local community control represents the best return on the investment in Aboriginal health and makes services more responsive to the primary health care needs of their community.

"Let's use this time before the next government is formed to take a deep breath and see a shared commitment to closing the gap in Aboriginal health over the next generation" Mr Mohamed said.

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