



MEDIA RELEASE

CALLS FOR CRITICAL HEALTH SPENDING THAT MEETS REAL NEEDS

The newly elected chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is calling on all sectors, including industry, to recognise their potential in contributing to improving Aboriginal health outcomes.

Chairperson, Henry Councillor said improvement in Aboriginal health status is not sustainable unless accompanied by a strong commitment to addressing issues such as education and employment.

“Aboriginal health is impacted by so many elements and issues. It is not only governments that have responsibility for improving services, the private sector can also play a significant role,” he said.

“Everyone can potentially contribute to improving Aboriginal health,” he said.

Mr Councillor is a Junggal man from the Jaru people of the Kimberley Region of Western Australia and has more than two decades of involvement in the delivery of health services to Aboriginal peoples.

“For NACCHO, improving Aboriginal health is a daily struggle to meet overwhelming needs with utterly insufficient resources,” he said.

“What we need to achieve is appropriate levels of funding where every Aboriginal community controlled health service can bring about real change.”

Only 33 cents in the every dollar is spent on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pharmaceutical needs — despite having three times the burden of ill health.

“There is a great deal of room for improvement in the way governments respond to Aboriginal health needs,” he said.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) represents 134 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations from across Australia.

Over 180 people working in Aboriginal health from across Australia are in Alice Springs, 6-9 September to determine their priorities for improving Aboriginal health outcomes.

For more information:

Media Officer: Kerryne Liddle, (m) 0419 818 406.

ALIA House, Ground Floor, 9-11 Napier Close, Deakin, ACT 2600 Ph. (02) 6282 7513