



## **Media Release**

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### **NACCHO WELCOMES NEW COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS REFORM**

“The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is pleased to see the continuing seriousness with which Mr. Rudd is treating Aboriginal issues” said Ms Dea Delaney-Thiele, Chief Executive Officer of NACCHO.

COAG’s commitment to a partnership between all levels of government to work with Indigenous communities to achieve the target of closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage contains a concrete commitment to:

- closing the life expectancy gap within a generation;
- halving the mortality gap for children under five within a decade; and
- halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade.

“This is a great step forwards for all Australian governments” said Ms Delaney-Thiele.

“The creation of a cross jurisdictional work group focused on Indigenous Reform will create a forum for joint working and for real commitment.

“We look forward to presenting to this group and working with it to develop long term evidence based interventions that will close the life expectancy gap” said Ms Delaney-Thiele.

“The National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health recognises that community controlled primary health care is the most suitable way to provide primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples so it will be important for us to work closely with the Work Group to achieve its objectives and indicative forward work program for 2008” said Ms Delaney-Thiele who represents over 140 community controlled primary health care services around the country.

“The extra \$50 million to address drug and alcohol abuse problems in Indigenous communities is also most welcome” said Ms Delaney-Thiele.

For more information:

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