



## **Media Release**

29 November 2007

### **NO MINISTER FOCUSED ON ABORIGINAL ISSUES**

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is please and excited to see that Nicola Roxon has been appointed Minister for Health and Ageing said Dr Adams NACCHO's newly elected Chairperson.

We have had an excellent relationship with Ms Roxon and her staff whilst she held the Shadow post and feel that we will truly be able to develop an effective partnership with her to close the 17 year life expectancy gap.

However, I would call urgently on Mr Rudd to rethink his appointment of Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, because I strongly believe we need to have a Minister whose sole responsibility is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

Just because the Howard government tacked Indigenous Affairs onto the portfolio of Families, Housing, Community Services it does not mean that the Labor Party should follow his lead.

If Mr Rudd is serious about closing the 17 year life expectancy gap he needs to show a willingness to commit the necessary resources. I would suggest a Minister, whose only responsibility is Indigenous Affairs, would be a good first step said Dr Adams.

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