



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORT CRITICAL TO IMPROVE ABORIGINAL HEALTH

Australia's peak Aboriginal voice on Aboriginal health, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is calling on the Australian Government to reassure health services and their national Secretariat that their organisations are not under any threat.

The call comes as over 180 people working in Indigenous health from across Australia are meeting in Alice Springs this week (6-9 September) to determine their priorities for improving Indigenous health outcomes.

Chairperson, Mr Henry Councillor said a climate of uncertainty had developed following the demise of ATSIC and the Australian Government needed to clarify its position.

"We are now calling on the Australian Government to come forward and reject concerns that the only national voice for Aboriginal health is under threat as unfounded and baseless," he said.

"Community Controlled Health Organisations are an integral part of the health of the nation and must be allowed to focus on their important work without being concerned about these matters," he said.

"We need to know that Aboriginal people will continue to be supported to continue to have a say in how health priorities are determined, and in how they are delivered through a national voice. This is as critical to improved health outcomes as is appropriate levels of funding."

"NACCHO wants to strengthen its relationships with key agencies and organisations, including governments so that Aboriginal people determine priorities to further improve health outcomes," Mr Councillor said.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is the peak body for Aboriginal health in Australia, representing 134 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across Australia.

For more information, Media Officer: Kerryne Liddle, (m) 041 981 8406