



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

22-9-2008

Welcome news for Aboriginal elderly out bush

The government's \$46.2m package announced today for aged care facilities in remote Aboriginal communities is a welcome recognition of the needs of the elderly in remote areas says Dr Mick Adams Chairman of NACCHO, the national peak body for Aboriginal medical services.

"It is so important to old people out bush to be able to live out their days on their country" Dr Adams said.

"Remote communities value the chance to have their own aged care facilities so their elderly members of families can stay in the communities with a better level of care.

"However, old people's care in remote communities shouldn't be compromised by the under funding of services, worn out facilities and, sadly, worn out staff.

"Tragically aged care services in remote areas have been under resourced for many years and the chronic staff shortages throughout the health system are much worse in remote areas.

"Remote aged care services struggle to recruit experienced staff, retain them and to get staff to replace when they go on leave or resign.

"NACCHO congratulates the Minister for Ageing, Justine Elliot, for today's investment designed to redress these staffing problems, and to upgrade facilities and care that are just not up to standard anymore" Dr Adams said.

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