



National Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

MEDIA RELEASE

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation delegation demand real investment to close the life expectancy gap

Chair of NACCHO, Mr Henry Councillor, said the Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bill and supporting bills were supposed to be the government's response to the *Little Children are Sacred Report*. He is asking all Australians: how can this be true when they include none of the 97 recommendations of the report? Where in the legislation is there any reference to "protecting Aboriginal children". There is none.

The first recommendation of that report specifically refers to the critical importance of governments committing to genuine consultation with Aboriginal people in designing initiatives for Aboriginal communities.

NACCHO is calling for real political commitment at the national level. Whatever future action is taken, it must be taken in consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their representative organisations including NACCHO. Only then do they have a real chance of success.

Mr Councillor said the NACCHO Board and Affiliates have come to parliament today seeking specific commitments from political parties in support of health improvements for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders across Australia.

Today we are providing each Parliamentarian with the Health Equity Plan which is an evidence-based costed series of interventions that will close the life expectancy gap.

The Health Equity Plan consists of 8 Goals:

- Increased core funding of culturally appropriate primary health care to help bridge the gap in health standards;
- An increase in the number, effectiveness and training of health practitioners working within Aboriginal health settings and build capacity of the Indigenous health workforce;
- Improvement in the responsiveness of mainstream health services and programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Needs;
- Implementation of a Strategic Maternal and Child Health Plan;
- Provision of greater support for Indigenous-specific population programmes for chronic and communicable disease;

- Increased funding and support for health promotion regarding nutrition, physical activity, fresh food, and healthy lifestyles;
- Increased funding and support for adequate housing and environmental health; and
- The utilisation of existing and new indicators to monitor the right to health.

We are calling upon all parties to commit to fully funding this plan in their first budget if elected, Mr Councillor said.

In the run up to the Federal Election NACCHO plans to develop a scorecard evaluating where the parties stand on these issues.

Attached: The Health Equity Plan

For comment contact:

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