



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

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A Warning on Fed's Greater Primary Health Role

Dr Mick Adams, chair of NACCHO*, the peak body for Aboriginal medical services has warned that the Commonwealth taking more responsibility for primary health care must come with the government accepting greater accountability for its actions.

Dr Adams welcomed today's National Health and Hospital Reform Commission interim report tackling the blame game in health and recommending a greater role for the Commonwealth.

"As the main deliverer of primary health care to Aboriginal peoples the Aboriginal community controlled sector is already largely a Commonwealth responsibility" Dr Adams said.

"However the government's accountability for its decisions and performance is non-existent. We need performance benchmarks for governments to ensure our services have the resources to fully match our community's health needs.

"The Aboriginal community controlled health sector, representing over 145 urban, regional and remote services with over thirty years experience in frontline care, is subject to the whims of the Commonwealth's Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health with little input from our sector, least of all in setting policy direction.

"Our sector welcomes the Commission's endorsement of the Aboriginal community controlled health service model and its proposal to expand it while recognising that the Commonwealth's allocation of resources to Aboriginal health services is insufficient and that Aboriginal people are underserved.

"The Aboriginal community controlled health sector welcomes the opportunity to be part of further deliberations on the Commission's recommendations and to be full partners with governments in designing and delivering services for our people.

"We believe that Aboriginal people's full participation in the health service design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation is integral to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people" Dr Adams said.

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