



**MEDIA RELEASE**

10 May 2022

## **\$4.4 billion gap in funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health**

An Equity Economics report commissioned, and released today, by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has identified a \$4.4 billion gap in Commonwealth, State and Territory Government and private health expenditure.

The report's findings are alarming and highlight some of the obstacles to improving the health and life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Conservative estimates indicate there is a gap of \$5,042 in health expenditure per Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person.

Pat Turner, CEO of NACCHO, said, 'It is no wonder that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to live lives 8-9 years shorter than other Australians. It is no wonder that our children are 55 times more likely to die of rheumatic heart disease than non-Aboriginal children.'

The report's calculations account for the burden of disease being more than twice the rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population than for the non-Aboriginal population, which translates to at least twice the cost-of-service provision.

Donnella Mills, Chair of NACCHO said, 'I am disturbed by the findings of this report and how extensive the funding gap is. How can we improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when there is a \$4.4 billion funding deficit? Structural reform and substantial funding investment is required and we have shown how this process can commence in our last pre-budget submission.'

Pat Turner said, 'The Commonwealth has had the opportunity to fix its share of the funding gap in three big-spending budgets focused on stimulus measures during the pandemic. If it had invested in our sector, it could have delivered, at the same time, financial stimulus to the 550 local economies where our services are located.'

'NACCHO calls upon all governments ahead of the election to close the funding gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.'

The full report can be accessed on the [NACCHO website here](#).

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*NACCHO is the national peak body representing 144 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) across the country on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing issues. NACCHO is the third largest employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, with over 3,500 out of the 6,000 staff working in ACCHOs being either of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander background.*

*Many NACCHO members have almost 50 years of experience in the delivery of comprehensive primary health care. Services are delivered through fixed, outreach and mobile clinics operating in urban, rural and remote settings across Australia.*



# NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community  
Controlled Health Organisation

*[Equity Economics](#) is a unique team of economists, public policy and development experts committed to partnering with organisations to reduce disadvantage and inequity in our community and region. Equity Economics work across the not for profit, corporate and government sectors, to help build an ecosystem for policy reform that is equitable and inclusive.*