

Crucial step forward on health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

The National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) welcomes the launch of the Australian Government's *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013–2023*.

The Implementation Plan was developed in partnership with the NHLF to achieve the shared goal of realising health equality by 2031.

NHLF Chair, Romlie Mokak, said the Implementation Plan will establish an evidence-based, coherent and coordinated approach to the delivery of health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“The Implementation Plan will build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector, while improving the outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples,” Mr Mokak said.

“Importantly, it aims to eradicate systemic racism within the health system and improve the quality and efficiency of health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“Through the NHLF, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations contributed a wealth of experience and expertise in the development of this plan”.

The Implementation Plan will undertake mapping of regional service capacity and health outcomes to more accurately assess health service funding and identify gaps in critical services.

“The Government has worked with us in a genuine partnership to develop an effective plan for achieving better health outcomes for our people, and this consultative approach provides us all with an effective model for future collaboration. I commend Minister Nash for her work to bring this plan to fruition” Mr Mokak said.

“We must ensure there is also a continuation of cross-party support for the implementation of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and the goal of health equality by 2031.”

The National Health Leadership Forum is a national partnership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations committed to achieving health equality.

Media contacts:

Paul Wright for NHLF Chair, Romlie Mokak and AIDA CEO Kate Thomann
on 0412 415 556