



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

Thursday, 6 August, 2020

AIDA welcomes funding boost to community-controlled sector

A funding pool is being established to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector in its delivery of vital services and commitments under the new [National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#).

The Commonwealth Government will contribute \$46.5 million over four years, with the Victorian Government adding an additional \$3.3 million to the funding pool.

The use of funds will relate to Priority Reform Two and be delivered in partnership between Australian governments and the [Coalition of Peaks](#). These principles of partnership underpin the [National Agreement](#) and outline a new way of working between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Lead Convener of the Coalition of Peaks, Ms Pat Turner AM, said that the Coalition of Peaks welcomed the leadership of the Hon. Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister of Indigenous Australians, in establishing the fund.

“The Coalition of Peaks fought hard to put Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations at the centre of the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap. They deliver better services for our people, get better outcomes, protect our cultures and employ more First Nations people in their home communities,” Ms Turner said.

“This new funding for the initial delivery of Priority Reform Two will help strengthen and build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector to deliver additional services to First Nations people, including in new areas like housing and early childhood,” Ms Turner said.

“The joint funding pool complements the commitments in the National Agreement on Priority Reform Two which will also bring additional funding to community-controlled organisations over time and provide more jobs for First Nations people,” Ms Turner said.

AIDA President Assoc. Professor Kris Rallah-Baker said it was time to take health reform seriously in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

“Our members see the health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people every day. We want to see programs underpinned by the principles of self-determination delivering tangible results and being supported nationally. We hope this is a serious step in that direction,” he said.

The new National Agreement is built around four Priority Reform areas and outcomes:

1. Shared decision-making: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are empowered to share decision-making authority with governments to accelerate policy and place-based progress on Closing the Gap through formal partnership arrangements.

2. Building the community-controlled sector: There is a strong and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector delivering high quality services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the country.
3. Improving mainstream institutions: Governments, their organisations and their institutions are accountable for Closing the Gap and are culturally safe and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including through the services they fund.
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led data: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to, and the capability to use, locally-relevant data and information to set and monitor the implementation of efforts to close the gap, their priorities and drive their own development.

The Coalition of Peaks stated additional funding would be required to deliver on all the outcomes of the National Agreement and are expecting that governments will make these commitments in the future through their Implementation Plans.

About the Coalition of Peaks

The Coalition of Peaks is a representative body of more than fifty Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak organisations and members. The Coalition of Peaks came together on their own as an act of self-determination to form partnerships with Australian governments on Closing the Gap.

Members are either national, state or territory-wide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled peak bodies including certain independent statutory authorities. Their governing boards are elected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and / or organisations.

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