



Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

30 July 2020

## **AIDA welcomes National Agreement on Closing the Gap**

AIDA welcomes the signing of the comprehensive National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

“The announcement today brings the most accountability we’ve seen in an agreement affecting the governments’ treatment of First Nations’ Peoples,” said AIDA President Kris Rallah-Baker.

“By attaching real targets to these priority reforms and involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the review process the effectiveness of programs targeting health outcomes for our Peoples can be measured.”

Pat Turner AM, CEO of NACCHO and Co-Chair of the Joint Council, was Lead Convener of the Coalition of Peaks and made the announcement today alongside Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indigenous Australians Minister Ken Wyatt.

“The National Agreement has been hard fought between the Coalition of Peaks and governments. It was always going to be tough,” Ms Turner said.

“This is the first time a National Agreement designed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been developed and negotiated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“We have also had the voices of the more than 4000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who participated in our engagements on what should be included in the new National Agreement guiding us in our negotiations, and we needed to show that they had been heard.”

National Agreement signatories included the Commonwealth Government, State and Territory Governments, local Governments and the Coalition of Peaks. It is the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have been granted an equal voice within the Closing the Gap frameworks.

Shared authority and decision-making power is a key component of the Agreement, which you can [read in full here](#).

The Priority Reforms commit governments to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, strengthen Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, address structural racism within government and improve information-sharing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

AIDA is pleased to see health and wellbeing included in the 16 national socio-economic targets, along with education, employment, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Finally, AIDA acknowledges the collaborative work done by all members of Coalition of the Peaks and the leadership of Chair Pat Turner through the development of this historic Agreement.

### **END MESSAGE**

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