



## **Media Release**

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### **NACCHO welcomes Minister Greg Hunt and Ken Wyatt as new Indigenous Health minister**

The peak body for Aboriginal health services is looking forward to working with newly appointed Health Minister Greg Hunt and Minister for Indigenous Health Ken Wyatt to close the gap in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In congratulating Mr Hunt on his appointment, National Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation (NACCHO) Chair, Matthew Cooke, said he would be seeking a meeting with the new minister to discuss the importance of Aboriginal led medical services in developing and delivering health programs for more than 750,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote, regional and urban communities.

Mr Cooke also congratulated Ken Wyatt on his historic promotion to the full Ministry – as Minister for Indigenous Health and Aged Care – and the first Aboriginal Australian to hold the office of Commonwealth Minister.

NACCHO is proud to see Minister Wyatt attain such a senior position in the Turnbull government. The historic promotion, one of many for this Member of Parliament, is an acknowledgment of the high regard he achieved working as an assistant minister, his attention to detail and how respected he is in the Aboriginal community and health sectors across Australia.

As a previous Director of Aboriginal Health in the public services of NSW and WA he brings a unique perspective to the role. NACCHO will assist him in meeting the expectations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to enjoy a quality of life through whole-of-community self-determination.

“Minister Wyatt has many years of experience working in both Indigenous health and education, which is invaluable at a ministerial level and the understanding, needed to make progress towards Close the Gap targets” he said.

Last year 140 Aboriginal community controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) provided nearly 3 million episodes of care to over 340,000 clients. It is clear that putting Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands is working. “NACCHO has a very productive working relationship with Ken in his role as Assistant Minister for Health and we’re very pleased it will continue,” he said.

Mr. Cooke also thanked outgoing Health Minister Sussan Ley for her work in the portfolio and her support for NACCHO.