

MEDIA RELEASE

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NATSIHWA strongly welcomes historic Closing the Gap Partnership Agreement

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association (NATSIHWA) strongly welcomes the historic Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap between the Federal Government, state and territory governments and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Bodies (the Coalition of Peaks).

This Agreement is the first time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, through their peak bodies, will share decision making roles with governments on Closing the Gap. NATSIHWA believes it marks an important and essential step in governments supporting self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in programs that impact their communities.

“Our people understand deeply the needs of our communities and this partnership brings about a platform for these needs to be voiced with emphasised importance”, said Karl Briscoe, Chief Executive Officer, NATSIHWA.

NATSIHWA, along with the other 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations forming the Coalition of Peaks, has been supporting the work of our workforce in improving health and wellbeing outcomes of our communities. As such, members of the Coalition of Peaks are in a unique position as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations working directly with those on the ground to provide insight into culturally safe and responsive strategies for the Closing the Gap partnership.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners have an unmatched role in delivering health services to our communities. Our members are in a prime position to play a key role in reducing barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face in accessing health services and are critical to ensuring the provision of cultural safety in care.

The Closing the Gap campaign will only be improved with the inclusion of our members' voices and NATSIHWA is committed to bringing their perspective to the Closing the Gap decision making processes.

More information on the Partnership Agreement can be found here - [Fact Sheet](#)

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