

Thursday 17 March 2022



MEDIA RELEASE

Indigenous Doctors welcome funding commitment and National Workforce Plan announcement

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) welcomes the Commonwealth Government's four-year funding commitment of \$11.9 million, which was made alongside the release of the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031* (National Workforce Plan) on 12 March 2022.

"This four-year commitment of core funding will enable us to continue the important work we do in increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and contributing to a culturally safe health system in Australia," Ms Barolits-McCabe said.

The National Workforce Plan is a ten-year plan to increase the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through a range of initiatives, the plan aims to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the health sector and is supported and endorsed by all governments.

"We welcome the commitment of all governments to the National Workforce Plan. This plan was co-designed with the National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) which includes the four workforce Peak Organisations, as well as other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak bodies and the community-controlled health sector," Ms Barolits-McCabe said.

"We feel we can make real progress with this plan in addressing the systemic barriers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors' journeys into, and through, medicine," Ms Barolits-McCabe said.

The announcement of \$53.1 million in total will fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce Peak Organisations to continue their core business over the next four years. This includes \$11.9 million for AIDA, \$12.7 million for the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives, \$18.9 million for Indigenous Allied Health Australia, \$9.3 million for the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners, and \$0.3 million in support for the NHLF.

"This announcement recognises and validates the vital role our peak organisations play in recruiting, retaining, supporting and growing our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. It makes sense to fund us in the longer-term to deliver the ten-year plan we designed," said Monica Barolits-McCabe, CEO of AIDA.

ENDS

Contact: Ms Wendy Wakwella
P: 02 6273 5013
E: communications@aida.org.au