



THE HON WARREN SNOWDON MP
Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health
and Regional Services Delivery

MEDIA RELEASE

19 February 2010

**83 NEW ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER OUTREACH WORKERS
TO BE PLACED AROUND THE NATION**

National efforts to close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation received a boost today with the announcement of 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker placements across Australia.

Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon said funding had been approved for 83 positions, more than half of the 160 positions that are being funded under a \$42 million commitment to build the capacity of the Indigenous health workforce over four years. [See attached table for placement details].

“Expanding the Indigenous health workforce is a key element of the Rudd Government’s \$805.5m Indigenous Chronic Disease Package, under the COAG *National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes*,” Mr Snowdon said.

Queensland will receive twenty four Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers, New South Wales has been allocated twenty three, Western Australia will receive twelve, followed by Victoria with nine placements, the Northern Territory gets eight, South Australia has been allocated six and the Australian Capital Territory will receive one.

“The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers will help increase community engagement with health services, including increasing the uptake of Indigenous health checks and identifying Indigenous people who would benefit from improved access to health services.

“In addition, they will assist Indigenous people to access other health services, including follow-up care, specialist services and community pharmacies,” he said.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers will be employed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Divisions of General Practice.

They will have access to nationally accredited basic level training through the vocational education and training sector.

“This will give them the flexibility to develop career paths in the health sector if they choose, by undertaking more advanced training such as that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers or Enrolled Nurses,” Mr Snowdon said.

“We already have dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers who perform a vital role in providing primary health care services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and these new roles will extend our workforce even further,” Mr Snowden said.

The Rudd Government’s \$805.5million Indigenous Chronic Disease Package will also provide significant new resources to improve the prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases which account for some two-thirds of premature deaths among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“Some of the biggest contributors to excess mortality are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and respiratory diseases, with smoking alone accounting for around 20 per cent of all Indigenous deaths,” Mr Snowden said.

The Prime Minister’s Report on Closing the Gap released on Thursday 11 February 2010 announced that the 83 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers would be appointed to health clinics and organisations across Australia before the end of June.

****See attached table for placement locations**

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ALLOCATION OF ABORIGINAL OUTREACH WORKERS - 19 Feb 2010

ORGANISATION	Location	Allocation
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY		
Winnunga Nimmitjiah Aboriginal Health Clinic/Health Service (ACT) Inc	Narrabundah	1
	Total ACT	1
NORTHERN TERRITORY		
Central Australia Aboriginal Congress Ltd	Alice Springs	2
Danila Dilba	Darwin	2
General Practice Network NT	Darwin	2
Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corp (Lajamanu)	Katherine	2
	Total NT	8
SOUTH AUSTRALIA		
Adelaide Western General Practice Network	Adelaide	1
Nunkuwarrin Yunti*	Adelaide	1
Adelaide Northern Division of General Practice	Elizabeth	1
Murray Mallee General Practice Network	Murray Bridge	1
Pika Wiya Health Service*	Port Augusta	1
Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice	Port Lincoln	1
	Total SA	6
NEW SOUTH WALES		
Central Sydney General Practice Network	Ashfield	1
NSW Central West Division of General Practice	Bathurst	1
NSW Outback	Burke	1
Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation	Campbelltown	1
Dubbo Plains Division of GP	Dubbo	1
Central Coast Division of General Practice	Erina	1
Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation	Grafton	1
Hunter Rural Division of General Practice	Greenhills	1
Griffith Aboriginal Community Medical Service Inc	Griffith	1

Went West	Harris Park	2
Northern Rivers General Practice Network	Lismore	1
Macarthur Division of General Practice Limited	Minto DC	1
Barwon Division of General Practice	Moree	1
Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney Coop Ltd	Mt Druitt, Sydney	1
GP Access	Newcastle	1
South Coast Aboriginal Medical Service	Nowra	1
Nepean Division of General Practice	Penrith	1
Hastings Macleay General Practice Network	Port Macquarie	1
Hawkesbury-Hills Division of General Practice	Rouse Hill	1
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service	Walgett	1
Awabakal Newcastle Medical Cooperative	Wickham, Newcastle	1
Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service	Wollongong	1
	Total NSW	23
WESTERN AUSTRALIA		
South West Aboriginal Medical Service	Bunbury	1
Derby Aboriginal Health Service	Derby	1
Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service	Geraldton	1
Perth Primary Care Network	Guildford	1
Yura Yungi Aboriginal Medical Service	Halls Creek	1
Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (subject to satisfactory outcome from current clinical review)	Jigalong	1
Goldfields Esperance GP Network	Kalgoorlie	1
Rockingham Kwinana Division of General Practice	Kwinana	1
Derbal Yerrigan Health Service	Perth	2
Mawarnkarra Health Service Aboriginal Corp	Roebourne	1
Ngaanyatjarra Health Service	Warburton	1
	Total WA	12

QUEENSLAND		
GP Links Wide Bay	Bundaberg	2
Far North Queensland Rural Division of GP	Bungalow	1
South East Alliance of GP (Brisbane)	Capalaba	1
North & West Qld Primary Health	Garbutt, Townsville	2
Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd	Garbutt, Townsville	1
Townsville General Practice Network	Garbutt, Townsville	1
Nhulundu Wooribah Indigenous Health Organisation Inc	Gladstone	1
GP Partners	Lutwyche	1
Wuchopperen Health Service Limited	Manunda, Cairns	1
Moreton Bay General Practice Network	Margate Beach	1
Bidgerdii Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation Community Health Service	Rockhampton	1
Capricornia Division of General Practice	Rockhampton	1
Brisbane South Division of General Practice	Salisbury	1
Carbal Medical Centre (Darling Downs Shared Assoc Inc)	Toowoomba	1
GP connections	Toowoomba	1
RHealth	Toowoomba	2
South East Primary Health Care Network	Woodridge	1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (as possible auspice for Institute for Urban Indigenous Health)	Woolongabba, Brisbane	4
	Total QLD	24
VICTORIA		
East Gippsland Division of General Practice	Bairnsdale	1
Gippsland and East Gippsland Cooperative	Bairnsdale	1
Western Suburbs Indigenous Gathering Place (Werribee site)	Braybrook, Melbourne	1
Dandenong and Districts Aborigines Cooperative	Dandenong	1
Peninsula GP Network	Frankston	1
Westgate General Practice Network	Hoppers Crossing	1
Mallee Division of General Practice	Mildura	1
Mildura Aboriginal Corporation	Mildura	1
Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative Limited	Shepparton	1
	Total VIC	9
	TOTAL	83

