



10 September Meeting

Communiqué

On 10 September 2018, members of the National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) held their quarterly meeting in Parliament House. This meeting had a strong focus on strategic agenda setting and building on the positive relationships the NHLF has established across government to advance priorities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health workforce.

NHLF Chair, Ms. Janine Mohamed led discussions throughout the day, with one of the recurring themes being a focus on how the NHLF can work with all governments to progress the health workforce strategy that was committed to at the Alice Springs COAG Indigenous Health roundtable in August 2018.

The NHLF were joined by:

- Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP
- Minister for Indigenous Health and Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP
- Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, the Hon Catherine King MP
- Shadow Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP

The NHLF welcomed the constructive engagement with Minister Hunt on shared priorities around growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce and investment into research through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The NHLF also welcomed the invitation from the Minister to represent on a number of key health portfolio policy developments that are currently underway.

Minister Wyatt spoke with the NHLF about his ongoing commitment to ensuring that the Implementation Plan to the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023* is on track and delivers on the goals for which it was designed. The NHLF congratulated Minister Wyatt for the standing invitation he, as Minister for Indigenous Health now has to attend all COAG Health Council meetings. This is a significant acknowledgement for his work in the portfolio, as well as a notable longer-term acknowledgement that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health must remain on the agenda for COAG.

The NHLF welcomed the commitment of the Australian Labor Party to progress dialogue around Constitutional Recognition and the recommendations of the Uluru Statement. Other priority areas around research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and funding for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service sector were also discussed.



The NHLF will continue to progress its strategic policy agenda, advocate for self-determination and an Aboriginal Health Authority, support government in the development of the health workforce strategy and call for greater cultural safety in the Australian health care system in the lead up to the 2019 Federal election.

The final NHLF meeting for 2018 will be held in Canberra on 3 December.