



## 10 December 2020 Meeting Communiqué

The fourth and final NHLF meeting was held on 10 December 2020, via video conference. The meeting was presided over by the NHLF chair, Donna Murray. This was a shortened meeting with a continued focus on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSHP) and Health Workforce Plan, and presentations from the Climate and Health Alliance and the Rural Health Commissioner.

A copy of the working draft of the **Health Plan** was discussed with members and NACCHO's membership given copies to provide feedback by the third week of January 2021. Members also noted that the **health workforce plan** has a new name, the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce strategic Framework Implementation Plan* and a draft was released for online consultation on 23 November and will close 15 February 2021.

Fiona Armstrong, CEO of the **Climate and Health Alliance**, presented to the NHLF on the work of the Alliance. Discussion was held about how the CAHA can work with the NHLF to tackle the health impact on communities; and how does the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan capture the impact of heat, exacerbating pollution and the impact on health?

It was agreed that the CAHA and the NHLF will hold a joint roundtable in the first half of 2021 regarding the Health Plan and the work of the alliance and what it would look like culturally.

Professor Ruth Stewart presented to the NHLF on her new role as the **Rural Health Commissioner**. The Rural Health Commissioner is a statutory position established by an act of parliament and reports to the Department of Health and Parliament. A *Statement of Expectations* for her role not yet finalized but expected to be soon. A key focus of the Commissioner's work will be the implementation of the *Improvement of Access, Quality and Distribution of Allied Health Services in Regional, Rural and Remote Australia*, June 2020, which was presided over by the first Rural Health Commissioner, Professor Paul Worley.

It was agreed that Ruth would attend the first NHLF meeting in 2021 with more time given to have a deeper richer conversation.

### Next Meeting

The first quarterly NHLF meeting for 2021, is scheduled for 18 March 2021. It is hoped this meeting will be face-to-face in Canberra.

For further information, please contact the [nhlf@iaha.com.au](mailto:nhlf@iaha.com.au).