



24 September 2020 Meeting Communiqué

The third quarterly NHLF meeting was held via video conference on 24 September 2020. The meeting was presided over by the NHLF chair, Donna Murray. The meeting continued to have a strong focus on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and the Health Workforce Plan.

Updates were also provided on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Covid-19 Advisory Group, and the Department of Health's development of a National Preventative Health Strategy and the Indigenous Australian Health Program evaluation. The Lowitja Institute also presented on the outcomes of their Cultural Determinants of Health Roundtable.

Of particular interest was the attendance by the **Minister for Minister Mark Coulton, Minister for Regional Health**, Regional Communications and Local Government. Minister Coulton and his officials provided a general update on rural health matters as well as giving an update on the outcomes of the evaluation of the Rural Health Medical Training program. It was agreed to have a regular catch-up meeting between the NHLF and the Minister.

The NHLF continues to advocate for the **Health Plan** to be cross-jurisdictional, with ownership and actions by all state and territory governments, as well as Commonwealth. The work of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group on COVID-19 has demonstrated the benefits of cross jurisdictional partnerships and collaboration to achieve best possible outcomes; and is an a working, practical example of what the Health Plan aims to achieve.

The NHLF is pleased that the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework 2016-2023 will underpin the development of the **Health Workforce Plan**. The NHLF continues to call for all health workforce strategies being developed by all governments to be aligned to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework.

Next Meeting

The fourth and last NHLF meeting for 2020, is scheduled for 10 December 2020.

For further information, please contact the nhlf@iaha.com.au.