

Communiqué

17 June 2023 Meeting

The NHLF held its second meeting for 2023 on 17 June following the Lowitja Institute's 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in Cairns. This meeting was presided over by Ms Fiona Cornforth, as the NHLF Chair.

The focus of this meeting was a discussion with Ms Jody Broun, CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency to discuss the Agency's scope regarding health and how that aligns with the work of Department of Health and Aged Care, the National Agreement to Closing the Gap and the 2021-2031 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan that sits under the Agreement. Discussion also centered around how the Agency was embracing the National Agreement to Closing the Gap internally to achieve the priority reform areas, and the role the Agency has with leading the reforms across the Commonwealth public service. Several actions were agreed to out of this discussion.

The NHLF also met with Dr Michelle Kennedy provided an update on the Murru Minya Research project, as the NHLF provides an advisory role for this project. [Murru Minya](#) is a national research project that commenced in 2022 looking at how health research has been conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the voices of our communities.

Bhiamie Williamson and Dr Emma McNicol also attended the meeting to provide an overview of the National Indigenous Disaster Resilience Project and the summit they will be holding in August 2023. The [Summit](#) is about bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, emergency management practitioners, and agency heads, to build awareness, share new thinking, and network, beginning the long-overdue conversation between and about Indigenous peoples' disaster resilience. Climate change, including the natural hazards it produces, constitute significant and unique risks for Indigenous peoples. Yet as it stands, disaster response in Australia has not sufficiently taken Indigenous peoples' distinct needs, nor strengths, into account. Several actions were agreed to out of this discussion.

Other business items included a discussion around the potential of a Commonwealth Parliament Friends Group for the NHLF.

The third quarterly meeting will be an online meeting on 20 September 2023.

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