Heather Volk

Heather Volk is the Pharmacist Advisor with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). NACCHO is the national authority in comprehensive Aboriginal primary health care and represents 150 Community Controlled Aboriginal Health Services.

Her work encompasses medicines policy for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector as well as being an advisor on Quality Use of Medicines, Section 100 Supply, to rural and remote Aboriginal communities, Closing the Gap co-payment relief measure and program management of the QUMAX (Quality Use of Medicines Maximised in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) program.

Heather represents the community controlled sector on the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Programs Reference Group.

A pharmacist with 30 years’ experience, she has championed rural and remote pharmacy services. Heather was a former owner and manager of rural pharmacies and provided a travelling pharmacist service to rural and remote communities in Queensland and NSW before joining The University of Queensland’s School of Pharmacy as a lecturer in QUM and rural pharmacy. She was seconded from UQ to James Cook University’s Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH) as the Pharmacist Academic and has also worked with the Australian National University to develop new pathways into health degrees for undergraduate students.

Heather remains active as a community pharmacist working regular weekend shifts in a Canberra pharmacy as she enjoys community pharmacy and values the opportunity to interact directly with patients.