



Good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia.

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Helping to Close the Gap through cultural change

The National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) is continually adding the voice of its 37 rural and remote health bodies to the cause of Closing the Gap in health status between Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians.

The NRHA looks to its three Indigenous members for leadership on this. They are the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, and Indigenous Allied Health Australia.

"Right now there is also work in train internally - within the NRHA - to make a contribution," said Gordon Gregory, CEO of the NRHA.

"Through the NRHA Council, its 37 member bodies - all of them national organisations - are being asked to consider a best practice guideline or framework for their own practical commitment to Closing the Gap."

An internal group, led by one of the NRHA's Indigenous member bodies and consulting with other Indigenous groups, will propose actions that might be included in such a framework which would be above and beyond commitments made in an organisation's Reconciliation Action Plan.

A number of NRHA members have already expressed interest in contributing to this task and input will also be sought from Reconciliation Australia.

"As well as supportive and respectful public policy, political support and adequate resources, Closing the Gap and reconciliation require cultural change within organisations," Mr Gregory said.

"The NRHA is determined to play its part in this cultural change."

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*The National Rural Health Alliance is Australia's peak non-government organisation for rural and remote health. Its vision is good health and wellbeing in rural and remote Australia.*