



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY COUNCIL

Meeting 10

30 November, 1 and 2 December 2010

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) held its tenth meeting in Darwin on 30 November and 1 and 2 December 2010.

The Council endorsed the work on the *Health Workforce Target: Analysis and Recommendations Part 1: Indigenous Health Workforce* and noted the policy recommendations arising from the Indigenous Health Workforce Forum on the three priority areas which are; building the education-health workforce pipeline for Indigenous health, Indigenous health workforce portal, and a national approach to developing cultural competence to be presented to the Minister.

Council agreed to host a second Indigenous Health Workforce Forum with a greater focus on the development of a health workforce *for* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Other topics for discussion included the arrangements for the Indigenous Mental Health Forum; potential roles for NIHEC and social marketing campaigns; child and maternal health guidelines and practices around antenatal care; and the scope of research and analysis projects to be undertaken on behalf of NIHEC to inform their evidence-based advice to Government.

NIHEC is currently finalising the prioritisation of research and analysis projects to be undertaken on behalf of NIHEC to inform their evidence-based advice to Government.

NIHEC finalised their submission to the Indigenous Economic Development Strategy.

At this meeting the Council and other stakeholders met with Minister Snowdon to discuss the Australian Government's National Health and Hospitals Network and the implications of the health reforms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

NIHEC Meeting 11 is proposed to be held in Tasmania on 9-10 March 2011.