



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY COUNCIL

Meeting 12

8, 9 and 10 June 2011

COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) held its twelfth meeting in Darwin on 8, 9 and 10 June 2011.

Meeting 12 was the last meeting of this current membership of NIHEC. This meeting focused on finalising the current work of this Council and developing an appropriate handover to the next membership of NIHEC.

During the period 16-17 May 2011 NIHEC hosted the second Indigenous Health Workforce Forum in Adelaide. This Forum focused on the issue of a health workforce **for** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. During Meeting 12 NIHEC considered the key issues raised during the second Indigenous Health Workforce Forum. These key included:

- building an expanded and sustainable workforce;
- retention of health workforce for Indigenous health – quality and professionalism of services;
- provision of culturally safe services across and addressing institutional racism;
- a health workforce which meets community needs
- services for remote communities; and
- Indigenous health leadership.

In the confines of this meeting the Council was pleased to be able to attend of the official opening of the Charles Darwin University Pharmacy Building and Flinders Northern Territory Medical Program complex. NIHEC was pleased to note that 10 of the 24 students in the first intake are Indigenous. Council wishes all of these students well in their studies and for the future.

The first NIHEC meeting of the next membership of Council is scheduled for 11 August 2011 in Melbourne.