

# MEDIA RELEASE

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## **North Coast Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health (NCACCH) Funded for Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) in Gympie**

NCACCH is very excited to announce funding has been secured to develop an AMS in Gympie. The opening is expected in early 2022.

This new health service will be an expansion to the already successful Brokerage model that will continue to operate on the Sunshine Coast.

The new AMS will enhance NCACCH's Brokerage model and strengthen NCACCH's stance as the lead health service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members in the region. Furthermore, it is in line with community need with 2019 data indicating 56% of survey respondents stated the most important service to them and their family was access to an Aboriginal Medical Service. In addition, 95% of respondents advised they would prefer a service that would deliver culturally appropriate health care services.

Helen Felstead, NCACCH Chairperson states; *"The Board are very keen to continue our commitment to Closing The Gap and reducing the health inequalities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and see this opportunity as a significant step in providing much needed support to our already overburdened health services. The clinic will be complimentary to the already established General Practice, allied health and hospital services and look forward to continuing the long standing relationships with our partners and Brokered providers"*

NCACCH will be working in partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), who have a proven track record for establishing new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care clinics across South East Qld. The NCACCH AMS will initially aim to focus on providing primary health care and chronic disease management and will seek to address the following key areas:

- Support the growing needs of our community through the delivery of, and access to, high quality, culturally appropriate clinical services
- Chronic disease management service gaps;
- Increase and compliment current General Practice, Allied Health and Specialist Services
- Extend the current Brokerage services to address the high rates of emergency admission to the local Hospital and Health Service

Aligning with the National Health Reform agenda, Closing The Gap report and Covid-19 strategy and planning, the new AMS will value add to local support measures in continuing to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social, emotional and wellbeing health needs are met in a culturally safe environment.

For Media Enquiries please contact:

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