



18 June 2020 Meeting Communiqué

The NHLF held their secondly quarterly meeting of 2020. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and Health Workforce Plans were the key items for discussion in a condensed online meeting. The first item on the agenda was to confirm and welcome Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) as a new member to the NHLF.

The NHLF supports the framework to refresh the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSIHP). The NHLF continues to advocate for this plan to be cross-jurisdictional, with ownership and actions by all state and territory governments, as well as Commonwealth. We particularly want this plan to compliment and be aligned to the new Closing the Gap Agreement and avoids unnecessary government duplication.

The NHLF reaffirms its support for the Coalition of Peaks, and for all Australian governments to deliver the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. The NHLF attention is on the health and wellbeing domain as the mechanism to drive the necessary health reforms. The compliance mechanisms under the National Agreement will be critical to deliver the accountability and transparency by all government agencies and service providers for us to achieve improved outcomes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Whilst continuing to support the development of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Plan, the NHLF remains concerned that the original intent of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health leadership that spoke to the Council of Australian Governments Health Council in 2018 remains missing during the developmental process.

The NHLF reaffirms the call for the developmental process for the National Health Workforce Plan to include a refresh of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework 2016-2023 (NATSIHWSF) to ensure its vision and strategic directions underpin the health workforce plan. A refresh and alignment would also ensure timeframes across the NATSIHWSF, NATSIHP and National Agreement on Closing the Gap are consistent. The NHLF also call for all health workforce strategies being developed by all governments to be aligned to the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework.

At this meeting, the NHLF also endorsed a revised NHLF Terms of Reference, and new Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Leadership Group for the Close the Gap Campaign.

The second NHLF meeting for 2020, is scheduled for 24 September 2020.

For further information, please contact the nhlf@iaha.com.au.