



MEDIA RELEASE

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Catholic Health Australia welcomes Fed Govt's announcement of \$90m for Indigenous health

Catholic Health Australia has today welcomed Minister for Health Greg Hunt's announcement of an additional \$90 million for the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme.

"The Indigenous Australians' Health Programme is critical in providing high quality, culturally appropriate, primary health care services to Indigenous Australians," said Catholic Health Australia CEO Pat Garcia.

"As the largest non-government provider of health, community and aged care services, Catholic Health Australia believes no one's health should be determined by their race, where they live, or their socio-economic status.

"The social determinants of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are complex, but anything that takes away barriers to people receiving healthcare is a step in the right direction.

"In healthcare there is no one-size-fits-all, but research does tell us that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers help patients from the same background feel more comfortable. This, ultimately, can improve health outcomes.

"The Indigenous Australians' Health Programme was established five years ago to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with culturally appropriate primary health care services across Australia.

"This additional \$90 million over three years offers funding certainty and means that the good work of IAHP to deliver culturally empathetic and informed care can continue.

"Catholic Health Australia looks forward to working with the Federal Government and Aboriginal community controlled health services to deliver the best care possible."

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Catholic Health Australia (CHA) is Australia's largest non-government grouping of health, community, and aged care services accounting for approximately 10 percent of hospital-based healthcare in Australia. Our members also provide around 25 percent of private hospital care, 5 percent of public hospital care, 12 percent of aged care facilities, and 20 percent of home care and support for the elderly.