



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY COUNCIL

### Meeting 8

8 and 9 June 2010

### COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) held its eighth meeting in Brisbane on 8 and 9 June 2010, with the Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery attending at the end of 9 June 2010.

Following on from the launch of the *National Target Setting Instrument: Evidence Based Best Practice Guide* and the *Child Mortality Target: Analysis and Recommendations*, NIHEC agreed to undertake further analysis for advice to the Minister. In particular Council discussed the limitations around data quality, as well as the underlying and contextual issues which impact on the birth weight of babies.

The Council has also progressed work on the *Health Workforce Target: Analysis and Recommendations Part 1: Indigenous Health Workforce*. This will feed into discussions on the Indigenous Health Workforce Forum that NIHEC is hosting from 5-7 July 2010. This forum will assist NIHEC in providing recommendations to Government on ways to improve Indigenous health workforce capacity by reviewing existing capacity and key operational issues, recommending key strategic initiatives and identifying systems/parties responsible for progressing identified priorities.

Other topics for discussion included NIHEC's role in relation to chronic disease including the monitoring and evaluation framework of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Chronic Disease Package and advice into the Australian Health Survey. NIHEC also discussed their role in co-hosting the National Indigenous Mental Health Forum with the National Advisory Council on Mental Health; agreed to keep a watching brief on the study on renal dialysis services in Central Australia; discussed potential options for Indigenous nutrition; and NIHEC's role in relation to the Government's health reform agenda.

During Minister's Snowdon's visit to Council, NIHEC provided an update on NIHEC activities and recommended actions that will impact on the health outcomes for Indigenous adolescents in the short term against key areas that came out of NIHEC's roundtable late last year: giving voice to youth; identity and aspirations; building the evidence base and connecting up services.

NIHEC's Meeting 9 is proposed to be held in Darwin on 7 and 8 September 2010.