



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY COUNCIL

### Meeting 7

9 and 10 March 2010

### COMMUNIQUÉ

The National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) held its seventh meeting in Melbourne on 9 and 10 March 2010.

A highlight of Meeting 7 was the joint launch of the *National Target Setting Instrument: Evidence Based Best Practice Guide* and the *Child Mortality Target: Analysis and Recommendations* by NIHEC and the Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon Warren Snowdon at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Fitzroy.

NIHEC's analysis and recommendations indicates that Indigenous child mortality rates have been improving, particularly for infant mortality where the gap may halve by 2018 if current trends continue. However, while there have been improvements in antenatal care and child mortality overall, NIHEC advised Government that work is still required to reduce smoking during pregnancy and low birth weight rates. The Council is also progressing work on two other Targets: Workforce and Chronic Disease.

In principle agreement was given to the draft outcomes report of the Indigenous Adolescent Roundtable hosted by NIHEC on 3 December 2009. The draft *Indigenous Youth Health and Wellbeing Roundtable Outcomes Report* provides a foundation for developing an Indigenous youth policy framework. NIHEC will provide this report and advice on possible steps for future policy development in the field of Indigenous youth health and wellbeing to Minister Snowdon.

NIHEC provided recommendations to the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs to strengthen the draft Indigenous Education Action Plan 2010-2014. NIHEC also provided advice to the National Health and Medical Research Council on Road Map II and the proposed priorities for health and medical research following a presentation by Professor Warwick Anderson.

Other topics for discussion included NIHEC's role in the implementation and evaluation of the Commonwealth's Indigenous Chronic Disease Package; arrangements for the National Indigenous Mental Health Forum; and feedback on the National Health Risk Survey.

NIHEC's Meeting 8 will be held in Brisbane on 8 and 9 June 2010.