



## **NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUALITY COUNCIL**

### **Meeting 5**

**9 and 10 September 2009**

### **COMMUNIQUÉ**

The National Indigenous Health Equality Council (NIHEC) held its fifth meeting in Canberra on 9 and 10 September 2009.

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health, and Regional Services Delivery, the Hon Warren Snowdon MP met with the full Council for the first time during this meeting. This allowed Minister Snowdon and the Council to discuss the key priorities of NIHEC.

The Council also discussed the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission (NHHRC) Final Report with the Minister and will provide formal advice to Government in the near future.

The Council progressed work on the National Target Setting Instrument which is a web based reference site that is being developed to inform target setting in Indigenous health. An overarching framework for this instrument will be supported by modules which will draw on comprehensive analysis of the evidence and what has been learnt over the years about successful target setting processes. The first module on Child Mortality is expected to be endorsed by Council and provided to the Minister later this year. The Council has commenced work on a Workforce module and will continue to develop a Chronic Disease module with a specific focus on cardiovascular disease.

The Council discussed five pieces of work that will assist NIHEC to provide advice to the Government on Indigenous workforce issues. Other topics for discussion included: the establishment of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation; nutrition interventions; Commonwealth's chronic disease package; national sexual health strategies; and the establishment of the National Indigenous representative body.

Council members undertook a site visit which was generously hosted by the Winnunga Nimmityjah Health Service.

The next meeting of NIHEC is in Perth on 9 and 10 December 2009.