



NATSIHWA
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health Worker Association

MEDIA RELEASE

9 May 2018

NATSIHWA welcomes the 2018 budget announcements of additional funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Health Workforce Professional Bodies

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers Association (NATSIHWA) welcomes the 2018 Australian Government budget announcement that signal growth in funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce organisations. These organisations (NATSIHWA, CATSINaM, IAHA and AIDA) work together to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforces and improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"We thank the Australian government for the continued support of NATSIHWA. This funding will not only enhance the sustainability of our profession, but will also lead to opportunities that promote the recognition and professionalism of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners" said Ms Josslyn Tully, NATSIHWA Chairperson.

In particular, the budget announcement support the progression of NATSIHWA's strategic plan 2017-2020. Key strategic priorities for NATSIHWA over the next 12 months, include the:

- Development of a National Mentoring Program for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners;
- Implementation of the National Professional Development Symposium which will bring together over 100 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners in Alice Springs in October 2018;
- Continuation of Regional forums to support professional development and networking of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners in regions across Australia;
- Development of further educational resources to support individuals and services in defining Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners' Scope of Practice; and,
- Enhanced influence of national policy and program that improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health workforce outcomes that support a culturally safe work environment.

"Today's budget announcement presents an important opportunity for NATSIHWA. It will enable us to progress key strategic priorities, including the development of a National Mentor program to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners. This is a very exciting time for our members", said Mr Karl Briscoe, NATSIHWA CEO.

"NATSIHWA looks forward to progressing these initiatives with our membership, which includes over 750 full members who are qualified Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners across Australia", said Ms Josslyn Tully.

MORE INFORMATION: <https://www.natsihwa.org.au/content/what-we-do>

Media enquiries, please contact Jacqui Weston on 02 62219221 or email sao@natsihwa.org.au