



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Media Release

13-9-2010

Reshuffle should benefit Aboriginal health

“The opportunity to deal directly again with a cabinet minister, Health Minister Nicola Roxon, about the priorities in Aboriginal health should be a welcome result of Prime Minister Gillard’s reshuffle” says Mr Justin Mohamed, Chair of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), the peak body in Aboriginal health.

“We thank former Indigenous Health Minister Warren Snowdon for his efforts over the last 15 months as the first, and perhaps last, Minister for Indigenous Health.

“Mr Snowdon provided a regular point of contact with the government on Aboriginal health and was an experienced, knowledgeable sounding board for ideas. He helped to lay the groundwork for a better partnership with the government in Aboriginal health.

“However it was always Minister Roxon, not her junior minister, in control of the Health Department and health policy affecting Aboriginal peoples.

“The Prime Minister was also a great advocate of Aboriginal health when she was shadow health minister. NACCHO assumes that the Prime Minister’s aim in the reshuffle is to again have that direct contact between the Aboriginal health advocates and the Health Minister.

“I am sure the Prime Minister understands that if her government let Aboriginal health slip in its priorities, not giving it the appropriate attention and commitment, it will have drastic consequences not only for the current Aboriginal generation but for generations to come.

“NACCHO looks forward to again meeting with Minister Roxon and creating a productive partnership. While Minister Roxon may not be as available as Minister Snowdon was, we see direct contact with the Health Minister as very important.

“Significant progress in improving the health outcomes of Aboriginal peoples will ultimately only be achieved with the support of the Prime Minister, Cabinet and the Parliament as a whole.

“NACCHO and our members, over 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services nationwide, look forward to working with all members of parliament and contributing our expertise in front line primary health care for our peoples”, Mr Mohamed said.

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