



# NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

## Media Release

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### Aboriginal Health Workers tackle Chronic Ear Disease at Sydney Symposium

A major campaign to tackle chronic ear disease in Aboriginal communities will see Aboriginal Health Workers from across the country meet in Sydney from 19 to 21 October.

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) is convening the three-day Symposium to coincide with a nationwide rollout of new hearing testing equipment in health services.

NACCHO CEO Dea Delaney Thiele said, "This is a fantastic chance for Aboriginal Health Workers to build on their great work in ear health. The Symposium will give them more skills and knowledge of the latest techniques and equipment to take their work to the next level".

The Aboriginal Health Workers will learn the latest techniques in ear and hearing screening and the maintenance of testing the new and existing equipment.

The National Symposium for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear and Hearing Health and the rollout of equipment are part of the Australian Government's investment of over \$58 million over four years to expand ear and eye health services in Aboriginal communities.

The government launched the 'Improving Eye and Ear Health Services for Indigenous Australians for Better Education and Employment Outcomes Measure' last year.

Reducing preventable hearing loss dramatically improves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's quality of life and education and employment options.

Day one of the Symposium is an important stakeholders workshop on accreditation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services and research institutes will showcase their best ear health and hearing initiatives on the second day of the workshop.

The third day at the Aboriginal Health College in Little Bay, Sydney is intensive training in the use of screening equipment for Aboriginal Health Workers delivering ear and hearing services in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services.

**When:** Tuesday to Thursday 19-21 October 2010

**Where:** The Mercure Sydney Hotel George Street Sydney.

**Registration:** **Registration closes COB Tuesday 21 September.**

The Registration form and further information is on the NACCHO website at

<http://www.naccho.org.au/activities/whatsnew.html>

Fax or email the form to NACCHO

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