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MEDIA RELEASE

Queensland PHNs sign historic Australian agreement to improve Indigenous health in Queensland

On Wednesday 11 September, Queensland Primary Health Networks (PHNs) joined with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) to sign an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Canberra at the National PHN Conference.

This MOU signing saw leaders from all seven PHNs across Queensland, including Gold Coast Primary Health Network, join forces with QAIHC and commit to working together to improve Indigenous health in Queensland.

It is the first type of agreement in Australia between a peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisation and multiple PHNs and is based on shared principles, mutual recognition and supports future collaboration between the two parties.

QAIHC CEO, Neil Willmetts said that this is great news for the more than 186,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in Queensland.

“All of our organisations have been striving to improve health outcomes in Queensland. Working together will now assist accelerate improvements through a much-needed collaborative approach.”

“Each of the seven PHNs in Queensland is proud to be part of this historic MOU,” said Abbe Anderson, Chair of the Queensland and Northern Territory PHN CEOs group.

“All PHNs are committed to improving health outcomes for First Nations peoples, and we recognise the importance of working with the Community Controlled Sector to achieve these outcomes.”

QAIHC Chairperson Gail Wason said improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is far more complex than most people think.

“Poor health is a harsh reality for many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, we are working to change this. Agreements like this brings together expertise and leadership and will improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Queensland” Ms Wason said.

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