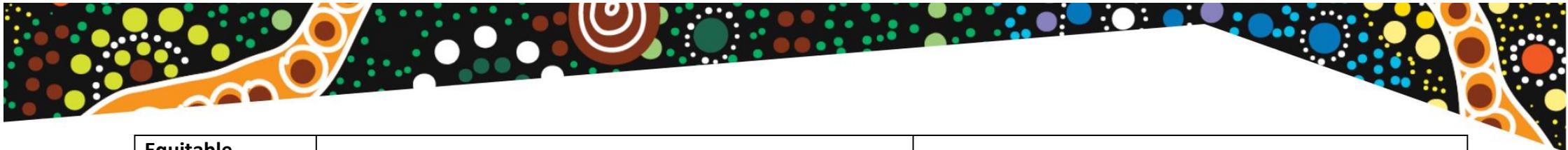


AH&MRC NSW State Election Priorities (2023)

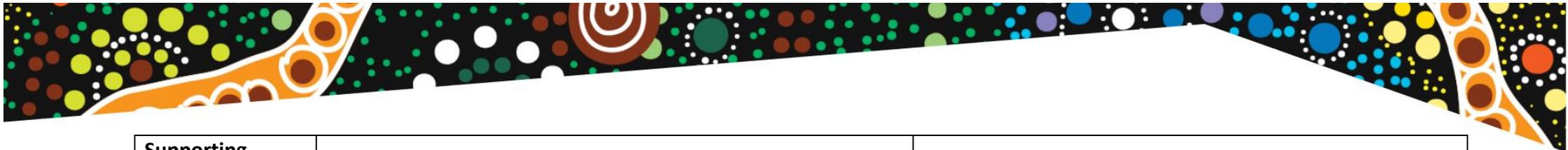
As the Aboriginal Health Peak Body in New South Wales, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC NSW) is committed to working with the government of the day to develop and deliver policies and programs for our people. Over the years, the AH&MRC has been able to develop strong relationships with successive governments and ensured that they've been held to account for commitments made to our communities.

The NSW State election will be held on 25 March 2023. This election will appoint members of the 58th Parliament of New South Wales. Heading into this election, the AH&MRC's wants to see a real commitment from the incoming government, to invest in Aboriginal health equity and put Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands, in recognition of the vital role played by the Aboriginal community-controlled sector.

Issue	Context	What we want to see
Supporting the Aboriginal Health Workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health sector is facing significant workforce shortages, particularly with regard to GPs. The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations sector needs a sustainable workforce to not only meet routine clinical needs for clients, but also surge as required. While the bulk of funding for the sector comes from the Federal government, this is not just a Commonwealth problem. A long-term approach, at both the Federal and state levels, to develop a strong Aboriginal Health workforce is required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased support for training and upskilling initiatives for the Aboriginal health workforce with a focus on expanding pathways not only to nursing, but also specialist and allied health professions.Supporting share workforce models between NSW Health and the ACCHO sector, particularly for GPs and other specialists.Working with the Commonwealth to enhance incentives for GPs, specialists and allied health professionals who choose to work in Aboriginal communities, with a focus on rural and remote areas.



<p>Equitable Funding for community-controlled health services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the ACCHO sector comes from a combination of sources including PHNs, Commonwealth and state programs. At present, funding for ACCHOs is fragmented, unstable and inadequate. ACCHOs are the preferred primary care provider for Aboriginal people (75 per cent of people in remote areas attend an AMS or community clinic and 35 per cent in major cities). While the demand for their services continues to grow, funding has not kept up. Funding programs for community-controlled services often have prescriptive eligibility requirements and onerous reporting requirements, with KPIS that are dictated by government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investment into Aboriginal health, with the community-controlled sector at the centre of service delivery as committed to under the NSW Partnership on Closing the Gap. • Flexible, needs-based, and long-term funding models, based on the principles of self-determination. • Greater efforts towards co-design processes that allow communities to determine their priorities and what success looks like.
<p>Investing in Aboriginal Health, Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal people do not have adequate access to culturally safe health services, particularly in rural and remote areas. ACCHOs are limited in the services that they can provide due to lack of resourcing and infrastructure. Most funding contracts prohibit capital works, and it is common for ACCHOs to forgo funding opportunities simply because they do not have the facilities to deliver much needed programs. In many cases, Aboriginal people must travel long distances to access care. Investment in Aboriginal health infrastructure is urgently needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased investment into Aboriginal health infrastructure, with a focus on supporting ACCHOs to enhance and expand their services. • Additional support for Aboriginal health services still working to rebuild from recent natural disasters, particularly in Northern NSW.



<p>Supporting Aboriginal governance across the health system</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is significant under-representation of Aboriginal people in decision-making roles across the health system and government more broadly. Under Closing the Gap, the NSW government has made a commitment to facilitating shared decision making with Aboriginal communities by ensuring that our people are empowered to have a say in the decisions that affect them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Aboriginal people to participate on governance structures across the health system. • Greater representation of Aboriginal people in senior decision-making roles across the system.
<p>Investing in holistic, multi-disciplinary models of care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We know that many Aboriginal people are not receiving care until it is too late. This is primarily due the barriers that prevent access to timely, community-based, holistic, and culturally safe health services. We also know that Aboriginal people are best placed to provide care for mob, with models of care that focus on multi-disciplinary, culturally informed interventions. Mob often report feeling unwelcome and unsafe in mainstream settings. It is critical that government invest in community-driven models of care. Further, that government support the development of formalised partnerships between ACCHOs and mainstream services for information sharing and integrated care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater investment into community-based, early intervention and prevention services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This should include investment into community-controlled models of care. • Enhanced efforts to drive partnerships between mainstream and community-controlled health to ensure culturally safe, integrated service delivery.

Closing the Gap

- The New South Wales government has made a commitment to support the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, working in partnership with the NSW Coalition of Aboriginal Peak Organisations (NSW CAPO) and other Aboriginal stakeholders. As a member of the, the AH&MRC is equally committed to the success of Closing the Gap. The partnership has done great work over the past two years, with the landmark \$189.9 million investment in the 2022-23 NSW Budget being a testament to this, but there is still a long way to go. This will require the NSW government to be ambitious and innovative in its efforts.
- A renewed commitment to the New South Wales Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- Continued investment for Closing the Gap, with a focus on sustained, direct investment into the community-controlled sector and ongoing funding for initiatives developed under the 2022-23 Budget.
- System wide reforms to improve the way government does business with Aboriginal organisations and communities and a reaffirmed commitment to genuine partnership.
- Support efforts towards implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and community-led mechanisms to operationalise this at the Federal and State and Territory levels.