



# Communicable Disease Community of Practice

## Guiding Principles

### Purpose

The *NACCHO Communicable Disease Community of Practice (CoP) Guiding Principles* have been developed to support health workers in reducing the rates of Blood Borne Viruses (BBVs) and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) within the community. The Community of Practice will involve raising awareness of key STI and BBV issues and provide educational opportunities to support ACCHO staff in their work supporting stigma-free STI and BBV prevention, testing and care.

The CoP will provide a forum for ACCHOs to share their experiences, identify solutions to common barriers and share knowledge of their work across communities nationally.

NACCHO will coordinate the CoP and support ACCHOs by providing advocacy, linkages and practical support where possible.

### Guiding Principles

- Safe space – this forum will provide ‘Chatham house rules’ where all participants will feel they can speak in a safe and confidential environment.
- Story sharing – the CoP will provide a platform for ACCHOs to share their experiences, challenges, success stories and progress, and for information and stories to be shared between ACCHOs and NACCHO.
- Practical solutions, strategies, and advice – solutions to many challenges with the rates of BBVs and STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities exist within our sector. The CoP will focus on developing new and further expanding existing practical solutions.
- Linkages – the intention of the CoP is to link health workers across ACCHOs to develop and share solutions to common challenges in their communities.
- Practice, not policy – While NACCHO recognises significant challenges and barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations, the CoP focus is on developing practical solutions/strategies to manage local community responses.

### Operating Guidelines

The CoP will be a national forum that will include all ACCHOs participating in NACCHO STI

and BBV programs. The CoP membership will include:

- NACCHO Communicable Disease Program Team; and
- ACCHO nominated contacts

Guest Speakers (e.g Epidemiologists, sexual health experts etc.) may be invited to present to the CoP to address learning needs identified by the CoP.

The CoP will meet monthly and a summary of key discussions will be circulated to the group.

