

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**16 March 2026**

### **AH&MRC CEO Adjunct Professor Nicole Turner named NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year 2026**

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) proudly congratulates its Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Nicole Turner, on being named NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year at the 2026 NSW Women of the Year Awards.

The prestigious awards recognise extraordinary women whose leadership, compassion and commitment are making a significant difference in communities across New South Wales. NSW Women of the Year Awards were presented at a ceremony held at the International Convention Centre Sydney during NSW Women's Week.

A proud Kamilaroi woman with more than 30 years of experience in Aboriginal health, Adjunct Professor Turner has dedicated her career to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities across NSW. As CEO of the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, she works closely with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) across the state to strengthen culturally safe, community-led health services.

Throughout her career, Adjunct Professor Turner has championed community-driven health initiatives, advocated for culturally safe care and worked to strengthen the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector. Her leadership continues to support Aboriginal Medical Services, families, governments and partners to improve long-term health outcomes for Aboriginal communities across metropolitan, regional and remote NSW.

Accepting the award, Adjunct Professor Turner said the recognition reflected the work of many people who have contributed to strengthening Aboriginal leadership in health.

"I feel deeply honoured to be the 2026 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year. I see this recognition not as a personal achievement, but as a tribute to the Elders, mentors and communities who paved the way for Aboriginal leadership."

She also emphasised the importance of role models for the next generation.

"For women and girls, particularly Aboriginal women and girls, seeing diverse role models celebrated helps build confidence and a sense of possibility."

The Chair of the Board, Scott, said: "The AH&MRC Board warmly welcomes Nicki's outstanding achievement. This award recognises her tireless advocacy and dedication to our people. Nicki is committed to driving meaningful change, and we are grateful for all that she has accomplished."

The NSW Women of the Year Awards have celebrated outstanding women and girls since 2012, recognising individuals whose determination and advocacy help build a stronger and more inclusive New South Wales.

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