



MEDIA RELEASE

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Long term funding for Aboriginal health—at last!

The Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory [AMSANT] has welcomed the historic announcement today of a ten year funding commitment by the Australian Government for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the Northern Territory as part of its Stronger Futures funding package.

“This is the first time in history that Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations in any sector have received a commitment funding extending to ten years AMSANT CEO,” John Paterson said.

“Long-term funding has been the absolute desire of Aboriginal people throughout the nation for at least four decades”.

“It is difficult to underestimate the profound impact this will potentially have in enabling our services to engage in long-term planning for improved services and programs that will really make a difference.

“This will also provide significantly improved capacity for planning and retention of our remote workforce that is vital for the stability and further development of our services.

“However, if we are to gain the maximum benefit in improved health outcomes from this historic opportunity, government needs to match this funding with a reduction in the unnecessary red tape that currently plagues our services and detracts from our service delivery capacity on the ground.

“We will be seeking early discussions with the department to ensure the government’s commitment to long term planning is to be genuinely honoured by the bureaucrats, so as to translate this into a forward looking, flexible approach.

AMSANT also acknowledges other aspects of the Stronger Futures funding package.

“The need for increased funding for oral, aural and mental health services is well established, however it has also been recognised that there needs to be improved integration and coordination of these services with comprehensive primary health care,” said Mr Paterson.

“AMSANT also recognises the need for continued focus on developing improved capacity for addressing the impacts of alcohol and other drugs, and child abuse and neglect.

“AMSANT looks forward to working further with the Australian and Northern Territory governments on the improvements to health services and service delivery that are essential to Closing the Gap.

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Together for our Health