



## **Media Release**

20 November 2007

### **NACCHO ELECTS NEW CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR**

Yesterday, at its Annual General Meeting, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) elected its new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Dr Mick Adams becomes the new Chair at a critical time for NACCHO and Aboriginal health. We must rise to the huge challenge facing Aboriginal peoples throughout Australia. The NT emergency and the government response has highlighted how far we have to go said Dr Adams.

I am proud and pleased to have been elected the new Chair. My first priority will be to establish a good working relationship with whoever is elected at the weekend. However I believe that, although this is a key partnership, we must work on partnerships with all sectors including business and the non-governmental sector. Only if we all work together can we turn around the 17 year life expectancy gap.

My other priority will be to strengthen the connections between NACCHO members. Working with our State and Territory affiliates and over 140 Member services is the key to improving our peoples' health. NACCHO is only as strong as its members and is here to service them said Dr Adams.

Mick has over 30 years experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and has published a number of books and articles on health and wellbeing related issues. Mick has recently completed a Doctorate in Public Health which focused on Aboriginal men's sexual and reproductive health issues which included one of the first and largest research studies undertaken with the Australian Indigenous population.

Mick will be supported by the new Deputy Chair Mr Justin Mohamed. Justin is a Goreng Goreng man from Bundaberg Queensland. Justin has spent most of his working life working with the Shepparton and Victorian Aboriginal communities where he is currently employed as the Director of the Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE) and holds positions with both local and state Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) as Chairperson of Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (VACCHO).

Justin is committed to ensuring NACCHO continues with the steps required by the Health Equality Plan with a focus on strengthening ACCHOs' position and building strong partnerships with the government and non-government sectors.

For more information:

NACCHO Chairperson, Dr Mick Adams (m) 0409 646 952

NACCHO Vice Chairperson, Mr Justin Mohamed (m) 0409 105 090

NACCHO Media and Communications Officer, Dr Margaret Chirgwin (m) 0424644465