

15 November 2016

Ms Donna Ah Chee  
Chair  
Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum  
secretariat@amsant.org.au

Dear Donna,

As Chair of the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Forum (NTAHF), I would like to take this opportunity to extend the NT PHN's appreciation for the work of the NTAHF Primary Health Care Working Group and Social Emotional Wellbeing Working Group for their time, expertise and commitment to supporting outcomes for commissioning of Indigenous Primary Mental Health Care and Drug and Alcohol Treatment activities and primary health care in the NT.

Through a collaborative, co-design process, the NTAHF Working Groups have contributed to successful equitable needs based planning for the funding of Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) services across the Northern Territory. This planning process has involved:

1. Assessing current and projected population health needs in relation to Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Treatment
2. Assessing Population data
3. Determining evidence based models of care and the configuration of services required to meet population needs
4. Service and Workforce mapping to determine service gaps across the NT
5. Priority setting and decision making
6. Cost analysis and financial modelling
7. Workforce support and development requirements to support the model.

We believe the collaborative co-design process undertaken with the working groups define a positive way forward in strengthening the primary health care sector to ensure effective, coordinated, integrated and culturally appropriate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services responsive to community need. A

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strong focus to support Aboriginal Community Control wherever possible and the development and support of an Aboriginal Workforce have been key priorities through this process.

Through this work, we will see an increase in SEWB services including an additional 13 FTE Social/Cultural positions and 16.2 FTE Therapeutic positions per annum across the NT. 11 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services have been identified to receive SEWB services under this plan. We believe this is an exciting and significant investment to increase access to mental health and drug and alcohol treatment services for Aboriginal people.

We look forward to continuing in strong partnership with the NTAHF in strengthening the primary health care system to improve health outcomes for Territorians.

Kind regards,

Nicki Herriot  
CEO

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