

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### **Genuine partnership essential for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health**

**ANTaR today welcomes the Government's commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations to develop a national plan to improve health equality.**

Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon and Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon announced this morning that the National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) is to become the national representative voice to Governments on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

"This partnership provides a significant and promising opportunity for real change," said ANTaR National Director, Jacqueline Phillips.

"For the first time at a national level, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will play a central role in developing the policies and programs that affect them."

"Aboriginal centred policy and genuine partnership is fundamental to achieving health equality and overcoming entrenched disadvantage. It has been a core aspiration of ANTaR's campaigns for many years" Ms Phillips said.

The NHLF is made up of peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations from across Australia and the National Congress of Australia's First People.

"ANTaR congratulates this new representative body, which will be an important mechanism through which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can engage with Government to improve health outcomes" said Ms Phillips.

"It is now up to Government to ensure the partnership is respected and used effectively. Aboriginal organisations must play a lead role in the development and implementation of the national health plan, not merely a consultative one."

**Media contact:**

**ANTaR National Director, Jacqueline Phillips – 0423 773 395**