

MEDIA RELEASE



10am, Tuesday 14 September, 2010

ANTaR welcomes change of heart on Indigenous Health Minister

ANTaR is delighted that the Prime Minister has decided to retain The Hon Warren Snowdon MP as dedicated Indigenous Health Minister to work in collaboration with the Health Minister, Nicola Roxon.

'Minister Snowdon has shown a deep commitment to achieving Indigenous health equality and has developed strong relationships with the Indigenous health sector,' said Dr Janet Hunt.

'ANTaR looks forward to continuing to work with Minister Snowdon through the Close the Gap coalition to achieve Indigenous health equality within a generation.'

'It is vital that we maintain momentum towards achieving the Indigenous health equality targets agreed by both major parties.'

'The next step must be the development of a long-term plan, in partnership with Indigenous Australia, to achieve these targets.'

'In reversing her decision on a dedicated Indigenous Health Minister, the Prime Minister's responsiveness to the concerns of the sector is to be commended. It signals the Government's respect for the role and expertise of the Indigenous health sector and a real willingness to listen', said Dr Janet Hunt.

ANTaR is the pre-eminent non-Indigenous national advocacy organisation dedicated specifically to the rights - and overcoming the disadvantage - of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. .

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