



**WAPHA**  
WA Primary Health Alliance

**phn**  
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,  
COUNTRY WA  
An Australian Government Initiative

# Media Release

## Closing the Gap report highlights need for collaborative approach

14 February 2017

WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) acknowledges the Closing the Gap Report 2017, the ninth report which tracks the work undertaken by all levels of government, business and the community to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

WAPHA chief executive officer Learne Durrington said the report highlighted the importance of a collaborative approach to working with Indigenous people and communities to achieve the Closing the Gap targets.

Ms Durrington said it was disappointing to learn that again there has been no significant change in the Indigenous mortality rate between the 2006 baseline and 2015, nor in the gap since 1998.

“We recognise the importance of empowering communities to make decisions about the delivery of health services so we can achieve positive and meaningful outcomes,” Ms Durrington said.

The report also highlighted the important role primary health care plays in identifying and managing care for Indigenous people with chronic disease.

In January, WAPHA, who operate WA’s three Primary Health Networks, appointed service providers to deliver the Integrated Team Care program across the State.

The Integrated Team Care provides an integrated, team-based approach for the provision of coordinated, multidisciplinary care for Indigenous people with chronic disease.

The program consolidates the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services and Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care programmes.

Ms Durrington said WAPHA’s dedicated Aboriginal health team was supporting service providers delivering the Integrated Team Care program.

“Coincidentally, today, the day the Closing the Gap Report has been released, we have all the Integrated Team care service providers in the same room discussing the program and how health outcomes will be measured,” Ms Durrington.

“WAPHA is committed to working collaboratively with service providers and community to ensure that health services are holistic and culturally appropriate to local communities.



**WAPHA**  
WA Primary Health Alliance

**phn**  
PERTH NORTH, PERTH SOUTH,  
COUNTRY WA  
An Australian Government Initiative

# Media Release

The report also revealed Indigenous suicide rates are double that of non-Indigenous Australians.

WAPHA is working with the Federal Government to trial new suicide prevention and follow-up care models and build partnerships with local service providers and communities in the Midwest and Kimberley.

## **ENDS**

For more information contact Brian Oliver, Communications and Marketing Manager  
Tel: 0435 229 317 Email: [brian.oliver@wapha.org.au](mailto:brian.oliver@wapha.org.au)