



# Media Release

## New Aboriginal health service a success in Goldfields

3 March 2017

Aboriginal people in the Northern Goldfields with chronic health conditions are experiencing better health outcomes through a new program aimed at improving access to health care.

Hope Community Services (HCS) have been contracted by WA Primary Health Alliance (WAPHA) to deliver Integrated Team Care (ITC), the new Aboriginal health care coordination service across the Goldfields region.

The ITC program works in collaboration with other health care providers to improve access for Aboriginal people to culturally appropriate health care.

WAPHA regional coordinator Tralee Cable said the ITC service in Leonora and Laverton is being delivered by Dr Charl Du Plessis through the GP clinic, which is located within the hospital at the respective towns.

Ms Cable said Dr Du Plessis is supported by a care coordinator Cheryl Cotterill and an Aboriginal Health Worker Gail Brownley.

“We know that areas north of Kalgoorlie have high numbers of Aboriginal people and with the increasingly nomadic lifestyle of residents, this has traditionally made servicing the region very difficult,” Ms Cable said.

“By working so closely with the GP on roster, Cheryl and Gail are able to encourage clients to continue the cycle of care they need so they do not end up having to go to hospital.”

HCS also has a care coordinator, an Aboriginal health worker and an Indigenous project officer based in Kalgoorlie to deliver ITC, and will soon be delivering the service to Esperance.

### ENDS

- WA Primary Health Alliance operates WA's three Primary Health Networks; Perth South, Perth North and Country WA

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