

Media Release



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Advancing First Nations pathways for diabetes prevention

More than 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers will receive diabetes prevention training as part of a new partnership between the Bupa Foundation and [The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation](#) (NACCHO).

The project will see the development of a specialist diabetes prevention training pathway that includes developing culturally safe training and assessment resources, delivery of face-to-face training sessions and integration into existing local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. Diabetes is three times more prevalent among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples¹, contributing significantly to kidney disease, heart disease, dementia, and other health issues².

NACCHO CEO, Pat Turner said NACCHO is committed to driving meaningful, community-led healthcare solutions.

"This partnership with the Bupa Foundation allows us to address diabetes prevention directly within our communities by training over 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers.

"Culturally informed, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led training is essential to reversing the impact of diabetes and improving health outcomes. By working with Bupa, we're building a pathway to strengthen our healthcare workforce and bring us closer to closing the health gap in our communities," Pat added.

The new partnership forms an important part of Bupa's ambition to work with First Nations-led healthcare organisations and other institutions to help support better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as outlined in its [Reconciliation Action Plan](#).

Bupa APAC Chief Sustainability and Corporate Affairs Officer, Roger Sharp said this partnership is designed to deliver lasting community impact rather than short-term solutions and is desperately needed in the battle against diabetes.

"We want to create an Australia where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy health equity and equality.

"We believe the best way to do that, is to partner with, support, and empower Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations so they can determine the best way to drive change in communities. That's why this partnership with NACCHO, the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, is so important," Roger said.

1

<https://healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/healthinonet/getContent.php?linkid=590810&title=Review+of+diabetes+among+Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+people>

² [Diabetes and chronic kidney disease as risks for other diseases: Australian Burden of Disease Study 2011, Summary - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare \(aihw.gov.au\)](#)

The program supports the Federal Government's [Close The Gap Initiative](#) designed to deliver more trainers and assessors for Aboriginal Community Controlled Registered Training Organisations in order to get more health workers into communities, sooner.

For more information about the Bupa Foundation visit [here](#)

For more information about NACCHO's First Nations Health Worker Traineeship Program visit [here](#)

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About Bupa Asia Pacific

Bupa is an international healthcare group which has been committed to a purpose of helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives and making a better world for more than 75 years.

Bupa Asia Pacific operates in Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, supporting about 7.3 million customers through a broad range of health and care services including health insurance, aged care, dental, medical, optical and hearing services.

Employing more than 22,000 people in the region, we believe that we can make a real difference to the lives of customers through our values, purpose and the way that we deliver personalised care.