

A Victorian 2005 – 2006 State Budget initiative

ABORIGINAL HEALTH PROMOTION AND CHRONIC CARE PARTNERSHIP

INFORMATION RESOURCE

June 2005

2005 – 2006 State Budget

The Victorian Government has committed \$1.7 million in 2005-06 (\$7.06 million over four years) to prevent and better manage chronic disease in Aboriginal communities. This recognises the much higher prevalence and earlier onset of chronic conditions such as diabetes, oral ill health, and cardiovascular and respiratory diseases among Aboriginal people in Victoria compared to non-Aboriginal people. Health promotion and chronic disease prevention and management programs will support short, medium and long term actions to prevent development of chronic diseases, improve chronic disease management and reduce avoidable hospital admissions among Aboriginal people.

A Fairer Victoria identifies this initiative as a key strategy in building new partnerships with Indigenous Victorians and helping to address disadvantage.

Background

The Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Partnership is a response to the *Community Health Policy* and the *Aboriginal Services Plan* in providing a strengthened platform to enhance access to Community Health Services by Aboriginal people. In particular, this program will promote better health and self-management of chronic conditions, improve the community's access to primary health care services and ensure that health services are culturally responsive.

The program will operate in eight areas across Victoria having larger Aboriginal populations and where there are existing partnerships between Community Health Services and Aboriginal communities and/or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations. Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Teams will be established in each of the sites. These teams will have a role in developing health promotion programs and increasing access to primary health care services and chronic disease management programs.

Development of Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Partnership.

Several key milestones will be achieved in the development of the Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Partnership. One of the key steps in the development of this program is a genuine consultative process with Aboriginal representatives. This has commenced, in the first instance, through the Victorian Advisory Council on Koori Health (VACKH) Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has developed a Vision¹ for the program and provides a basis for further developments within the context of a broad reconciliatory framework. Following selection of the eight geographical areas, there will be further consultation at the regional and sub-regional level, including through the Primary Care Partnership infrastructure, and with Aboriginal communities and organisations, Community Health Services, local government, and other health and related organisations.

It is anticipated that the Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Partnership will be developed and ready for implementation during the second half of 2006.

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¹ **VISION; Aboriginal Victorians are able to choose to access primary health care that is culturally respectful and addresses aspects of health* including prevention, promotion and treatment, underpinned by principles of self determination and collaboration and endeavors to achieve a quality of life for Aboriginal people, equal with all other Victorians.**

* 'Aboriginal health is not just the physical well being of an individual but is the social, emotional and cultural well being of the whole community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential thereby bringing about the total well being of their community. It is a whole-of-life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life.' (NAHS, 1989).