

## **Culture Care Connect – a Community led suicide prevention planning and aftercare program**

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### **Background/Approach:**

The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) sector is a critically important part of the Australian healthcare system and is best placed to deliver programs and services to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A notable example of this is the Culture Care Connect (CCC) Program, a flagship program centred on principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and Community control, cultural safety, equity and taking a holistic life-course approach.

Target population groups are developed in place-based, Community-led and co-designed processes, with young people often identified as a key group.

The Culture Care Connect (CCC) Program is:

- developed and coordinated by NACCHO
- the first of its kind, prioritising, celebrating, and preserving the diverse cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- centred in culture, offering control and choice through empowering Communities to access localised aftercare services, develop localised community-controlled suicide prevention networks and plans, and provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health first-aid training
- currently operating through 36 community-controlled Suicide Prevention Networks and 38 Aftercare Services
- developed in alignment with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- the new standard in community driven healthcare, committed to overcoming the inequality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and reducing the prevalence of suicide and self-harm
- developed with Community involvement through every stage – genuine co-design can ensure services are delivered for communities0 and by communities.

To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and self-determination in suicide prevention, NACCHO chairs an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, inclusive of a youth representative, which provides clinical and cultural governance on the implementation of CCC.

NACCHO are proud of CCC Program and the positive feedback we are receiving from sites on the design of the program, which supports ongoing advocacy for the program expansion.

**Analysis/Argument:** The ACCHO sector continues to be best placed to provide ongoing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, including young people, and it is important funding continues into programs which are effective in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Communities.

### **Outcome/Results:**

### **Conclusions/Applications:**

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** To be provided – internal NACCHO approval required for various reasons, including the sensitivities of collective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Countries, and contributions to this program.