

Joint News Release

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New outreach worker for Indigenous community in Illawarra

The effort to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health has been given a boost by the appointment of a new outreach worker in the Illawarra.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker will help increase community engagement with health services, increasing the uptake of Indigenous health checks, including access to specialist services and community pharmacies.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker will also identify Indigenous people who may benefit from improved access to health care.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker will have access to nationally accredited basic level training through the vocational education and training sector.

The outreach worker will also have the flexibility to develop a career path in the health sector if they choose by undertaking more advanced training, including as an enrolled nurse.

The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowden MP, made the announcement today as part of the Commonwealth Government's \$42 million commitment to build the capacity of the Indigenous health workforce over four years.

The biggest contributors to the health gap among Indigenous people are cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and respiratory illnesses.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Worker will be based at the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Services in Wollongong, which also has offices in Dapto and Shellharbour.

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