

## **Partnering for Success - keeping governments accountable to community health priorities**

A commitment to genuine partnership includes recognition that, at times, this may involve a process of negotiation in order to achieve agreement. Historically, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have been excluded from decision-making forums on the policies and programs that directly affect them and the communities in which they live. The evidence is strong that when Indigenous peoples are included and have a real say in the design and delivery of services that impact on them, the outcomes are far better.

This presentation focuses on two significant partnerships that the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) has recently negotiated with Australian governments.

I will outline how NACCHO in coalition with a diverse range of community partners:

- secured a formal partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Australian Governments to close the gap on health and life expectancy outcomes; and
- developed a new Roadmap to eliminate Rheumatic Heart Disease.