



Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

Dilhorn House, 2 Bulwer Street, East Perth WA

MEDIA RELEASE

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES SECURE UNDER FEDERAL MINISTER; AHCWA WELCOMES OPAL FUEL ROLLOUT IN WA TO COMBAT PETROL SNIFFING

13 April 2011

Federal Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon today confirmed that funding for Aboriginal Medical Services would continue – but not as part of the National Health Reform or Medicare locals.

Speaking at the Aboriginal Health Council of WA's State Conference, the Minister made it clear that the Federal Government would continue to separately fund Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs).

"Let there be no confusion – we will be funding ACCHSs," Minister Snowdon told the (ACCHSs) representatives present.

AHCWA Chairperson Vicki O'Donnell welcomed the Minister's commitment, saying it would secure current funding for the 19 Aboriginal Medical Services across Western Australia.

"This commitment enhances the State Government's announcement this morning of an additional \$500,000 over the next three years for AHCWA," Ms O'Donnell said.

OPAL FUEL ROLLOUT TO COMBAT PETROL SNIFFING

Ms O'Donnell also welcomed the Minister's roll out of Opal Fuel in Western Australia. Minister Snowdon indicated the low aromatic fuel had been hugely successful and shown a reduction rate of over 90 per cent in petrol sniffing in Central Desert communities.

The program starts in the Goldfields next month.

"Our sector supports the Federal Government in rolling out this program and we hope to see it rolled out across WA in the near future," Ms O'Donnell said.

The State Conference runs from April 12 to 13 at the Rendezvous Hotel in Scarborough.

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