

7 November 2018

Australian Government  
Department of Health  
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To Whom It May Concern

### **Establishing a National Women's/Men's Health Strategy 2020-2030**

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the development of a National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030 and a National Men's Health Strategy 2020-2030.

AHCWA is the peak body for Aboriginal health in Western Australia with 22 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) currently engaged as members. Representing the needs of our Members, we act as a forum to lead and influence the development of Aboriginal health policies across WA.

Upon reading the draft strategies, we consider it is important to highlight the following:

- Both strategies acknowledge the gap in health outcomes between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal people. However, neither strategy outlines in appropriate detail targeted and culturally appropriate programs and services to improve the health of Aboriginal people.
- WA ACCHSs are at the frontline of providing care and supports to Aboriginal people. It is imperative that the ACCHSs Sector is involved in the design and delivery of programs to Aboriginal people. This requires clearer communication throughout both.
- Without a firm commitment in additional funding to implement strategies aimed at improving Aboriginal health, it is unlikely that the much needed improvements will be achieved.

Please find our comments regarding both draft strategies attached.

If you have any queries regarding our feedback, please contact Deborah Costello, Policy and Strategy Manager via [Deborah.costello@ahcwa.org](mailto:Deborah.costello@ahcwa.org) or 08 9227 1631.

We look forward to working with the Commonwealth Government to close the gap in Aboriginal health.

Yours Sincerely,

Des Martin  
**Chief Executive Officer**