

# **STATE BASED ORGANISATIONS**

## **Closing the Gap - Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care Program**

### **Guidance on Needs Assessment Content**

This document sets out the Department of Health and Ageing's expectations on the issues that SBO's Needs Assessments should, at a minimum, address. SBOs will be required to upload a copy of their Needs Assessment Report onto the Divisions On-line Reporting System as part of the 2009-10 Interim Plan submission process.

The Needs Assessment Report to the Department should be a descriptive summary of the issues set out below. The Department acknowledges that for the 2009-10 Interim Plan, the Needs Assessment may to some extent be limited by the SBO's ability to establish working relationships with stakeholders in the time available. Where this is the case, the SBO should outline areas affected. The Needs Assessment for subsequent years will be expected to address any gaps.

In addition, the Interim Plan for 2009-10 will not be expected to comprehensively cover needs at the Division level. It is expected that this will be developed over time.

The process for undertaking the Needs Assessment and its presentation are at the discretion of the SBO. However, SBOs will be required to structure the Needs Assessment under the bold headings provided below.

Information sources SBOs might use include: the SBO's existing records, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, public health websites, research undertaken by Universities, state government etc, stakeholder consultations, surveys etc.

#### **State Indigenous population characteristics**

- Demographics – including age, income, employment status, population clusters.
- Population health profile – including incidence and distribution of key health conditions.
- Health priorities for the population – identified at a local, state and/or national level.

#### **Existing State network Indigenous health activity**

- A summary of existing Indigenous health activities/programs delivered by Divisions in the State, where available.
- Existing tools, resources, information materials that could be used under the Program.

#### **Stakeholder views and expectations**

- SBO member organisations
- Key Indigenous stakeholder groups – including the NACCHO State Affiliate, consumer and health provider groups and the Indigenous Health Partnership Forum.
- Key mainstream service providers/groups - e.g. peak state organisations, state government.
- Views of these groups – e.g. on health needs, existing services, barriers to access, potential program implementation models, priorities.
- Opportunities for collaboration – e.g. with stakeholders including the NACCHO State Affiliate, other programs, state governments.

#### **Analysis**

- Prioritisation of supports needed by Divisions in the State to more effectively increase access and improve the cultural sensitivity of mainstream primary care for Indigenous Australians.
- Strengths and weaknesses of current service provision across the State (particularly in state-wide systems). Factors to consider include:
  - integration of mainstream and Indigenous-specific services and of private and government run services.
  - capacity of mainstream services to provide culturally sensitive care.

- Strengths and weaknesses of current State network capacity, including gaps in services and barriers to effective program implementation. Factors to consider include:
  - relationships between Divisions and key stakeholders.
  - capacity of Divisions to provide a culturally sensitive work environment for Indigenous staff.
  - support, networking and training needs of Indigenous Health Project Officers and Indigenous Outreach Workers.

#### **Identification of options for program implementation**

#### **Identification of options for support required by Divisions**

#### **Existing models/approaches that could be adapted**

- Identification and assessment of existing models – e.g. those used to support other programs implemented across the State network, those implemented to support integration across other sectors in the health system, and those employed in Indigenous or mainstream communities, locally/elsewhere in Australia or overseas.

#### **Prioritisation of options in consultation with the NACCHO state affiliate**

#### **Risk assessment and management plan for program implementation**