

Australian government to invest over \$300 million in health infrastructure

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The government is committing to improving health services for Indigenous Australians, their families, and their communities 'Closing the Gap Implementation Plan'



To support the Commonwealth's first Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, the Australian Government is investing over \$300 million in health infrastructure and support to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders can access health services.

As part of our \$1 billion investment in new Closing the Gap measures, the government is investing \$254.4 million in infrastructure to better support the critical work of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), which have been a significant part of the Government's response to COVID-19.

ACCHOs are operated by and for Aboriginal communities, delivering comprehensive and culturally appropriate primary health care services, including administering COVID-19 vaccines across rural and remote Australia. This additional funding will enable ACCHOs to improve their facilities and maintain a high level of care they offer their communities.

The Government is also investing \$45 million to ensure the best start in life for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, through the Healthy Mums and Healthy Bubs program. This funding is in addition to the \$82 million for the Connected Beginnings Program, which includes funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services. This will provide mothers with improved access to health care, including access to antenatal care from their health providers, and provide support until the baby is one year old.

These programs complement and build on the Government's investment of more than \$781.1 million in the 2021-22 Budget to prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and aging outcomes.