

In regard to the question on notice:

*The other question relates to the first recommendation about Aboriginal community-controlled health services and increasing access for Aboriginal people. Could you elaborate on what you mean by "community-controlled"?*

The ACCHOs (Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations) have a long history in Australian primary healthcare dating back to the establishment of the Redfern service in 1971. Their success is rooted in the principle of self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There are more than 140 ACCHOs across Australia with peak representative organisations across all states and territories. The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation ([NACCHO](#)), the national peak body for all ACCHOs, defines Aboriginal community control in health services as:

*'a process which allows the local Aboriginal community to be involved in its affairs in accordance with whatever protocols or procedures are determined by the Community.*

An ACCHO is 'a primary health care service initiated and operated by the local Aboriginal community to deliver holistic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the community which controls it, through a locally elected Board of Management.

ACCHOs understand the position and role they play in supporting their local Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander communities to live better lives. The ACCHO approach has evolved out of an inherited responsibility to provide flexible and responsive services that are tailored to the needs of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. ACCHOs provide many services over and above their funded activities to ensure their community members gain the services they need.

In line with their holistic health approach ACCHOS support the social, emotional, physical and cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities.

The Association does not speak on behalf of ACCHOs but as part of our commitment to self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we support "community controlled" services as a process which *allows the local Aboriginal community to be involved in its affairs in accordance with whatever protocols and procedures are determined by the Community*