

# PROJECT AGREEMENT ON IMPROVING EAR HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

Council of  
Australian  
Governments

An agreement between

- n the Commonwealth of Australia and
- n the States and Territories, being:
  - t The State of Victoria;
  - t The State of Queensland;
  - t The State of Western Australia;
  - t The State of South Australia; and
  - t The Northern Territory of Australia.

The output of this project will be the delivery of ear health clinical leadership support to Primary Health Care Services, additional ear health outreach services, and additional ear nose and throat services (including consultations and ear surgery) for Indigenous Australian children.

# Project Agreement on Improving Ear Health Services for Indigenous Australian Children

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL RELATIONS

### PRELIMINARIES

1. This Project Agreement (the Agreement) is created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement and its Schedules, which provide information in relation to performance reporting and payment arrangements under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations.
2. This Agreement will support the delivery of additional surgical services, clinical leadership programs and ear, nose and throat (ENT) services to Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory, as part of the broader measure on Improving Eye and Ear Health Services for Indigenous Australians for Better Education and Employment Outcomes. New South Wales will be offered the Agreement on completion of a state wide review of current ear health services.
3. This Agreement will be implemented consistently with the objectives and outcomes of all National Agreements and National Partnerships agreed by the Parties. In particular, the Parties are committed to addressing the issue of social inclusion, including responding to Indigenous disadvantage (for example, the reform commitments provided in the National Indigenous Reform Agreement) and those commitments are embodied in the objectives and outcomes of this Agreement.
4. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement for this project.

### PART 1 – FORMALITIES

#### Parties to this Agreement

5. This Agreement is between the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) represented by the Minister for Indigenous Health, and the States and Territories (the States) represented by the respective State and Territory Ministers with portfolio responsibility for health.

## Term of the Agreement

6. This Agreement will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and one other Party signs the Agreement and will expire on 30 June 2013, or on completion of the project, including the acceptance of final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.

## Enforceability of the Agreement

7. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Agreement.

## Role of the Commonwealth

8. The Commonwealth will be responsible for:
  - (a) monitoring and assessing achievement against milestones in the delivery of ear health services for Indigenous Australians under this Agreement to ensure that outputs are delivered within the agreed timeframe; and
  - (b) providing a consequent financial contribution to the States to support the implementation of this Agreement.

## Role of the States and Territories

9. The States will be responsible for
  - (a) all aspects of delivering on the project outputs set out in this Agreement; and
  - (b) reporting on the delivery of outputs as set out in Part 4 – Project Milestones, Reporting and Payments.
10. The Parties will meet the requirements of Schedule E, Clause 26 of the **Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations**, by ensuring that prior agreement is reached on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to activities under this Agreement, and that the roles of both Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

## PART 2 – PROJECT OUTPUTS

### Output(s)

11. The outputs of this Agreement will support jurisdictions to better diagnose, treat and manage ear disease in Indigenous children through increasing the numbers of:
  - (a) Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support to enhance ear health management of Indigenous children;
  - (b) Ear health outreach services provided by specialist workers targeting Indigenous children;
  - (c) Coordinated ear surgical procedures for Indigenous children; and
  - (d) Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services (non surgical).

## PART 3 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

12. The Commonwealth will provide a total financial contribution to the States of \$11.474m in respect of this Agreement. All payments are GST exclusive.
13. The Commonwealth's funding contribution will not be reduced where the States secure funding from other activity partners through innovative and collaborative partnerships.
14. The Commonwealth's estimated financial contribution to the operation of this Agreement, including through National Partnership payments to the States paid in accordance with *Schedule D – Payment Arrangements* of the **Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations**, are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated financial contributions\*

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Estimated total budget	\$5,218,445	\$5,675,080	\$580,636	\$11,474,161
VIC	\$286,988	\$295,080	\$30,636	\$612,704
QLD	\$1,100,000	\$1,364,000	\$151,000	\$2,615,000
WA	\$1,520,000	\$1,368,000	\$152,000	\$3,040,000
SA	\$1,041,457	\$769,500	\$85,500	\$1,896,457
NT	\$1,270,000	\$1,878,500	\$161,500	\$3,310,000
Less estimated National Partnership Payments	\$5,218,445	\$5,675,080	\$580,636	\$11,474,161
Balance of non-Commonwealth contributions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

\*Please note this table will be revised once New South Wales enters the agreement.

15. National Partnership payments to the States will be paid in accordance with *Schedule D – Payment Arrangements* of the **Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations**.
16. Having regard to the agreed estimated costs of projects specified in a Project Agreement, a State or Territory will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the States bear all risk should the costs of a project exceed the agreed estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the States to deliver projects cost effectively and efficiently.

## PART 4 – PROJECT MILESTONES, REPORTING AND PAYMENTS

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary at Schedule A summarises the milestones for the project, their relationship to the outputs, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments to be made, once a report certifying that milestones have been met is received and accepted.

### Reporting arrangements

17. The States will provide performance reports in accordance with the above table during the operation of the Agreement. Each performance report is to contain the following information:
  - a) a description of actual performance of the States in the period to date against the project milestones;
  - b) details of any matter(s) that have arisen which could adversely impact on the delivery of the output, and how the States propose to resolve this/these matter(s); and
  - c) promotional activities undertaken in relation to, and media coverage of, the project during the reporting period and any promotional opportunities expected to arise during the next reporting period.
18. The States will also prepare a final Project Report within 90 days of the completion of the project(s) agreed under the Project Agreement. The Project Report will be a stand-alone document that can be used for public information dissemination purposes. The final Project Report will:
  - (a) describe the conduct, benefits and outcomes of the Project(s);
  - (b) evaluate the Project(s) from the responsible Party's perspective, including assessing the extent to which the project milestones have been achieved and why any aspect was not achieved; and
  - (c) include a discussion of any other matters relating to the project, limited to the minimum necessary for the effective assessment of performance, which the Commonwealth notifies the States should be included in the final project report at least 60 days before it is due.
19. If a State does not achieve one or more performance milestone(s) in full due to circumstances beyond its control or circumstances not anticipated at the time of signing the Project Agreement, the Commonwealth may provide a partial payment to the State.
  - a. The Commonwealth will only make a partial payment if the State is able to demonstrate that it implemented adequate and appropriate arrangements that would have achieved the relevant performance milestone but for those circumstances.

## PART 5 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

### Dispute resolution

20. Any Party may give notice to other Parties of a dispute under this Agreement.
21. Officials of relevant Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
22. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers.
23. If a dispute cannot be resolved by the relevant Ministers, it may be referred by a Party to the Prime Minister and other relevant First Ministers for consideration.

### Variation of the Agreement

24. The Agreement may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.
25. A Party to the Agreement may terminate their participation in the Agreement at any time by notifying all the other Parties in writing.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

***Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by***

---

The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP  
Minister for Indigenous Health

Date:

***Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by***

---

The Honourable David Davis, MLC  
Minister for Health

Date:

***Signed for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by***

---

The Honourable John Hill MP  
Minister for Health and Ageing

Date:

***Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by***

---

The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Health

Date:

***Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by***

---

The Honourable Konstantine Vatskalis  
MLA  
Minister for Health

Date:

***Signed for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by***

---

The Honourable Dr Kim Hames MLA  
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health

Date:

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Victoria

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Commencement of Project	Recruitment of staff and establishment of service or initial service provision		To be reflected in initial performance report	\$83,699
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2011	Minimum of 1 in 1 <sup>st</sup> 6 months	31 December 2011	29 February 2012	\$203,289
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2011	1 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2011	2 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2011	24 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2012*	4 health services	30 June 2012	31 August 2012	\$147,540
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2012	6 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2012	12 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2012	122 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous period of the agreement



Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Victoria (continued)

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2012*	6 health services	31 December 2012	28 February 2013	\$147,540
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2012	8 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2012	18 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2012	184 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2013*	6 health services	30 June 2013	30 September 2013	\$30,636
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2013	8 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2013	18 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2013	184 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous periods of the agreement

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Queensland

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Commencement of Project	Recruitment of staff and establishment of service or initial service provision		To be reflected in initial performance report	\$110,000
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2011	5 Primary Health Care Services	31 December 2011	29 February 2012	\$990,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2011	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2011	70 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2011	400 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2012*	10 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2012	31 August 2012	\$682,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2012	7 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2012	70 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2012	400 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous period of the agreement

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Queensland (continued)

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2012*	10 Primary Health Care Services	31 December 2012	28 February 2013	\$682,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2012	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2012	70 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2012	430 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services in January to June 2013*	10 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2013	30 September 2013	\$151,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2013	7 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2013	70 additional surgical services			
Additional numbers of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2013	400 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous periods of the agreement

## SCHEDULE A

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Western Australia

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Commencement of Project	Recruitment of staff and establishment of service or initial service provision		To be reflected in initial performance report	\$152,000
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2011	0	31 December 2011	29 February 2012	\$1,368,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2011	10 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2011	25 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2011	70 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2012*	20 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2012	31 August 2012	\$684,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2012	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2012	45 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2012	70 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous period of the agreement

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Western Australia (continued)

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2012*	20 Primary Health Care Services	31 December 2012	28 February 2013	\$684,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2012	10 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2012	50 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2012	70 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2013*	20 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2013	30 September 2013	\$152,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2013	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2013	45 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2013	70 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous periods of the agreement

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – South Australia

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Commencement of Project	Recruitment of staff and establishment of service or initial service provision		To be reflected in initial performance report	\$104,145
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2011	3 Primary Health Care Services	31 December 2011	29 February 2012	\$937,312
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2011	7 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2011	10 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2011	216 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2012*	6 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2012	31 August 2012	\$384,750
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2012	11 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2012	16 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2012	0 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous period of the agreement

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – South Australia (continued)

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2012*	6 Primary Health Care Services	31 December 2012	28 February 2013	\$384,750
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2012	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2012	13 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2012	108 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2013*	6 Primary Health Care Services	30 June 2013	30 September 2013	\$85,500
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workforce provided in January to June 2013	9 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2013	13 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2013	108 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous periods of the agreement

## SCHEDULE A

Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Northern Territory

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Commencement of Project	Recruitment of staff and establishment of service or initial service provision		To be reflected in initial performance report	\$127,000
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2011	15 Primary Health Care services	31 December 2011	29 February 2012	\$1,143,000
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2011	30 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2011	30 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2011	500 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2012*	20 Primary Health Care services	30 June 2012	31 August 2012	\$939,250
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2012	40 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2012	45 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2012	800 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous period of the agreement



Table 2: Milestones, reporting and payment summary – Northern Territory (continued)

Output	Milestones	Reporting period ends	Relevant Report due	Payment
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in July to December 2012*	25 Primary Health Care services	31 December 2012	28 February 2013	\$939,250
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in July to December 2012	55 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in July to December 2012	65 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in July to December 2012	1200 children			
Primary Health Care Services receiving clinical leadership support services to enhance ear health management in January to June 2013*	20 Primary Health Care services	30 June 2013	30 September 2013	\$161,500
Additional ear health outreach visits by specialist workers provided in January to June 2013	55 additional visits			
Additional ear health surgical services provided to Indigenous children in January to June 2013	60 additional surgical services			
Additional number of Indigenous children receiving ENT specialist services in January to June 2013	1100 children			

\*This milestone can include Primary Health Care Services that were also assisted in the previous periods of the agreement

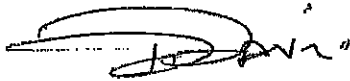
The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP  
Minister for Indigenous Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria  
by*



\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable David Davis, MLC  
Minister for Health

Date: 31/10/2011

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of South Australia by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable John Hill MHA  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Queensland by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Konstantine Vatskalis  
MLA

Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Western Australia by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Honourable Dr Kim Hames MLA  
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health

Date:

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP**  
Minister for Indigenous Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria  
by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of South Australia by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable David Davis, MLC**  
Minister for Health

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable John Hill MHA**  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Queensland by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP**  
Minister for Health

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable Konstantine Vatskalis  
MLA**

Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Western Australia by*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**The Honourable Dr Kim Hames MLA**  
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health

Date: 29-2-12

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*

**The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP**  
Minister for Indigenous Health

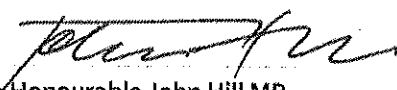
Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria  
by*

**The Honourable David Davis, MLC**  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of South Australia by*

  
**The Honourable John Hill MP**  
Minister for Health and Ageing

Date: 20/11/12

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Queensland by*

**The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP**  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by*

**The Honourable Konstantine Vatskalis  
MLA**  
Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Western Australia by*

**The Honourable Dr Kim Hames MLA**  
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health

Date:

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by*

**The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP**

Minister for Indigenous Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria  
by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of South Australia by*

**The Honourable David Davis, MLC**

Minister for Health

Date:

**The Honourable John Hill MHA**

Minister for Health

Date:

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Queensland by*

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
Northern Territory by*

**The Honourable Geoff Wilson MP**

Minister for Health

Date:

**The Honourable Konstantine Vatskalis  
MLA**

Minister for Health

Date:

2 : DEC 2011

*Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of Western Australia by*

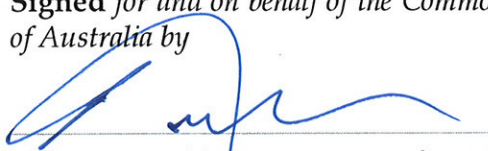
**The Honourable Dr Kim Hames MLA**

Deputy Premier; Minister for Health

Date:

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth  
of Australia by

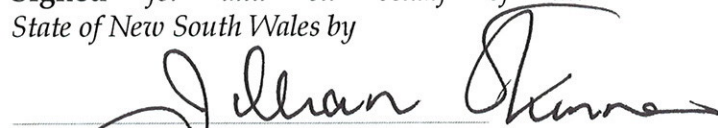


**The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP**

Minister for Indigenous Health

Date: 21/3/2013

Signed for and on behalf of the  
State of New South Wales by



**The Honourable Jillian Skinner MP**

Minister for Health

Date: 30.4.13