

Northern NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement signing

Following an Interim Aboriginal Partnership Agreement in 2013 this year on 10 February 2014 the NNSW LHD Board Chair Brian Pezzutti and Chief Executive Chris Crawford along with Chief Executives and Board Representatives of Bulgarr Ngaru, North Coast Medicare Local (NCML) signed the Northern NSW Aboriginal Partnership Agreement (NNAPA) which will be reviewed in 2015.

This signing occurred at the first 2014 meeting of the NNAPA which was held at Casino Memorial District Hospital.

The Partnership also welcomed members from the Lismore Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) (previously Gurgun), who will attend the Partnership as an Observer until it becomes an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation.

This important Partnership provides a forum of the Board Chairs and Chief Executives of the NNSW LHD, NCML and the community controlled AMS to work together to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people across the NNSW LHD.

The work of the Aboriginal Partnership will include:

- Co-operating in the identification of service gaps and the development of shared solutions.
- Developing agreed positions relating to Aboriginal health policy, strategic planning, equity in service allocation and distribution of resources and enhancements.
- Negotiating agreed positions to undertake joint projects.

The signing of this Partnership Agreement is well-timed with the NNSW LHD Board recently endorsing the development of a Three to Five Year Aboriginal Health Plan and an Aboriginal Workforce Plan 2014, the implementation of the State-wide NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023 occurring and after the release of a NSW Health Declaration on Aboriginal Health signed by the Director General, Dr Mary Foley in 2013, which is available at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal/Documents/declaration.pdf>



Photo shows the Partnership Agreement being signed by Steve Blunden, Chief Executive Officer of Casino AMS and Brian Pezzutti, NNSW LHD Board Chair. Standing (L-R) Greg Telford, Managing Director Rekindling the Spirit; Jeff Richardson, Rekindling the Spirit; Scott Monaghan, CEO Bulgarr Ngaru; Jenny Smith, NNSW LHD Aboriginal Health Manager; Vahid Saberi, CEO, NCML; Chris Crawford, Chief Executive; Nancy Walke, Bullinah AMS Chair; Chris Clarke, General Manager, Northern NSW Region; Mark Moore, CEO Bullinah and Monika Wheeler, Aboriginal Program Manager, NCML. Kneeling is Christine Wilson, Practice Manager, Lismore AMS.