A Better Future for Indigenous Australians – establishing quality health standards

Why is this important?

- Around 200 Indigenous health services currently provide more than 1.6 million episodes of care. It is important that all Australians are confident that these services are of the highest quality.

- Many Commonwealth-funded Indigenous health services provide world-class care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but the majority are not yet fully accredited against Australian health care standards. Some will require assistance to achieve that goal.

- This initiative will ensure Indigenous health services have upgraded buildings and clinics, patient information and management systems, staff training, and management support to enable them to meet Australian health care standards.

Who will benefit?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities will benefit from high quality and better managed Indigenous health services that are accredited against the same standards applicable to mainstream health services.

- All Australians will be confident that Australian health care standards are consistently applied across all parts of the health care system.

What funding is the Government committing to the initiative?

- The Commonwealth Government has committed new funding of $36.9 million over four years.

What have we done in the past?

- In 2006-07, the Commonwealth Government committed $385 million for the delivery of Indigenous primary health services. This initiative will ensure that government funding is used to deliver quality health services.

When will the initiative conclude?

- The initiative will be reviewed in the 2011-12 Budget.