

# Media Statement

10 March 2026

## **KAMS and KRS acknowledge the retirement of Pat Turner AM and welcome new national leadership**

The Boards of Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) and Kimberley Renal Services (KRS) acknowledge the retirement of Pat Turner AM as CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and as Lead Convenor of the Coalition of Peaks.

Pat Turner, an Arrernte and Gurdanji woman, has led NACCHO since 2016 and has played a significant role in strengthening the national standing of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector. Her leadership has reinforced recognition of community-controlled health as a core part of Australia's health system and the principle that Aboriginal people and communities must lead decisions about their own health and wellbeing.

The Boards also welcome the appointment of Dr Dawn Casey PSM FAHA as the new CEO of NACCHO and congratulate Donnella Mills on her appointment as Lead Convenor of the Coalition of Peaks.

KAMS and KRS Chair Raymond Christophers acknowledged Pat Turner's longstanding leadership and her contribution to advancing preventative health and environmental health nationally.

"Pat Turner's leadership has helped highlight the importance of preventative health across the country, including a stronger national focus on environmental health as a key driver of health outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities," Mr Christophers said.

"Her advocacy has consistently highlighted that health does not start in hospitals or clinics, but in the home. Safe housing, water, sanitation, and healthy environments are fundamental to community wellbeing."

Mr Christophers said Pat's voice had helped bring national attention to issues that have long been understood by Aboriginal communities.

"As Pat has said, environmental health is often taken for granted in mainstream Australia. In Aboriginal communities it requires strong partnerships, cultural knowledge, and sustained investment. Her leadership has helped ensure these issues remain firmly on the national agenda."

KAMS and KRS CEO Vicki O'Donnell OAM said Pat Turner's leadership had also been instrumental in advancing national reform through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

“Pat has been a strong national leader for Aboriginal community control, including through her leadership within NACCHO and the Coalition of Peaks in the development and implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap,” Mrs O’Donnell said.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Pat provided strong national leadership for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector. NACCHO worked closely with community-controlled services and governments to ensure Aboriginal communities were protected.

“In Western Australia and the Kimberley we saw the strength of Aboriginal-led responses, with local services working closely with governments to keep communities safe. NACCHO’s national advocacy helped support these approaches and ensured the voices of community-controlled services were heard at the highest levels.”

Mrs O’Donnell said Pat Turner’s leadership had strengthened the national voice of the sector and reinforced the importance of Aboriginal community-controlled leadership.

“The KAMS and KRS Boards thank Pat for her service and leadership over many years and wish her all the very best in retirement. We also look forward to continuing to work with NACCHO and the Coalition of Peaks under the leadership of Dr Dawn Casey and Donnella Mills.”

**-ENDS-**



Pat Turner, Donella Mills and Dawn Casey (Image source: NACCHO)

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## About Us

**Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Ltd (KAMS)** is a member-based, regional Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS). We provide support to and represent the interests of eight independent Aboriginal organisations:

- Beagle Bay Futures Indigenous Corporation
- Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange
- Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service
- Derby Aboriginal Health Service
- Milliya Rumurra Aboriginal Corporation
- Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services
- Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service
- Yura Yungi Medical Service

We are governed by a Board of highly respected and experienced Aboriginal representatives from our Member Services and the communities they serve.

We provide a broad range of services and programs to support our Member Services and improve health and wellbeing outcomes for Kimberley Aboriginal people and communities, in line with the ACCHS Model of Care. These include:

- **Advocacy and Leadership** – relating to Aboriginal health and wellbeing at regional, state and national forums in line with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- **Remote Services** – delivering comprehensive primary health care in the remote Aboriginal communities of Balgo, Beagle Bay, Billiluna and Mulan
- **Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing** – supporting individuals and families through clinical and culturally informed programs, including auspicing headspace Broome
- **Integrated Support Services** – providing disability, allied health and aged care services/programs and delivering population health programs tailored to community needs
- **Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance** – leading and supporting Aboriginal-led health research and evidence translation
- **Workforce and Registered Training Organisation** – building a strong, skilled and culturally safe Aboriginal health and wellbeing workforce through accredited training, mentoring and professional development
- **Corporate and clinical support** – including finance, ICT, communications, human resources, work health and safety, medical services, public health, policy, and sector strengthening

**Kimberley Renal Services Pty Ltd (KRS)** is a subsidiary of KAMS, established to deliver renal health services across the Kimberley. By providing local haemodialysis services, KRS reduces the need for Aboriginal people to relocate off-Country for life-saving treatment.

KRS operates Renal Health Centres in Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Kununurra, with specialist nephrology support provided by Royal Perth Hospital. The model of care integrates primary, secondary and tertiary renal services to ensure patients receive comprehensive treatment while remaining close to home. KRS also operates a Mobile Dialysis Unit, based in Broome, which provides respite haemodialysis in remote Kimberley communities.

To reduce future demand for dialysis, KRS delivers an early detection and management program through KRS Support Services. KRS also coordinates a transplant program as a life-changing treatment option for people with end-stage kidney disease. All new patients commencing dialysis are assessed for their suitability for transplant.

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