Boosting Indigenous health workers across the Territory

6 March 2015

The Northern Territory Government has taken another positive step towards increasing the number of Indigenous Territorians in our health sector.

The Back on Track project has now been extended to not only boost the level of Aboriginal Health Practitioners but also encourage Indigenous Territorians to get involved in our broader health workforce.

Minister for Health John Elferink said Back on Track was established in July last year and focusses on key areas including entry pathways, training, and education to build the capacity of the Aboriginal workforce.

The Northern Territory Government today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) as a show of joining forces to build Indigenous health worker numbers.

“As part of this Government’s commitment to bolster the Indigenous health workforce, we are investing in accredited training to provide practical skills which can be used in local communities,” Mr Elferink said.

“The project is proving popular with 40 people already enrolled to complete a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice for Semester 1 2015.

“Twenty-three students have already graduated with a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice since the project first began.

“The expanded Back on Track project offers students with an opportunity to combine both workshop and workplace-based learning.

“Students will come out of the program with qualifications which can lead to jobs back in their local communities.

“With more local workers trained in the field of health, we can increase the delivery of health services for more Territorians,” Mr Elferink said.
Back on Track also contributes to the Government’s new five year target for Aboriginal employment in the public service.

Chief Minister Adam Giles announced the targets this month with an aim to deliver a more representative public service with a greater proportion of Aboriginal employees to double from eight per cent to 16 per cent by 2020.

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