

## MEDIA RELEASE

21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

# National Close the Gap Day

Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> March marked National *Close the Gap* Day, where the significance of making further improvements on the life expectancy and health of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples is acknowledged.

As part of its *Close the Gap* program, WentWest the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) delivers culturally sensitive, safe and targeted local community initiatives in the region. "*Close the Gap* adopts a holistic approach to patient care, ensuring we assist our patients in navigating through the health system, and other lifestyle factors impacting upon the patient also," explains Jamie Matthews, Aboriginal Health Manager at WentWest.

In the past year, *Close the Gap* worked with over 260 local GPs across western Sydney in accessing the Care Coordination and Supplementary Services program for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander patients. This resulted in delivering a total of 1,740 Care Coordinated services to 461 patients. These figures symbolise momentous inroads in the community and is reflective of *Close the Gap's* dedication, to provide care, education and support to their patients.

WSPHN's *Close the Gap* team will be out in the community promoting the program on Thursday, 28th April from 11am-4pm, at the Koori Health Expo- Reg Byrne Community Centre in Wentworthville. Working in partnership with Parramatta Korri Interagency and Marrin Weejali Aboriginal Corporation, the team will be on hand to coordinate health checks.

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