JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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GPQ and QAIHC sign partnership agreement

General Practice Queensland (GPQ) and Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) have signed a partnership agreement at the recent GPQ Board Meeting.

The Collaborative Agreement was signed by Dr Dilip Dhupelia, Chair (GPQ) and Ms Sheryl Lawton, Chair (QAIHC).

QAIHC Chairperson Ms Sheryl Lawton said the signing of the Agreement indicates a mutual respect which will actually enable practical application and solutions towards improving health outcomes in a collaborative manner.

“IT’s a bringing together of the professional medical skills and the cultural knowledge and expertise of our respective health sectors which will ensure a well coordinated approach to achieving an increase in life expectancy of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland”, Ms Lawton said.

GPQ Board Chair, Dr Dilip Dhupelia, said, both organisations are determined to work together in a systematic and sustained way to overcome the significant logistical, environmental and lifestyle factors that continue to perpetuate the health divide between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons and other Australians.

Ms Lawton said, “This model of care can actually be rolled out right across Australia.”

“The agreement authenticates the links that currently exist at a number of levels across both organisations”, Dr Dhupelia said.

“The agreement is not seen as a paper initiative but one that is the beginning of strengthening the long standing relationship of mutual trust and respect in the achievement of health improvements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland”, he said.

Both organisations are excited about Queensland’s commitment to work with the Improvement Foundation to collect data and benchmark services. Measuring performance has been a long time coming and it is paramount that this data informs Closing the Gap measures and this partnership will ensure its success.

For more information visit QAIHC www.qaihc.com.au or GPQ www.gpqld.com.au
Left to right: Ms Sheryl Lawton, Chair (QAIHC), and Mr Matt Cooke, Vice Chair (QAIHC) and Dr Dilip Dhupelia, Chair (GPQ)

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