

Oral Presentation: Supporting community-controlled responses to FASD in rural and remote areas

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Introduction / Issues OR Introduction and Aims:

NACCHO has partnered with FARE to deliver the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific stream of the National FASD Program, funded by the Department of Health (DoH). Specifically, to raise awareness of the risks and impacts of alcohol use in pregnancy and when breastfeeding among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in rural and remote Australia.

Method / Approach OR Design and Methods:

This will be delivered in genuine partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and clinical FASD experts, enabling delivery of place-based solutions. This approach is aligned with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, specifically, Priority Reform 1: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making; Priority Reform 2: Building the Community Controlled Sector; and Priority Reform 4: Shared Access to Data and Information at a Regional Level.

The process so far has resulted in the development of a whole-of-community, strength-based campaign which will include materials to support culturally appropriate, face-to-face yarning to deliver information. Culturally safe information will be available on FASD and the harms of drinking alcohol while pregnant and breastfeeding, for community, multi-disciplinary ACCHO staff and educators. To support localisation of national messages, NACCHO will deliver a grant round enabling all rural and remote ACCHOs to apply for \$20,000 to design and deliver place-based communications and engagement solutions. Place-based responses are critical to the success of this campaign as they enable communities to respond to the specific cultural and contextual needs and preferences of their communities, and ensure communities have control and ownership over messaging and approaches to FASD.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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