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## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Indigenous emergency needs nurses**

Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) urges the Prime Minister to consult with and enlist the help of nurses in the initiatives he announced yesterday, for combating the Indigenous emergency in the Northern Territory.

Nurses make up over 50 per cent of the health workforce in remote Australia and it is imperative that they are consulted on the initiatives. Their daily practice involves health checks but the extent of their work has been limited by current resources.

“As nurses are on the ground working in Indigenous communities their input needs to be sought regarding the initiatives outlined by the Australian Government, including health examinations of children,” said Rosemary Bryant, Executive Director of RCNA.

Ms Bryant continued, “Nurses are thus well placed to provide expert advice to the Government on the most practical implementation strategies and to deliver the required care.”

The Australian Government should address the unique resource and infrastructure needs in delivering healthcare in remote communities.

“Nurses in remote areas can be isolated and are plagued with many challenges including poor infrastructure and a small economic base. Through further assistance from the Australian Government, nurses can begin to lessen these challenges and continue to provide quality care,” Ms Bryant.

Nurses as the predominant health care providers need to be consulted in regards to this immense undertaking proposed by the Australian Government.

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