



MEDIA RELEASE

Minister for Health and Ageing

Tony Abbott MHR

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Indigenous child health check roadshow in Alice Springs

A new roadshow to promote the Commonwealth Government's Child Health Check to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is being launched in Alice Springs today.

The roadshow is led by the first Aboriginal Olympic gold medallist, Nova Batman (nee Peris), who will be joined by other prominent Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders to visit health service providers, community events and festivals across Australia. They will encourage parents, carers and children to visit their local health service or GP for a comprehensive health check. The roadshow will visit 47 health services this year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies and children have higher rates of illness and death than other Australian children in almost all disease categories.

The Government introduced the Medicare-funded Child Health Check in May last year to encourage doctors and health professionals to regularly check the health of Indigenous children from birth to 14 years of age. In the 10 months to the end of February, a total of 4,171 Child Health Checks have taken place.

A new resource kit for health professionals is also being launched today, covering the three Medicare-funded health checks which are now available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Featuring artwork by Aboriginal artist Jane Doolan, the kit has been developed to inform medical practitioners that health checks are available across the lifespan of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

For more information call Mr Abbott's office on ph 02 6277 7220.