THE NOONGAR BOODJA STATEMENT ON CLOSING THE GAP ON STIs, & BBVs AMONG INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF AUSTRALASIA

The signatories to this statement gather for the Australasian HIV & AIDS and Sexual Health Conferences 2019 in Perth - traditional lands of the Noongar Whadjuk peoples, and the 41st New Zealand Sexual Health Conference 2019 in Wellington - traditional lands of the peoples of Ngāti Toa and Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui.

Australasian signatories – peoples of Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, the South Pacific, and Oceania including Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia - come together to share, collaborate and discuss the successes and challenges that lay ahead for the Australasian region in addressing STIs, viral hepatitis and HIV. A strong theme of these conferences are the persistent inequities in sexual health outcomes for the Indigenous Peoples of the Australasian nations.

Despite many efforts and repeated calls, we have seen no sustained change: disparities in STIs and BBVs continue to grow. This is unacceptable. We confirm that these inequities are in contravention of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which all Australasian countries have endorsed.

Specifically, we commit to and call upon national and jurisdictional governments and to work with Indigenous communities, their community-based organisations and leaders to:
- Action the right of Indigenous peoples to co-design and fund culturally responsive policies and strategies that match their sexual health priorities, knowledges and practices;
- Support Indigenous communities to provide health promotion and harm reduction services, particularly to young Indigenous peoples
- Provide high quality testing and care, in primary health care programs for Indigenous peoples;
- Sustain a culturally responsive and expert STI, HIV and blood-borne virus (BBV) health workforce in Indigenous communities;
- Leverage data and research to advance sexual health and monitor the reduction of inequities