

MACH Board endorses *marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri*

On 31/10/23, at its first meeting following the recent launch of the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord, MACH Board enthusiastically *endorsed marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri*.

Prof Jane Gunn AO, Chair of MACH Board said:-

“The Woi-wurrung phrase, *marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri*, which translates to “Community knowledge, Community health” is an inspired choice for the title of the Accord. MACH Board strongly endorses the Accord’s vision that self-determination in research and traditional ways of knowing, being and doing are prerequisites for creating positive health outcomes from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. MACH has contributed to the development of the Accord by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), for example funding important research on culturally adaptive governance. Going forward MACH will facilitate the full participation of our member organisations in this vital initiative as they work with VACCHO to implement the Accord.”

Uncle Graham Atkinson, Indigenous Elder Representative on MACH Board, Co-Chair of MACH Board’s Aboriginal Leadership Group and a member of VACCHO’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led Accord Governance Group said:-

“The recent successful launch of the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord *marra ngarrgoo, marra goori* (Accord) on 11th October at the Tree Tops room in the Museum was an important event and the first of its kind for Victoria, if not Australia. A large crowd attended this historic occasion to hear Minister Mary-Anne Thomas and Deputy Premier, Ben Carroll provide their support for the Accord across the field of Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research sector. The Accord represents an innovative shift from doing research *for* First Nations Peoples but *with* Victoria’s First Peoples as equal partners and guided by ethical principles. It is also inspiring to see the MACH Board’s endorsement of the Accord.”

The Accord can be viewed [HERE](#).