

Media Release

1 July 2011

Health jobs for Indigenous Australians

St John of God Health Care has committed to creating more jobs for Indigenous Australians as part of the 50,000 Sustainable Indigenous Jobs campaign spearheaded by the Australian Employment Covenant.

The forward-looking program brings Australian employers, the Australian Government and Indigenous people together in order to create real jobs, with Indigenous employees supported by pre-employment training, job placement and on-the-job mentoring.

As the only national health care provider among over 250 participating organisations, St John of God Health Care will offer job opportunities to Indigenous Australians in areas including nursing, allied health and hospitality across its facilities in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

St John of God Health Care's Group Chief Executive Officer, Dr Michael Stanford, said that by signing the covenant, the not for profit organisation was pledging to deliver Indigenous jobs in mainstream health care, a sector where Indigenous Australians are significantly underrepresented.

Dr Stanford said: "The Australian Employment Covenant provides St John of God Health Care with access to expertise and assistance that will help us to design and implement training and employment initiatives. We plan initially to offer development pathways and employment to Indigenous people in areas such as enrolled nursing and patient care."

As its workforce needs continue to grow, the organisation sees great potential to extend the number of opportunities for Indigenous Australians across a range of clinical and non-clinical roles.

"Through the covenant we are contributing not only to the strength of our own workforce, but the future national health workforce, and most importantly doing our part to create a new generation of highly employable Indigenous Australians," he said.

Signed the Covenant strengthens St John of God Health Care's existing commitment to working with Indigenous Australians; mostly through initiatives delivered by its Social Outreach and Advocacy services, which reach out to people experiencing disadvantage.

These include a laptop giving program for first year Indigenous medical students at the University of Western Australia, and Indigenous health services including mental health programs at Warrnambool and Murdoch, a diabetes clinic at Bendigo, a drug and alcohol service at Bunbury, and the Strong Family, Strong Culture service in northern Western Australia, which works with Aboriginal families with children in the 0-5 age group.

St John of God Health Care's long standing commitment to the health and welfare of the community, in particular the Indigenous community, began in 1895 when its founders, the Sisters of St John of God arrived in Australia. They subsequently worked in remote communities, first in the Western Australian Goldfields and later in the Kimberley where the organisation still runs services.

As a major health care employer with 9,300 employees, St John of God Health Care is committed to developing its workforce, as part of its focus on excellence and delivering the highest quality of health care to the community.

ENDS

Media contact: Fiona Clark | 0423 843 229 | (08) 9213 3662 | fiona.clark@sjog.org.au
www.sjog.org.au | www.twitter.com/sjog_healthcare

Photo: St John of God Health Care signing the AEC

Caption: (L to R) Andrew Forrest, Founder and Chairman of the Australian Employment Covenant, and Dr Michael Stanford, Group Chief Executive Officer of St John of God Health Care

Hospitality Compassion Respect Justice Excellence

NOTES

St John of God Health Care is a leading provider of private hospitals, pathology, home nursing and Social Outreach and Advocacy services throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region.

Employing 9,300 staff we are Australia's:

- largest Catholic not-for profit private health care group
- third largest private hospital operator
- fourth largest pathology operator

As a Catholic, not-for-profit group, we return all revenue to the communities we serve by:

- Updating and expanding technology and facilities
- Expanding existing services and acquiring new services
- Providing Social Outreach and Advocacy services to people experiencing disadvantage