

Media Release

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VICHEALTH HONOURED BY FELLOWSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

VicHealth has been honoured by the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership for its ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.

Peter Maher from the [Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership](#) Advisory Committee presented VicHealth Board Member Simon Ruth and CEO Jerril Rechter with an award in appreciation of the organisation's many years of support at the Fellowship's annual awards night yesterday.

The award recognised VicHealth's commitment to promoting Indigenous leadership and its longstanding support of the Fellowship. The Fellowship also presented Kathryn Coff, Peter Aldenhoven and Catherine Coysh with the Emerging Leader Award, and Elders Kevin Coombs OAM, Pam Pedersen, Joy Wandin Murphy AO, Diane Kerr and Carolyn Briggs were acknowledged on the night.

The Fellowship was established in 2003 to create positive change in Victoria's Indigenous community. Since then it has supported countless Indigenous Victorians to pursue areas such as school retention, improving community health and wellbeing, raising awareness of mental health and disabilities, and retaining and promoting culture through art, dance and music.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said it was an honour to be recognised by the Fellowship and praised it for its vital work.

"We are proud to be supporters of the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership for almost 15 years now – close to half the time that VicHealth has been in existence," Ms Rechter said.

"We know how important recognition and development of Indigenous leadership is to communities across Victoria.

"The Fellowship has made a significant impact right across Victoria over many years through its support and encouragement of recognised and emerging Indigenous leaders.

"I would like to recognise the tireless work of the Fellowship in supporting Indigenous Victorians to develop the skills and capacity to be exceptional leaders in their communities.

"VicHealth gains so much from our involvement in this fantastic program and I thank the Fellowship for allowing us to be part of this critical work."

VicHealth has supported the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership since its inception in 2003. This support builds on VicHealth's long-term efforts to improve Aboriginal health by funding organisations from the health, community, sport, arts and research sectors.

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