

Onemda Yarning

The Future is Community-Controlled: Navigating the next chapter for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Victoria

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Melbourne
School of
Population &
Global Health



Wednesday 6 August 2025
1-2PM

Room 515, 207 Bouverie Street,
Carlton, 3053

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Over the past 50 years, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) have collectively become the largest providers of health and social services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria. Rooted in Aboriginal self-determination and community leadership, ACCOs have evolved to operate differently from the mainstream. This session explores the features of Victoria's ACCO model, tracing its evolution and examining the current challenges, priorities, and opportunities for the future.



Abe Ropitini is an Indigenous man of Ngati Kahungunu and Ngati Maniapoto iwi (Aotearoa) and Trawlwoolway descent. Raised in Aotearoa, his adult life has been in Australia working across health and social services. He is the Executive Director of Population Health at the VACCHO, the peak body for Aboriginal health and wellbeing in Victoria. Abe is an experienced project manager who has led research and implementation projects across health, aged care, disability, and Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing. He is an academic course coordinator on the MPH program at the University of Melbourne and a current PhD scholar in medical anthropology at La Trobe University.

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