



Mayor's Message

*Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council's Mayor
Cr Jason Woibo's monthly message*

This past month has again been busy with your Councillors attending local and regional meetings to advocate on behalf of our Community. Particularly, I was able to attend the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Council (FNQROC) meeting and Cr Keithan represented Council at a Health Forum facilitated by the Torres Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (TCICA).

TCICA hosted its inaugural TCICA Health Forum on Wednesday 14 April 2021, in Cairns, bringing together community leaders from across the Torres Strait, Cape York and Gulf region, along with regional health partners and key stakeholders to discuss the future direction for health service delivery.

Nearly 60 delegates participated in facilitated discussions to share views on issues and areas of concern and the vision for whole-of-life health system improvements to drive equitable health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the region. With limited access to specialist health services and home-based care, it is no secret that life expectancy for First Nations residents is amongst the lowest in Queensland.

Delegate Councils called for an evidence-based, innovative and person-centric system which is outcomes driven and accountable to the communities it services. First and foremost is the need to better coordinate services and ensure that all health providers are working together and sharing responsibility for a patient's health care journey. The lack of coordination and sharing of services or services operating in isolation, leaves gaps in care leading to people falling through the cracks.

Your Council will follow up this forum by meeting with the TCHHS Board in Hope Vale in the coming week.

What your Council is looking forward too is the official opening of "Pioneer Hall". An opening which has been delayed in 2020 because of COVID and is well and truly overdue. I am pleased to announce the Hall will be opened on Monday 17 May, 2021 and everyone is welcome to attend this event. The opening coincides with the annual acknowledgement and celebration of the 'return from Woorabinda' on 17 May 2021. More information will be distributed next week.

Mayor Cr Jason Woibo