



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHILD HEALTH CHECKS SUCCESSFUL IN SUNRISE COMMUNITIES

Sunrise Health Service has successfully completed Phase 1 of the Child Health Checks in communities east of Katherine as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Intervention.

Of 1200 child health checks that needed to be performed across the region, Sunrise Health Service successfully completed 95 per cent of checks.

The checks were undertaken by teams of Sunrise Health Service staff including doctors, nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers who worked intensively in communities to undertake the checks along with administrative staff.

Irene Fisher, Chief Executive Officer at Sunrise Health Service said that the success of Phase 1 was testament to Sunrise's determination to complete the checks "in-house".

"Sunrise recognised the importance of ensuring the child health checks were completed by our own staff when the Emergency Intervention was announced.

"The success of the project is a result of our hard-working staff ensuring that community people felt comfortable bringing their children to their local clinics and having the checks undertaken by health workers familiar to them," Ms Fisher said.

Sunrise Health Service has been committed to providing child health checks since the Medicare item's introduction in mid-2006, but recognises that the social determinants of health also need to be addressed for real improvements in health to be seen.

"Sunrise, along with groups such as AMSANT and NACCHO have been arguing for many years about the shortfall in resources and poor environmental factors which impact on health to address these needs.

"This part of the intervention is viewed most favourably," Ms Fisher said.

"Sunrise is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of children in communities to ensure that optimal opportunities for improvement in adult health outcomes are achieved."

Sunrise will now embark on Phase 2 of the child health checks, which involves the delivery of primary health care follow-up care resulting from the child health checks.

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