

Gary Foley
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13/1/95

The Editor
"The Australian"
Kippax St, Sydney 2000
Dear Sir,

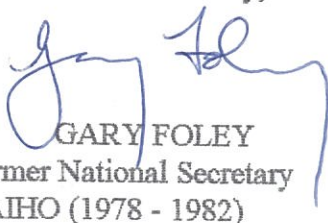
The report (Aust 13/1/95) saying that a university study had found that "the appalling state of Aboriginal Health may largely be blamed on a labyrinth of federal and state government funding arrangements", will come as no surprise to Aboriginal health workers.

From 1974 till 1984 virtually every edition of the quarterly "Aboriginal Medical Service Newsletter" contained numerous calls for an overhaul of the archaic Federal/State funding arrangements which were identified as being the "biggest obstacle in the path of improving Koori health". Furthermore, over the same decade the National Aboriginal & Islander Health Organisation (NAIHO) lobbied Canberra constantly for changes in the system. Needless to say, history shows that successive Federal governments (including the present) completely ignored the advice being offered by those best placed in the field to advise them.

Now that a "university study" (conducted by non-Aboriginal people) has confirmed what Aboriginal people have been saying for 20 years, perhaps (and its a big perhaps) the present Federal government might end the buck-passing and vacillation and change the system.

As we have said for two decades, until the system is changed Aboriginal people will continue to die at the present rates for the simple reason most of the vast monies spent on the problem do not reach those in most need.

Yours Sincerely,


GARY FOLEY
Former National Secretary
NAIHO (1978 - 1982)