

Close the Gap and Closing the Gap

What's the difference?

In 2005, the Social Justice Report set out a human rights-based approach to health and called for improvements to the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality.

Since then, the Close the Gap Campaign and Closing the Gap Strategy have been established.

So what are these two similarly named programs, what are they trying to achieve and how are they different?

Who is it?

Council of Australian Governments (COAG), Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments.

The aim?

A national strategy made up of a series of policies and programs, and seven national targets across the key areas of health, education and employment.

What makes it different?

A government-driven strategy recognised through the national targets and the Prime Minister's annual reports to Parliament. Represents bipartisan support for one of the most important issues facing Australia today, and at all levels of government.

Closing the Gap highlights

- Commitment from all governments to specific targets to close gaps in key outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people.
- Established the National Indigenous Reform Agreement.
- Prime Minister's annual report and address to Parliament since 2009.
- In the health arena, Closing the Gap is responsible for initiatives like the Practice Incentives Program, the Closing the Gap Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Co-payment Measure to make prescriptions affordable, and measures to promote access to specialist and multidisciplinary medical care.



CLOSE THE GAP

Who is it?

A coalition of more than 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peak health bodies, health professional bodies and human rights organisations who have worked together to promote and build support and set out how to achieve equity.

The aim?

A human rights-focused public awareness campaign that aims to achieve health equality by 2030.

What makes it different?

Established in 2008, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations drive the campaign to influence government decision making and mobilise action.

The campaign models the ways of working in partnership for which it advocates – supporting the campaign is support for self-determination. It is able to represent what communities around Australia need to improve their health.

Close the Gap has galvanised an unprecedented coalition of support across many organisations and individuals. You can get involved too.

Close the Gap highlights

- The Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition signed the Close the Gap Statement of Intent in March 2008.
- An annual report that details government progress against the two Closing the Gap health targets, including the impact of social and cultural determinants on these health outcomes.
- Established the annual National Close the Gap Day from 2007.
- Mobilised support from over 200,000 Australians through the Close the Gap pledge.

So now you know the difference!
Want to help Close the Gap?

Find out more on the Oxfam website