



The ACEM Indigenous Health Subcommittee (IHSC) would like to acknowledge national **Close the Gap day on 17 March 2016**. All emergency departments are encouraged to continuously promote, advance and improve Indigenous health across their organisation. Last year, more than **150,000** people took part in National Close the Gap Day events ranging from workplace morning teas, public events in hospitals and offices to local community events.

What is Close the Gap?

As a whole, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience disproportionate levels of disadvantage and poorer health compared to other Australians. The Close the Gap program is an Indigenous health priority for the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).

Indigenous people have significantly higher rates of illness and disease across the health spectrum eg.:

- 10 year gap in life expectancy
- 1.5 x rate of cancer
- 3 x rate of diabetes
- 3 x rate of chronic lung disease
- 6 x rate of kidney disease
- 2 x rate of infant mortality

The Close The Gap program aims to halve or close the gap on:

- Life expectancy
- Reading writing and numeracy
- Childhood mortality (< 5 years age)
- Attainment of Year 12 completion
- Early childhood education
- Employment outcomes.



What role is ACEM providing?

ACEM proudly supports Indigenous health through the work of the ACEM Foundation and the ACEM Indigenous Health Subcommittee (IHSC).

Some of these activities to date include:

- embedding Indigenous Health and Cultural Competency (IHCC) in the new Curriculum Framework for ACEM training,
- provision and promotion of the IHCC eLearning resources,
- running the Promoting Cultural Safety Program,
- accreditation of Special Skills posts for Rural Health,
- resources for Indigenous careers in Emergency Medicine,
- Indigenous scholarships,
- ACEM trainee Mentorship programs, and
- associations with the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA).

What can you do?

DEMTs and DEMs are encouraged to support Indigenous health through:

- provision of education on Indigenous health,
- promotion of culturally competent and safe practices,
- health advocacy for Indigenous patients, and
- identification and utilisation of organisational and community resource links to Indigenous health services.

Resources:

- ACEM website
- Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA)
- Healthinfo
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG)
- Closing the Gap—Prime Minister’s Report 2016
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- Oxfam



[Click here to organise the 30 for 2030 Challenge in your ED.](#)