



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 across Australia in 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, for example:

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

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

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

## 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.

ACEM works to Close the Gap through the work of its Indigenous Health Subcommittee and the ACEM Foundation, including:

- embedding Indigenous Health and Cultural Competency in College training programs
- provision and promotion of cultural training and 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 through its associations with the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, The LIME Network, and The Lowitja Institute.

## Resources

[acem.org.au](http://acem.org.au)

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

[aida.org.au](http://aida.org.au)

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

[healthinphonet.ecu.edu.au](http://healthinphonet.ecu.edu.au)

Helping to close the gap by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

[naccho.org.au](http://naccho.org.au)

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

[cultureislife.org](http://cultureislife.org)

Aboriginal-led solutions that deepen connection and belonging to culture and country