

MEDIA RELEASE



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Government must build on the Close the Gap platform

ANTaR has today welcomed the delivery of closing the gap report by the Prime Minister and called for strong action to build on a nationally coordinated effort to Close the Gap.

ANTaR National President Dr Peter Lewis, said that “Close the Gap is a generational challenge that requires concerted, long term action that builds on the gains that are starting to emerge.”

“We are beginning to see improvements in child mortality, lower rates of smoking, and a small improvement in life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We must grab these with both hands and build on them.” Dr Lewis said.

ANTaR joins with our Close the Gap Campaign partners to call on the government to renew the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes and the development of a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health plan

“The renewal of this Agreement as the fuel that drives the Health Plan is critical to building on the gains made to date,” Dr Lewis said.

Closing the more than a decade life expectancy gap is a generational commitment and continued effort in these areas is needed if we are to see health equality by 2030,” said.

The Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee released its ‘Progress and Priorities’ report today. It sets out a full range of actions government needs to take to prioritise and drive action to Close the Gap.

ANTaR stands with our campaign partners in supporting these calls, including joining with them to call for a new target to address high incarceration rates.

“There are Aboriginal children alive today who would not be alive without Close the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women making healthy lifestyle choices, like giving up smoking that will extend their life expectancy. We must build on the platform in place to ensure further progress.”

“This is the time to strengthen the effort to Close the Gap.”

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