



Australian Health Care Reform Alliance

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Closing the Gap

AHCRA believes that Indigenous health is the number one health issue facing Australia.

It is unacceptable that in Australia today [Indigenous people have significantly poorer health and](#) a much lower life expectancy than the non-Indigenous population.

AHCRA supports a comprehensive population-wide approach to Closing the Gap that incorporates the social determinants of health and empowers people to take control of their own lives and improve their health through culturally appropriate mechanisms.

At the centre of efforts to close the health and life expectancy gap are community- controlled health services which provide person-centred and to culturally relevant care, including both a biomedical and preventative health focus. These services and their representative body NACCHO, require more consistent and assured long-term funding to enable effective planning and capacity development that will deliver the best possible outcomes.

AHCRA supports the full implementation of the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan](#) and allocating additional funding, including resources currently going into the PHI rebate to achieve the following:

- Allocate secure long-term funding to progress the strategies and actions identified in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan Implementation Plan.
- Provide secure, long-term funding for the [Rural Health Outreach Fund and Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program](#).
- Allocate sufficient and secure long-term funding to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector to support the sector's continued provision of Indigenous-led, culturally sensitive healthcare.
- Build and support the capacity of Indigenous health leaders by committing secure long-term funding to the Indigenous National Health Leadership Forum.
- Reinstate funding for a clearinghouse modelled on the previous Closing the Gap clearinghouse, as recommended in the latest draft of the [Fifth National Mental Health Plan](#).



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