

CLOSING THE GAP

REFRESH



17 November 2017
RSAS Conference, Alice Springs

Closing the Gap Refresh



- In 2018, it will be ten years since the Council of Australian Governments first committed to Closing the Gap
- Four of the current Closing the Gap targets are due to expire in 2018
- COAG has agreed to refresh the Closing the Gap agenda, working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Engaging Indigenous peoples



Community members

Lived experience with what works and what doesn't; community values, priorities and aspirations



Influential leaders

Strategic priorities; guidance on process; ensuring governments take Indigenous voices into account



Subject experts

Data; program, service design and implementation experience; theory of change and targets/indicators

The past 10 years

Closing the Gap has helped **focus attention** on health, employment and education

Progress has been made in areas such as Year 12 attainment, child and maternal health and access to early childhood services

But only **one of the seven targets** is currently on track

Target	Progress	Status
Close the gap in life expectancy by 2031	Between 2005-07 and 2010-12, there was a small reduction in the gap in life expectancy at birth of 0.8 years for males and 0.1 years for females. Mortality decreased by 15 per cent from 1998 to 2015, but no significant change since the 2006 target baseline	Not on track
Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018	Child mortality decreased by 33 per cent from 1998 to 2015, but no significant change since the 2008 target baseline	Not on track
95 per cent of all Indigenous four year-olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025	Early childhood education – 87 per cent enrolment in 2015	Revised target
Close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous school attendance by 2018	School attendance has not improved from Semester 1 2014 to 2016	Not on track
Halve the gap for Indigenous children in reading, writing and numeracy by 2018	NAPLAN – Improvements in reading and numeracy from 2008 to 2016	Not on track
Halve the gap for Indigenous Australians aged 20-24 in Year 12 or equivalent attainment by 2020	Year 12 or equivalent attainment up from 45.4 per cent to 61.5 per cent from 2008 to 2014-15	On track
Halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2018	Employment has not improved from 2008 to 2014-15	Not on track

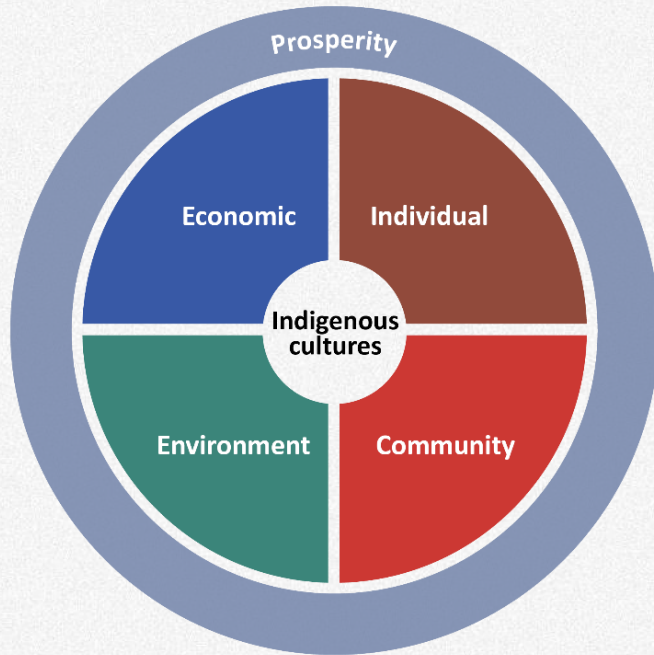
What we've learned so far



- We need to move away from only talking about problems and **focus on strength**
- Health and education are important, but we need to **broaden our focus**
- Government working in **silos does not work**
- Closing the Gap will not succeed if it ignores the **central role of culture**

Where to next?

Proposed prosperity framework



Economic

- Skills, work and business
- Roads and infrastructure
- Housing and home ownership



Individual

- Early childhood and education
- Improved health and access to services
- Overcoming trauma



Community

- Strong families
- Thriving traditions and cultures
- Personal and community safety
- Good governance



Environment

- Natural assets
- Clean water and recreation areas
- Connection to country, land and sea

What we've learned about implementation



- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples need to be **involved in making decisions** about solutions that affect them
- **Each community is different** so different ways of doing business are needed
- Services are being funded but **communities don't know about them**

Working together

Past 10 years



Commonwealth Government



States and Territories



Indigenous communities



Next 10 years

Indigenous communities



States and Territories



Commonwealth Government

The way forward: implementation principles



- Funding **prioritised** to meet targets
- **Evidence-based** programs and policies
- Genuine **collaboration** between governments and communities
- Programs and services **tailored** for communities
- **Shared** decision-making
- Clear **roles**, responsibilities and accountability

Where to next?

The agenda

Agenda

Evaluation

Accountability for outcomes: all levels of government, service providers, communities, families, individuals

Data

Evidence-based, place-based solutions

Outcomes

Individual, family and community prosperity

Closing the Gap Targets

SMART (specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, time-bound) targets

Actions plans

Commonwealth & state/territory

Implementation

Investment decisions about development agendas, programs and services



Where to next?

Implementation

Agenda: prosperity framework, culture, implementation principles



Let's continue
this conversation



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