



# AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

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### Ten years on from the commencement of the Closing the Gap Strategy

It has been an important seven days for all Australians, with the Close the Gap (CTG) annual breakfast hosted at Parliament House on Thursday, 8 February, followed by the Closing the Gap Prime Minister's 2018 report delivered to parliament on Monday, 12 February.

During Thursday's breakfast, the CTG Campaign released a [ten-year review](#) of the 2008 Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) *Closing the Gap Strategy*. The review looked at the Strategy's targets to achieve life expectancy and health equality within a generation, and critically reviewed why Australian governments are not on track to succeed in closing the health gap by 2030. Through the CTG Campaign's findings, seven recommendations have been made to reset the strategy and get it back on track to achieving its vital targets.

On Monday, in parliament, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull delivered the [tenth annual Closing the Gap Report](#). The report stated that while the *Closing the Gap Strategy* is not on track to be met by 2030, there has been an encouraging improvement since the delivery of the 2017 report. The development refers to three of the seven targets being on track to be met – child mortality, early childhood education and year 12 attainment. This is a welcomed change to 2017, when early childhood education was the only target that was on track.

While any improvement is welcomed, it is still frustrating that the pace at which our nation is tracking to close the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and non-Indigenous Australians, remains slow and inconsistent.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) forms part of the CTG Steering Committee and has contributed to the ten-year review, including recommendations to maintain the current health targets. We know that by implementing these recommendations, improvements in the pace at which we travel toward the Closing the Gap targets will increase.

AIDA looks forward to continuing to be a part of the reset and we remain optimistic that Australian governments can work together to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 2030.

### END MESSAGE

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