



[Release of Transforming Power: Voices for Generational Change Close The Gap Campaign Report 2022](#)




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Abstract:

The [Australian Human Rights Commission](#)  (AHRC), in association with the Close the Gap Steering Committee and the Lowitja Institute, have released the 2022 Close the Gap Report, this year titled [Release of Transforming Power: Voices for Generational Change](#) , which shares stories of the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led initiatives, and calls for a variety of changes to First Nation health and wellbeing services, policies and programs. This year's report particularly focuses on the themes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led transformation, gender justice: equality and equity, and allyship.

The Report catalogues a series of positive and inspiring indigenous- led health initiatives, through the voices of First Nations participants. A small selection of these initiatives include:

- **The Lived Experience Centre**, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy in association with the Black Dog Institute, which brings together a national network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience to design and deliver culturally safe and trauma-informed mental health and suicide prevention initiatives. Details of the Lived Experience Centre can be found [here](#) .
- **The National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition**, which engages young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through strengths-based, action-orientated workshops and online discussions to re-imagine education systems from a position of self- determination. Details of the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition can be found [here](#) .
- **Institute for Urban Indigenous Health: Birthing in Our Community Program**, a program which provides indigenous women with a dedicated midwife, as well as access to a social worker, psychologist, transport support, early learning programs, a child health nurse and allied health exercise groups. Details of this initiative can be found [here](#) .
- **The Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group**, which works towards achieving systemic solutions to the issues behind family and domestic violence, through:
 - training Women in family and domestic violence safety;
 - supporting Aboriginal Women's voices and views on the issues of F&DV through advocacy, activism, publicity, promotion and networking; and
 - resource development with the focus on early intervention and primary prevention messages of non-violence.





More details about this initiative can be found [here](#) .

- **Koorie Youth Council Marram Nganyin Program**, a youth mentoring program for Aboriginal young people aged 12-25 years old, the details of which can be found [here](#) .
- **Yarning Online OnCountry**, a creative project providing a culturally safe place for sharing knowledge, stories and skills, and improving Elders' health and wellbeing by minimizing the impacts of social isolation. The details of the Yarning Online OnCountry can be found [here](#) .

Details of other programs and initiatives can be found in the Close the Gap Report.


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The Report also contains a number of recommendations and calls on all levels of government to make large-scale systemic reforms to truly empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Recommendations include:

- the full implementation of the [Uluru Statement from the Heart](#) 
- the full implementation of the [2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap](#) , the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2021–2031](#)  and other supporting plans;
- investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led data development at the local level;
- the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research agenda for health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on the impacts of systemic racism in health systems;
- the establishment of empowerment and leadership forums for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples at national, state and territory and local levels;
- the investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce development to support the growth of the community controlled sector and community led, holistic approaches to health and wellbeing policies, programs and service;
- the development of a comprehensive National Action Plan which outlines the full implementation of recommendations from the [Wiyi Yani U Thangani \(Women's Voices\): Securing Our Rights, Securing Our Future](#)  report;
- in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of policy and programs for the prevention of violence against women, including the development of a new National Plan to Reduce Violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women;
- supporting strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in the development and implementation of community-designed primary prevention strategies addressing violence against women and their children;
- the development of a whole-of-government national housing strategy or framework that delivers appropriate housing and strategies to reduce overcrowding, poor housing conditions and severe housing shortages in remote communities;
- investment in IT infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure equal access to the internet, regardless of location for an individual or community; and
- true energy and climate justice through effective responses to the climate emergency and the extreme heat and other weather events resulting from climate change in remote communities.

The 2022 report is the 13th Close the Gap report and asks that people:

engage with the stories, hear our voices, to see the work carried out by our communities and in our communities, to witness the strength of our determination to see a better future for ourselves and our children.

Previous Close the gap reports can be found [here](#) .

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