



Closing the Gap in Indigenous health

\$47.39 million will be invested over the four years to fund the largest and most significant package of health reforms to overcome Indigenous health disadvantage in Victoria's history.

In August 2008 the Premier signed the 'Statement of Intent' to reduce the 17 year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non- Indigenous Australians by 2030. The Victorian Government has taken action to support this commitment with funding for reforms to build sustainable social change, embed system reform and position Victoria to meet its commitments to Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health outcomes in partnership with the Commonwealth.

This package represents the most significant investment in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders by a Victorian Government. The program will feature a strong focus on improving health outcomes for Indigenous Victorians through targeted initiatives in areas known to have a detrimental impact on quality and length of life. This initiative will tackle smoking, obesity and lack of exercise, which are key contributors to poor health and reduced life expectancy, and provide better management of chronic disease in both hospital and primary health care settings.

Achievements in Closing the Gap in Indigenous health will be made by:

- effective health promotion focusing on young people, adults and elders through outreach and activity based physical fitness and lifestyle mentoring with a focus on reducing the burden of disease from smoking, obesity and lack of exercise
- building resilience, and strengthening community supports and activities for young people to improve their health and wellbeing, and make a healthy transition to adulthood
- better and more effective management of chronic disease through Aboriginal controlled health care settings and mainstream services through the expansion of the Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care (AHPACC) partnerships, as well as the expansion of Improved Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients Program (ICAP)
- better utilisation of existing primary care and hospital services through the introduction of cultural competency frameworks, and more rigorous performance monitoring and outcome accountability
- a stronger and better trained workforce in Aboriginal community controlled organisations and community health services.