



# CLOSE THE GAP

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2022 – ISSUE 1

## Take Heart Deadly Heart

Thank you to everyone who attended the virtual screening of the Take Heart: Deadly Heart film.

Thank you to Moonshine Events, Vicki Wade and NAATSIHWP for helping to bring the first of the Close the Gap webinar series to light.



## 2022 National Close the Gap Day

NCTGD was an overwhelming success. *Transforming Power: Voices for Generational Change*, is an outstanding strengths-based report that demonstrates the potential for structural reform; the importance of centring culture and language in health services; and the need for self-determination policies to positively address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity and equality.

Our guest speakers and panel members provided incredible insight to the work they do and discussed the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and voices in all spaces where decisions are made regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. To re-watch or share the official launch video please go to National Close the Gap Day



GET UP!  
STAND UP!  
SHOW UP!

3-10 JULY 2022

**Happy NAIDOC Week**

As celebrations kick off across the country, we hope you can get out and celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

To those who were nominated and to those who won this year's awards, congratulations!

### **Our website has launched!**

The new Close the Gap website is up and our ability to communicate with members and the public has never been easier.

Thank you to Claystone Marketing for making the transition to our new site as seamless as possible.

To hear from our Co-Chairs and keep up to date with all relevant news check out our media page Media Releases – CLOSE THE GAP



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## **Moving Forward Looking Forward Project**

### Allawah! Burdiyas! A Call to Action Community Conference



On the 30th & 31st May the Close the Gap Campaign Executive Officer, Zara Pitt, attended the Allawah! Burdiyas! A Call to Action Community Conference.

The two-day conference was a Call to Action, from local Nyoongar elders, to outline the priorities that mainstream services and government must address so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel

respected and culturally safe when attending services to aid in their recovery.

The conference is culmination of five years of academic research and practical field work aptly titled the Looking Forward Moving Forward Project. Led by an Aboriginal research team, the project specialises in Participatory Action Research, codesigning mainstream mental health and AOD services with local Nyoongar Elders and, more recently, young people.

The project partnered with mainstream mental health and drug and alcohol support organisations and Aboriginal Elders living in the Perth suburbs to co-design a service evaluation that captures organisational change. These changes are based on learning about the role Aboriginal culture plays in a person's journey to wellness and good mental health. This project's work around systems change is so key to ensuring that mainstream services are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and it genuinely works towards the broader priority reform areas of the new National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap.

To learn more about this project and the systems change work they are doing visit Home - Looking Forward ([debakarn.com](http://debakarn.com)) or contact Associate Professor Michael Wright at [M.Wright@curtin.edu.au](mailto:M.Wright@curtin.edu.au)





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## **POLICY WORK - UNDRIP Submission**

The Close the Gap Campaign lodged a submission into the Inquiry of the Application of the UNDRIP in Australia. Thank you to everyone who reviewed the document, provided feedback, and helped us build a great submission.

A special acknowledgement to the AHRC, ANTaR, AIDA, ACEM, Dr Jacinta Kelly from ACN and the staff at NAATSIHWP who helped produce our submission.

## **Change of Government**

The May election saw a change of Government. The Labor government's commitment to the Uluru Statement – voice, treaty, truth- is a positive step towards genuine legislative reform across the Indigenous Affairs portfolio. The Campaign has formally written to Ministers and the new crossbenchers to congratulate them on their electoral success and re-introduce them to the work of the Campaign. They each received a copy of this year's report with the option to contact the Campaign if there were any follow up queries.

To help drive the national conversation around Constitutional recognition, the Campaign will be holding a series of webinars, for our members, to share information, create greater understanding, and a safe space for open dialogue on the important issue of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Constitutional recognition.

If you would like to be involved with this series, please contact Zara Pitt.