



CLOSE THE GAP



MEDIA STATEMENT: RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA'S RECONCILIATION BAROMETER 2020

30 November 2020

The Close the Gap Campaign for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality welcomes the release of the 2020 Reconciliation Barometer by Reconciliation Australia today. Every two years the results of this national research gives all Australians an opportunity to reflect on where we are at as a nation and where we can go.

Once again, the 2020 results show that the attitudes of the Australian public are ahead of much political thinking and the results of this research defy political inaction. We are maturing as a nation and as many peoples. Wider Australia is embracing positive relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and is continuing to accept the invitation that the Uluru Statement from the Heart offers to all Australians. It is encouraging and no surprise that over 90% of Australians place high importance on the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

Racism remains a huge issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with 52% of our people having experienced *at least* one form of racism in the past six months. With 43% of the general community and 60% of Indigenous people agreeing that Australia is a racist country it is clear we have some work to do. How do we reconcile the rhetoric of “successful multiculturalism” with the evidence presented in this report? Can we co-exist as a multicultural success while the view of around half of Australians persists that we are a racist country?

We need to continue the truth-telling that this report has enabled since the first Reconciliation Barometer in 2008. We need to listen to the 89% support among the general community who support truth-telling processes. This can be delivered formally at a local level, to come to a more accurate and respectful understanding of our shared histories.

The majority of Australians surveyed have reported that governments must do more to close the health, education, employment and justice gaps once and for all. It is time for real action and the four priority reforms of the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap are

critical to this as is appropriate needs-based funding. It is past time for the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Our Campaign of 52 leading Indigenous and non-Indigenous health and human rights organisations encourages all governments to respond to the leadership shown by the Australian public through this report and to act. Reconciliation takes action and we urge governments to act courageously and in line with the progressive wishes of the Australian public.



June Oscar AO

Co-Chair, Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality & Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice.



Karl Briscoe

Co-Chair Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality & and CEO of National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP)

[Read the Australian Reconciliation Barometer Summary and Full Reports](#)