

CLOSE THE GAP

**Activity ideas for
your
National Close the
Gap Day event**

A bit of context...

- When you choose your activities : Think about what you and your friends are into, what your strengths are and use these to your advantage!
- Your event need to be meaningful to you and your school – make sure it is relevant !
- Be passionate AND realistic – what can you do with what you've got? You'll be surprised at how even the smallest amount of resources can end up being an awesome event
- Promote your event activities BEFORE and AFTER the event. Read Page 5 of the Close the Gap Student Kit for more. Make sure you send us the blank CDR that would have come in your registration pack OR email sharons@oxfam.org.au with your photos, video, stories and event info – you might find you, your friends and your school on our website!
- Use the ideas in these PowerPoint as a starting point – we know you can come up with heaps more activity ideas – BRAINSTORM them and take your pick.
- GOOD LUCK!



Make it

Design a cookbook

Get everyone to bring in a fave healthy recipe and bang! You have a cookbook! If you want to get adventurous, check out using Indigenous foods – it can be in print or digital and upload it or send it to

sharons@oxfam.org.au

Get creative with posters or a digital art

Design some posters with information about the campaign and how students can show their support for Close The Gap. Remember, keep it simple

Make a banner/mural/legal graf piece/sculpture

What will your art represent? Whatever it is, make it BIG and get as many peeps involved as you can – take a photo and send it in to us!

Make a short film

Make a video of your event. It doesn't need to be more than 3 minutes, use what equipment you have (phone , camera) and upload it here to join the other Close the Gap videos. (just check with your teacher that this all sweet to send)

[Where? 3things.org.au/students](http://3things.org.au/students)



Play it

Get your music on

Are you a star air-guitarist, love to belt out a tune, are a legend MC? Maybe your school has a bunch of bands or musicians – everyone loves music AND it is unreal for your health. What would be a cool way to spread the Close the Gap word? Maybe visuals projected behind the musicians? Maybe each muso saying one thing each about Close the Gap? Have fun getting the beats on.

Run a Close the Gap sport game/event

If you're into – League, netball, union, AFL, or knitting – maybe even have a game against the teachers or another school. Ps. we can send you Close the Gap sport tape for the players to wear on their arms in support of the campaign. Wicked.

Carve up the stage

What are you and your friends really into? Dance? Breakdance? Comedy or plays? Or all of the above? Maybe use the theme – Power through Partnership to give you inspiration... Invite your audience to sign the pledge AND don't forget to lap up the applause at the end 😊



Show it

Show the Close the Gap DVD in class or at assembly

When you register your National Close the Gap Day you'll be sent a copy of the 2011 Close The Gap DVD or you can download it from the website

Change your Facebook profile picture & status update

“Like” the Close the Gap(Community) Facebook page, get as many people as you can to change their profile pic to the Close the Gap logo and get as many people to share the link to SIGN the PLEDGE

Get a web-banner or a pledge on your school website

Speak to teachers and the Principal about showing the school's support on the school's website about Close the Gap. You can download a web-banner from: <http://bit.ly/9aB1iZ>

Put on a photography/art exhibition

Promote the exhibition in advance to the whole school and invite students to contribute their own photos and artwork. You could also make this a theme for the art classes and display other students' work.

Set up an info booth at lunchtime

This a great way to get to let other students know what Close the Gap is about and encourage them to **Sign the Pledge!** Hand out the Close the Gap tattoos, balloons, get photos, upload them to Facebook.



Say it

Invite an Indigenous community member to talk to your class or the school

This is a cool way to get a real and personal perspective of the issues involved in closing the gap, our older generations are usually amazing story tellers.

Dive to the depths-have a debate

This is a great way to look at all the factors that are part of the issue – For e.g.: “*Is it possible to Close the Gap in Indigenous health outcomes?*” and “*Should Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health be a priority for our Governments at State and Federal levels?*”

Write it, rhyme it, tell a story

We’ve all got different experiences of closing the gap. What does it mean to you? Express yourself in a rap, poem, story or any style you like. ‘Say it’ at assembly, in class or write it down and put it in the school newsletter. Don’t forget to email it to us and we’ll put it up with all the others on the Close the Gap AND 3things website. Deadly.

Ever wanted to be on radio?

How cool would it be! See if you can get on your community radio station to talk about what your school is doing on National Close the Gap Day – they’ll want a run-down of what Close the Gap is so get yourself prepared!



Photo: Federation Square, Melbourne, VIC



Photo: Warrnambool College, VIC



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Photo: Federation Square, Melbourne, VIC



Photo: University of NSW



Photo: Leichhardt Campus, Sydney Secondary college, NSW



Photo: St Patrick's College, QLD



Photo: MLC, NSW



Photos: Maclean College, QLD



Photo: Richard Kendall/OxfamAUS



Photo: Richard Kendall/OxfamAUS

Doing our bit to close the gap

ALMOST 200 students gathered at St Joseph's Regional College on Thursday to raise awareness for Close the Gap Day. The day celebrated nationally and is aimed at closing the life expectancy gap between indigenous and non indigenous Australians.

Peter Besseling was on hand to address the crowd.

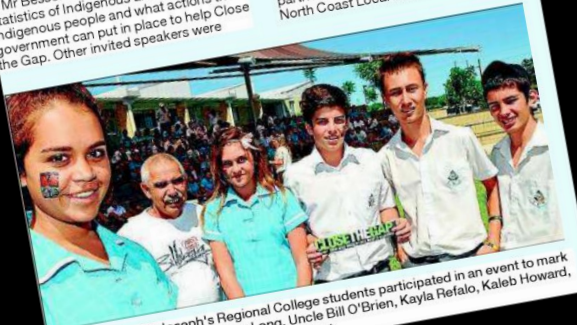
Mr Besseling gave a talk on the health statistics of indigenous and non indigenous people and what actions the government can put in place to help Close the Gap. Other invited speakers were

Jacqui Woon and Luke Horrihan from Community Health to talk about the issues affecting Aboriginal people such as Diabetes, symptoms to look out for and living a healthy lifestyle.

Uncle Bill O'Brien was also at the function.

Mr O'Brien is working on a painting of Port Macquarie that students will surround with handprints, overlapping each other signifying no gap.

Birapi LALC also hosted a workshop in partnership with the Aboriginal Unit of Mid North Coast Local Health Network.



Close the Gap: St Joseph's Regional College students participated in an event to mark the Close the Gap initiative. Skye Long, Uncle Bill O'Brien, Kayla Refalo, Kaleb Howard, Dylan McQuinn and Jesse Travers all took part.

Bridging cultures



Warrnambool College student Sandra Burrows and indigenous artist Fiona Clarke during the Culture Connect program.

122024615 Picture: ROB GUNSTONE

WARRNAMBOOL

By **TINA LIPTAI**

UNDER the guidance of indigenous artists, Warrnambool College students filled their canvases with brightly coloured swirls and intricate patterns yesterday as they strengthened their connection with indigenous culture.

Sharing traditions and passing on knowledge, indigenous south-west elders Fiona Clarke, Brett Clarke and Rob Lowe took part in the day which teamed

indigenous students with non-indigenous students to help improve cultural understanding.

Art was an important focus of the day with students creating paintings and learning wood burning.

The activities coincided with the fifth annual Close The Gap Day, a national campaign to close the life expectancy gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Indigenous Australians die about 17 years earlier than the rest of the popula-

tion, according to official statistics.

Warrnambool College's assistant principal Adam Matheson said the school aimed to have at least one indigenous-focused event every semester and yesterday was about nurturing cultural connections.

He said it was also important for non-indigenous students to get an understanding of indigenous culture as a link to Australian history and contemporary issues.

As part of the day, north Queensland indigenous singer and song writer Lewis

Clonard pledge to help Close the Gap

Emma Schenk

CLONARD College was non-indigenous Aus- painted red, black, orange, blue and green last Thursday for the national Close the Gap day.

The annual event raises awareness of the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous life expectancy and aims to pressure politicians into making a difference.

Indigenous people in Australia live an average of 12 years, 20 fewer than

important to let everyone know about the current injustice that is occurring," student Ashlea McMaster said.

The issues causing the life-expectancy gap are complex and believed to include dispossession, discrimination and disempowerment. These factors create over-nutrition, housing, poor nutritional low income, and unemployment, and limited access to health care services.

"This day is really



Raising awareness: Clonard College year 10 students Jade Lockwood, April Zukra and Tessa Howard at last

Students closing the gap

Victor Harbor High School students supported the National Close the Gap campaign on Thursday, March 24.

At lunchtime students enjoyed viewing the film 'Bran Nui Day' and a special Close the Gap DVD while snacking on Manribe berries collected that morning from the local area by students.

The Close the Gap campaign addresses the issues of disparities in health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people and other Australians.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island men suffer heart disease and stroke at three times the rate of other Australian men and Aboriginal and Torres Strait women are five times more likely to die from cervical cancer than other Australian women.

In preparation for this day a group of students visited Yunggalilla Indigenous medicinal garden at Christies Beach High School where students were excited to learn about the traditional medicinal, artistic and food properties of a variety of plants familiar to the Victor Harbor region.

Discussions regarding constructing its own indigenous medicinal garden have commenced with the possible open day being next year's Close the Gap day.

Students working on this project would be seeking community support in many forms and importantly local knowledge on medicinal plants, especially their meaning and importance to the traditional owners of this area.



CLOSING THE GAP: Victor Harbor High students Lena, Moana, Montina and Kiara show their support on Close the Gap day.

Closing the health gap

CLOSING the gap between wellbeing outcomes for indigenous and non-indigenous Australians was brought into the spotlight at Busseton Senior High School last Thursday.

The school promoted the message and spirit of working together to coincide with National Close the Gap Day.

According to Oxfam Australia

and Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is on average 10 years less than other Australians, with the gap widest in the NT and WA.

School nurse Vivienne Barton said it was important to recognise and work on the disparity between the two groups across a range of correlated factors.

"It is well known that good health and wellbeing contributes to better educational outcomes and vice-versa," she said. "The school provides a supportive environment for Aboriginal students where cultural identity is welcomed and cultural awareness is encouraged amongst all school members."

- Troy Douglas



BSHS nurse Viv Barton (left) with students, Aboriginal and Islander education officer Belinda Bartlett and teacher Geoff Holt promoting the Close the Gap message.