



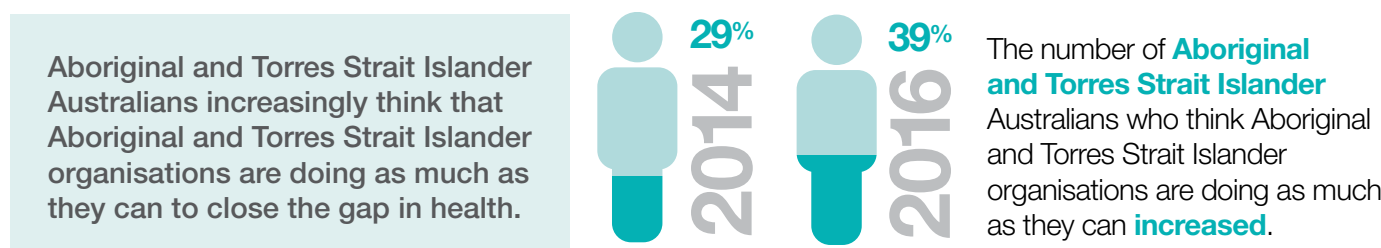
RECONCILIATION INSIGHTS

HEALTH

The findings of the 2016 Australian Reconciliation Barometer¹ (the Barometer) survey reveal that racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is on the rise, and trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians is low. Despite this, goodwill for reconciliation is strong. Most Australians continue to believe the relationship is important and many believe more needs to be done to close the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians.

To build relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, what role do health professionals, health organisations and governments have to play to achieve a reconciled, just and equitable Australia?

What the Barometer found:

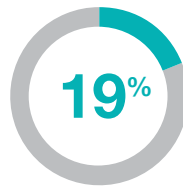


¹ The Australian Reconciliation Barometer is a biennial, national research study, conducted by Reconciliation Australia since 2008. The Barometer measures attitudes, perceptions and behaviours towards reconciliation in both the general Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. In 2016, the Barometer surveyed 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and 2277 Australians in the general community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are almost two times more likely to strongly agree past race-based government policies have been a cause of poor health amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, compared to Australians in the general community.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who **strongly agree** past race-based government policies have been a cause of poor health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.



Australians in the **general community** who **strongly agree** past race-based government policies have been a cause of poor health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are almost three times more likely to strongly disagree that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are responsible for their own disadvantages today, compared to Australians in the general community.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians who **strongly disagree** that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are responsible for their own disadvantages today.



Australians in the **general community** who **strongly disagree** that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are responsible for their own disadvantages today.

Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians mostly report a good relationship and high levels of trust with doctors, nurses and medical staff.

Feel they have a **good relationship** with doctors, nurses, and medical staff.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



General community

Feel **high levels of mutual trust** with doctors, nurses, and medical staff.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander



General community

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are five times more likely to feel they, or a family member, have been racially discriminated against by doctors, nurses or medical staff, compared to Australians in the general community.²



15% of **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians** feel they, or a family member, have been **racially discriminated against** by **doctors, nurses or medical staff**.



3% Australians in the **general community** feel they, or a family member, have been **racially discriminated against** by **doctors, nurses or medical staff**.

² During the twelve months prior to the survey, conducted from 14 July – 8 August 2016.

What does this mean?

Understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequality is complex, and all Australians need to do more to listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and perspectives.

However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations need adequate support to facilitate this learning, particularly from governments. This begins with providing appropriate resources to maintain a national, independent and representative voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—e.g. the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples—and health sector peak bodies that represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professionals and community services—e.g. the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

Understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and perspectives is important to overcome misconceptions about the causes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health inequality. It is also important to overcome barriers to healthcare experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as racism.

What can I do?

- **Pledge to Close the Gap** to join over 220,000 Australians calling on all Australian Governments to take action to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality within a generation.
- Get to know your local **Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service**, and seek out opportunities to support and partner with them.
- Do you work for a health related organisation? Ask your workplace to develop a **Reconciliation Action Plan**.
- Promote a zero tolerance approach to racism by encouraging support of campaigns like **Racism. It Stops With Me** or the **Invisible Discriminator**.
- Visit **ShareOurPride.org.au** to learn more about our shared history and the continuing impacts of colonisation today.
- Read **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives** on what works in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Spotlight on:

The Close the Gap Campaign

The Close the Gap Campaign is a national campaign led by Australia's peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous health bodies, health professional bodies, and human rights organisations. The campaign's goal is to raise the health and life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to that of non-Indigenous Australians by 2030 through the implementation of a human rights approach to healthcare. Every year, the Close the Gap Steering Committee publishes the Progress and Priorities Report, detailing progress in closing the gap.

To date, over 220,000 Australians have pledged their support to Close the Gap and the campaign holds National Close the Gap Day every year in March to bring people together, share information, and take meaningful action to achieve Indigenous health equality. Over 1500 events are held across the country, including workplace morning teas, sports days, school events and public events in hospitals and offices—anyone can take part and make a difference.

CLOSE THE GAP



Reconciliation Australia

Reconciliation Australia is an independent, national not-for-profit organisation promoting reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our vision – a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

Our mission – to inspire and enable all Australians to contribute to the reconciliation of the nation.

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer

The Australian Reconciliation Barometer (the Barometer) is a biennial, national research study that has been conducted by Reconciliation Australia since 2008.

This Insights document draws on the findings of the 2016 Barometer where 2277 Australians in the general community and 500 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians were surveyed. Participants in both samples were recruited from a professional social research panel. Participants completed the survey between 14 July and 1 August 2016.

The general community sample of Australian residents was selected and weighted to be representative in terms of age, gender and location (state and urban/regional splits), as per data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census. The sample of 2277 is associated with a margin of error of +/-2.1% at the 95% confidence interval. This means that if a result of 50% is found, we can be 95% confident the real result is between 47.9% and 52.1%.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sample of 500 is associated with a margin of error of +/-4.4% at the 95% confidence interval.

The full Barometer, including comprehensive information about methodology, is available at reconciliation.org.au/resources

CONTACT

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Reconciliation Australia acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

