

# media release

## UNSW Medicine joins fight to Close the Gap on Indigenous life expectancy

UNSW is joining a campaign calling on Australian governments to commit to closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

**Close the Gap** is Australia's largest campaign to improve Indigenous health. Supported by more than 40 Indigenous and non-Indigenous organisations, including UNSW Medicine, Oxfam Australia, NACCHO and ANTaR, the campaign calls on federal, state and territory governments to commit to closing the life expectancy gap within 25 years.

Statistics show Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have an average life expectancy 17 years less than the general community.

UNSW's Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine, will mark the National Day of Action -- **on Tuesday September 18** -- with a public forum to discuss the practical steps to address the wider Indigenous health crisis.

The forum will be opened by Professor Peter Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. Speakers will include:

- Elizabeth Harris, Senior Lecturer & Director of the Centre for Health Equity Training Research & Evaluation (CHETRE) at UNSW's School of Public Health and Community Medicine.
- Professor Ian Ring, Professorial Fellow at the University of Wollongong's Centre for Health Service Development.
- And Associate Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Director of UNSW's Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit.

A seven-minute Oxfam video ([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIuK\\_F80X08](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIuK_F80X08)), featuring the Shalom Gamarada Nginyani Yani Scholarship program – as featured in the ANTaR's recently published booklet '*Success Stories in Indigenous Health*' will also be showcased to highlight some of the practical solutions to the crisis.

WHAT: Closing the Gap public forum – ALL WELCOME

WHEN: Tuesday September 18, 1pm – 2pm

WHERE: Biomed E Theatre, Wallace Wurth Lecture Theatre, Upper Campus, UNSW from 1pm to 2pm,

For more information on the National Day of Action and the Close the Gap initiative go to [www.oxfam.org.au/national-day](http://www.oxfam.org.au/national-day)

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