

Take up the Challenge

Indigenous Health and Chronic Disease

**I'm a
six-year-old
Indigenous boy**

I live in a remote community in the Northern Territory.

I can expect to live to 67.2 years, around 11.5 years less than a non-Indigenous male boy.¹

I have a 43% chance of staying in school through to year 12.²

I am exposed to stereotypes of my people on a daily basis.

**I am a
27-year-old
Maori woman
with diabetes.**

I am eight and a half times more likely to develop renal failure than a non-Maori woman of the same age with my disease.³

Because I am a Maori woman, my newborn is five times more likely to die of SIDS than a non-Maori baby, and I don't always have access to the same healthcare services due to my circumstances.⁴

**I am an
Indigenous
adult male.**

I have three children, live with my parents and take care of 5 family members.

My teenage children are exposed to harmful social environments and are at higher risk than non-Indigenous teens to abuse drugs.

If I were to develop cancer, I will likely receive a later stage diagnosis, increasing the risk of fatality.⁵

Let's work together to Close the Gap



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¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) Experimental life tables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians: 2005-2007. Canberra: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
² Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and Australian Bureau of Statistics, The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2008, ABS cat no 4704.0 (2008) p 16-17. ³ New Zealand Ministry of Health. ⁴ New Zealand Ministry of Health. ⁵ Cunningham J, Rumbold AB, Zhang X, Condon JR (2008) Incidence, aetiology, and outcomes of cancer in Indigenous peoples in Australia. *Lancet Oncology*; 9(6): 585-595