

Media Release

Close the Gap Day | Central Victoria

15 March 2016

Murray PHN is holding several 'Close the Gap Day' events throughout Central Victoria for Close the Gap Day.

'Close the Gap' is a national strategy that aims to reduce Indigenous disadvantage with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, access to early childhood education, educational achievement and employment outcomes. This was endorsed by the Australian Government in March 2008.

The events being hosted by Murray PHN aim to bring people together, to share information and take meaningful action in support of achieving Indigenous health equality by 2030. The national 'Close the Gap' campaign aims to create opportunities where local actions can create lasting change and work towards being part of the generation who closes the gap.

Murray PHN Chief Executive Officer, Matt Jones said that genuine long-term partnerships between our community, local agencies and services, governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are needed.

"Working together as a community to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage is the pathway to achieving Indigenous equality by the year 2030", Mr Jones said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still experience much lower life expectancy rates, acute levels of sickness and poorer access to appropriate medical care than most non Indigenous Australians.

"Whilst we as an organisation have made the pledge to close the gap, Indigenous disadvantage is not a problem for any one individual or organisation. It is a responsibility for us to all work together and join our efforts in a cohesive and collaborative way to improve the life expectancy and health status of Indigenous Australians," he said.

Media are invited to attend the Murray PHN 'Close the Gap' Day events:

Wednesday 16 March 12-1pm | Networking lunch | **Rochester and Elmore District Health Services** (Rochester)

Thursday 17 March 12-1pm | Networking lunch | **Bendigo Health** (front lawn)

Friday 18 March 12-2pm | Networking lunch | **Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Echuca**

Friday 18 March 12-1pm | BBQ lunch and education session | **The Meeting Place Castlemaine**

Media contact

For more details, contact Murray PHN Communications Coordinator Zhoe Jess on 0400 952120 or email communications@murrayphn.org.au