

**SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES:  
FITZROY STARS, HEALING CIRCLES, CLOSE THE GAP – TEACHER'S NOTES**

UNIT 3	Australia's health
AREA OF STUDY 1	Understanding Australia's health: Outcome 1
KEY KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Variations in the health status of population groups in Australia, including males and females, higher and lower socioeconomic status groups, rural and remote populations and Indigenous populations.</li> <li>The role of determinants of health, including the physical environment, biological, behavioural and social, in explaining variations in health status.</li> </ul>
KEY SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use and interpret data to compare the health status of selected population groups within Australia.</li> <li>Use the determinants of health to explain differences in the health status of Australians and between population groups.</li> </ul>
LEARNING AIM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To gain a greater understanding of health inequalities in the Indigenous population.</li> <li>To understand Oxfam's Close the Gap initiative and intentions to reduce differences in health status of Indigenous population.</li> </ul>
LEARNING PROCESS	Background information from clips and readings to be completed prior to class discussions and tasks.
RESOURCES	<p><b>SOUTH WEST ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES</b></p> <p>Video: <a href="http://youtu.be/dTI49NZ6AiY">http://youtu.be/dTI49NZ6AiY</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/our-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-program/health-and-wellbeing-program/south-west-aboriginal-medical-service/">https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/our-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-program/health-and-wellbeing-program/south-west-aboriginal-medical-service/</a></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND INFO ON CLOSE THE GAP</b></p> <p>The Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee Priorities and Progress Report 2014: <a href="https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/ctgshadowreport2014.pdf">https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/ctgshadowreport2014.pdf</a></p> <p>Close the Gap Progress and Priorities report: <a href="https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/ctg-progress-and-priorities-report.pdf">https://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/ctg-progress-and-priorities-report.pdf</a></p> <p>Video: Close the Gap 2014 – Ending health inequality in a generation: <a href="http://youtu.be/5S8vjhZZE4w">http://youtu.be/5S8vjhZZE4w</a></p> <p>Video – What could 2030 look like?: <a href="http://youtu.be/s4XZaduTpdU">http://youtu.be/s4XZaduTpdU</a></p> <p>National Indigenous Health Equality Targets: <a href="https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/closing-gap-national-indigenous-health-equality-targets-2008">https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/closing-gap-national-indigenous-health-equality-targets-2008</a></p> <p>Close the Gap: Indigenous Health Equality Summit – Statement of Intent: <a href="https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/close-gap-indigenous-health-equality-summit-statement-intent">https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/close-gap-indigenous-health-equality-summit-statement-intent</a></p>

## RESOURCES

Oxfam Australia's Close the Gap webpage:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap/>

National day of action – National Close the Gap Day:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/act/events/national-close-the-gap-day/>

Close the Gap highlights and successes:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/close-the-gap/close-the-gap-highlights/>

Useful links related to Close the Gap:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Close-the-Gap-Further-Info-Websites-Classroom-Resource-2014.pdf>

Close the Gap in Pictures:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/ctginpictures2014.pdf>

### PERSONAL CASE STUDIES RELATING TO CLOSE THE GAP ISSUES:

Personal stories on Close the Gap issues:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Close-the-Gap-Personal-Stories-Classroom-Resource-2014.docx>

### GOVERNMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION:

Bipartisan support for health equality by 2030:

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/news/stories/bipartisan-support-health-equality-2030>

Australian Human Rights Commission's Close the Gap webpage:

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/close-gap-indigenous-health-campaign>

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's (NACCHO) Close the Gap page:

<http://www.naccho.org.au/aboriginal-health/close-the-gap-campaign/>

### INFORMATION ON GETTING INVOLVED:

Online petition – Sign the Close the Gap Pledge:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/my/act/sign-the-close-the-gap-pledge>

Online petition – Send a letter to the Prime Minister:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/my/act/urgent-letter-to-pm-to-close-the-gap/>

Community petition – The 30 for 2030 Challenge:

[https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2013-146\\_nctgd\\_petition\\_fa\\_web-2.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/2013-146_nctgd_petition_fa_web-2.pdf)

*Note: Since 2006, Australia's peak Indigenous and non-Indigenous health bodies, Non Government Organisations (including Oxfam Australia) and human rights organisations have worked together to achieve health and life expectancy equality for Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through the Close the Gap campaign.*

*Close the Gap is Australia's largest Indigenous health campaign - an Indigenous-led campaign which aims to achieve health equality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.*

*National Close the Gap Day is a national day of action, where Australians across the country join together to demonstrate their support for this issue, to remind our political leaders of their commitments, and to show them Australians care about Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their health. As the number of supporters grows in the community, so does the pressure on all governments to keep Indigenous health equality as a top priority and put into action its commitments to close the life expectancy gap.*

*By joining our efforts we can make sure that by 2030 any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child born in this country has the same opportunity as other Australian children to live a long, healthy and happy life.*

*Close the Gap is not an "Oxfam campaign" or "Oxfam event", the organisation coordinates the campaign on behalf of the Close the Gap Coalition.*

*Also "Closing the Gap" is different to "Close the Gap". As a general rule, any initiative with "Closing the gap" in the title is an Australian Government or COAG initiative.*

*It is important to note that it does not necessarily reflect the human rights-based approach of the Close the Gap Campaign, nor does the use of the term reflect an endorsement by the Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee.*

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

*These are available as  
Student Worksheets.*

### ACTIVITY 1: FITZROY STARS

Watch this video: Fitzroy Stars help to Close the Gap:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBNMEEeZaqM>

And read this webpage:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/2011/03/fitzroy-stars-helping-to-close-the-gap/>

From these, students are required to identify an example of a behavioural and social determinant of health, and an example from the physical environment. For each example, suggest how it creates variations in health status.

For each example chosen, students must outline how the Fitzroy Stars program is addressing the determinant of health and reducing the variations in health status between Indigenous and non-Indigenous population groups.

### ACTIVITY 2: THE SOUTH WESTERN ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Watch this video before the activity – Aboriginal health in focus: South West Aboriginal Medical Service, Bunbury WA: <http://youtu.be/dTI49NZ6AiY>

Also browse this website:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/explore/indigenous-australia/our-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-program/health-and-wellbeing-program/south-west-aboriginal-medical-service/>

Students to read the introduction and background, then read one of the case studies from the from Oxfam Australia's South West Aboriginal Medical Services Evaluation Report, 2010 – 2014.

Then, they pick one or two of the case studies, and use them to identify examples of behavioural and social determinants of health, and examples from the physical environment.

For each example, use the table in the worksheet to suggest how it has the potential to reduce variations in the health status of Indigenous populations.

### ACTIVITY 3: WHAT IS 'THE GAP'?

Read Pages 22 to the end of the 'Australia' section on page 24 of The United Nations' 'The state of the World's Indigenous people' report:

[http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP\\_web.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SOWIP_web.pdf)

Then read pages 34-36 of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 'Australia's health 2014 – in brief': <http://www.aihw.gov.au/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=60129547555>

Identify the major differences in health status between the Indigenous population in Australia and the non-Indigenous population.

Students then generate an infographic on health status indicators to summarise the differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health in Australia. This can be computer generated or completed on butcher's paper for display around the room.

Students then swap their infographic with another student in the class, and use it to identify and describe the determinants of health that would be responsible for the variations in health status.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

*These are available as  
Student Worksheets.*

Then, watch the following videos:

- Video: Close the Gap 2014 – Ending health inequality in a generation:  
<http://youtu.be/5S8vjhZZE4w>
- Video: What could 2030 look like?  
<http://youtu.be/s4XZaduTpdU>

After watching the clips on Close the Gap, have a class discussion about the determinants that are being focused on to facilitate change and 'Close the Gap' in the health status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

### ACTIVITY 4: CLASS DISCUSSION

Background reading to assist teachers with this activity can be found in The Close the Gap Campaign Steering Committee Priorities and Progress Report 2014:

<https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/ctgshadowreport2014.pdf>

Watch this video in class – What could 2030 look like?

<http://youtu.be/s4XZaduTpdU>

What are some of the changes to statistics and health status that have occurred since the Close The Gap Campaign started? Why is 2030 a significant year?

Discuss ways in which the Government, non-government development organisations (such as Oxfam) and the community have facilitated the changes to occur.