

Leadership & Legacy Through Crises: Keeping Our Mob Safe

The Hon Ken Wyatt AM MP
Minister for Indigenous Australian

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Dr Janine Mohamed
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Dan Bouchier
Award-winning journalist at ABC Canberra

Hosted by the **Australia Institute** in support of the **Close the Gap** Campaign.

Dan Bouchier 0:00	Good Afternoon and welcome, wherever you're joining me across the country today. I'm Dan Bouchier and it's my great pleasure to be your facilitator, guiding you through this discussion on this very important day, close the gap day where we're going to be hearing more about this report that's being launched today, online and across the nation leadership and legacy through crisis, keeping our mob safe to close the gap campaign report for 2021. And at this point, in beginning, I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the nanowall people and in particularly for their custodianship of this country, the story, the song lines, but also the way that they've the audience have shared that with me and right across our community. I'm very grateful for that because my own heritage is such a different story. without all of that connection as a result of the policies are in Australia in recent decades. I also want to acknowledge all of the indigenous people here today on the incredible panel, that committee, the CO chairs who are here as well, the leadership who have written this report, there are some of the most incredible First Nations people who are part of this today, including you wherever you're watching it. I want to pay respect to your elders, those that have been sharing that knowledge maintaining culture, connection, the stories, those things that bring us together and give us a sense of who we are and how we interact to each other. We have got a bit to get through today. Firstly, you're going to be hearing from the close
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	<p>the gap coat campaign coaches journalists get to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice Commissioner Kyle Briscoe is the CEO of the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers Association. They're the CO chairs that have been sitting at the apex of this enormous group of committed First Nations people across the nation you are going to hear from both of them. The minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt am is also going to be here shortly. You'll also hear from globally renowned health experts. So Michael Marmot, lower to institute CEO Janine and Muhammad is going to explain about the report and give us a sense of leadership and legacy through crisis, how to keep our mob safe. We've got a panel as well of some incredible First Nations people and you'll hear from the Australia Institute, that we're very grateful that they've been partnering with this campaign hosting the webinar today, and doing lots of work around closing the gap and facilitating these big conversations about what it means to be an Australian. But without any further ado, junaluska. eo is a ban of a woman from Fitzroy crossing in Western Australia, a passionate advocate for First Nations people, particularly children, and she's been the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice Commissioner since 2017. But she's more than that. And it's such a powerful voice for indigenous people right across the nation. And I've known Joon for some time I first met her when I was a cub reporter working at national indigenous television and she was advocating for children in Fitzroy crossing and getting that story out to the nation to have a big conversation about what was happening there and to some of our children. It's so great to have you along. June. Over to you.</p>
<p>June Oscar 3:12</p>	<p>Thank you, Dan. Wow. Good morning, everyone. You're no longer one of them anymore. I'm speaking to you from another country today. When you done alarming it, I'm go Malinga. What about gaydar all day. I know what word for elgamal cowi. Rama without wiping it on go Moo Ronnie. It has been pouring rain up here. The front waters are high. Our children are out hunting and fishing. Our country is alive. When a yellow moying around the USA. I hope your country is alive and well to wherever you are. So again, thank you, Dan, and thank you to the Australia Institute for supporting this event. welcoming to all our guests and speakers across Australia and beyond our lands, including the 54 members of the close the gap campaign. Thank you a huge thank you to Dr. Janine Mohammed and allow her to institute for writing this report. And I acknowledge my co chair. Mr. Carl Briscoe. You are amazing. And thank you to the Minister Mr. Ken Wyatt for joining us on this very important occasion. It is my privilege to welcome you from vulnerable country in the Kimberley in Western Australia, we have all been able to carry out our work and remain focused in this time of crisis in the safest places. Once again, it has proven how important our traditional countries and our communities are, to our health and well being. This is another important day to report on the unfinished business of achieving health, justice, education, and employment equality for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We remain tireless in our advocacy, and in our determination. We know how to survive, and we know how to thrive. It's proven by our track record of being the oldest living civilization on Earth. We clearly have always known what it is to belong to safe, inclusive, equitable, and healthy societies. That is why we must use our knowledges and learnings to confront and overcome the current deficits we face today. We know that we can increase our life expectancy, that we can reduce incarceration rates and end deaths in custody, that we can have positive physical and mental health. This is what we deserve in Australia. Today,</p>

	<p>we can all act on the solutions we have to reverse the statistics of deficit. None of us need reminding of the challenges of the past 12 months. Challenges requires leadership and solutions. And this report is overflowing with both the loss of our sacred native species through devastating bushfires, and the exposure of inequalities due to the pandemic has helped so many more come to the realization that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the solutions and the capacity for all of society to keep families and communities safe. before, during and after a crisis. It is time that our identity our sacred places, our countries, our health, and our well being are protected from those who threaten all of this for short term gain. Today, through our speakers and the report, we again proudly showcase our strengths, our culture, our leadership, in community and the legacies, we will leave our children. We show the Pathways Forward how to protect country from climate change, to prevent suicide through nurturing social and emotional wellbeing and how to protect communities against a global pandemic. The new national agreement on closing the gap, signed mid last year was long overdue, yet welcomed. Finally, governments met genuinely with indigenous leaders with our leaders, the coalition of pigs and negotiated as equal partners. This provides a real opportunity for reform and progress. Australia as we know is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Indigenous people make up almost 3.5% of the population. We all know that it is absolutely possible to achieve positive generational health and equality for our population of 1,000,001st nations people. To do this, we require robust implementation frameworks that have mechanisms to guarantee progress to close gaps wherever they are. We need this from not just the Commonwealth, but from all states and territories. We urge all governments to work with us as code decision makers and designers, and to genuinely commit to implementation plans and invest investment that meets the needs. For us to do this for meaningful engagement to happen, we have to address our right to a voice to our self determination. We have called for government's attention to our rights to our black lives to matter. We have called for governments to engage in treaty, truth telling, and healing. These processes are before us, we can all see that. For us as a nation to become reconciled, and to strengthen our voice in the fabric of this nation. So together we can heal and strengthen our common wealth. To reach these outcomes, takes partnerships. Governments cannot deliver this on their own. But together as trusted collaborators, we can do this. And that is the promise of close the gap. Thank you for your support. Thank you for listening. And please enjoy the report launch today. Young India. Thank you.</p>
Dan Bouchier 12:53	<p>June, thank you so much for such a powerful speech and for capturing the so very many challenges there. But as you point out so many opportunities, and solutions that are right in this report, it has got so many ideas of where to from here, I just want to pick up on a couple of things that you said that particularly jumped out at me, particularly working in the media around reversing the statistics of deficit that is so important for all of us as a nation to not be seen as statistics, but be the right have the rightful place that we deserve. The challenges require the leadership solutions that you pointed out are in the report couldn't agree more having read it, and that call that clarion call to political and policymakers to work with us to co design and make those decisions. And I think that that has to be getting heard right across the board. So thank you so much for that speech for your leadership, along with Carl and the</p>

	<p>whole team, but also for your role in advocating for First Nations people and everything you do, particularly at that Commissioner level. So I'm very grateful. I'm sure many people are here and right around the nation today. So thank you so much. Our next guest is the honorable Ken Wyatt an Aboriginal man with nano geometry and one guy heritage is the first Indigenous Australian elected to the House of Representatives, the first indigenous person to serve as a Federal Minister and the first Aboriginal person to sit in cabinet. He is now Minister for Indigenous Australians and he's with us now uma welcome.</p>
<p>Ken Wyatt 14:38</p>	<p>Now you can hear?</p>
<p>Dan Bouchier 14:40</p>	<p>Certainly can.</p>
<p>Ken Wyatt 14:42</p>	<p>Kyle wonju Hello and welcome in my language. Today I'm dialing in from nanomol country and I'm grateful to be welcomed to this country and pay my respects to elder's past and present and the young ones who are emerging. I'd like to acknowledge all country where you calling from today and pay my respects to you. I want to associate myself also with many of the comments that you made, because that is the direction that we're heading in terms of code designed by Commonwealth agencies. It's a significant shift from the practice of the past, defining a challenging, but equally, the rising to grab an opportunity to work much more closely with our people across this country. And thank you for the opportunity to speak particularly on such an important occasion, as the National close the gap day. I want to thank the close the gap steering committee for their continued passion and dedication over many years towards a future where every Australian can realize their potential. I recall very fondly Professor Tom comas to 2005 social justice report, which was the catalyst for the closed the gap movement and the government's subsequent response, including the signing of that agreement in the Great Hall, where people didn't realize the full magnitude of what would evolved from those signatures. You will hear bells going at the moment that the Senate I welcome to 2021 close the gap campaign report, leadership and legacy three crisis, keeping our mob saying it certainly has been a year of crisis. But who could have ever predicted the outcome? It is one of the most impressive examples of success in the world. At the commencement of the outbreak, there was serious concern about the impact COVID-19 would have on our communities around this country. And everybody stepped out at shows traditional owners, elders, young leaders in charge of Aboriginal organisations and the community themselves. In fact, the ipy land were the first to indicate that they were closing their borders to protect their community and establish mechanisms to engage with the outside world. We've shown what we can achieve by working in partnership. As Jean Oskar says in the report, at the onset of COVID, Australian Government's finally put their trust in us. It was a people on the ground local insights and expertise that prevented a catastrophic disaster. It shows all of us the importance of local community voices in closing the gap. And then when local voices are heard by government, and I mean genuinely listen to by working together, we can change lives, we can protect each other. I was also impressed impressed by the voices of our young people echoing through the pages of this year's report. We rightly respect their elders and their guidance of our people. But we also need to listen to them and learn</p>

from them as well and encourage young people to culturally engage, to take that knowledge and wisdom into their own sphere of understanding of the world around them. Because if they don't, then we lose that long connection to the laws and traditions, the arts, the songs, the dancers, they are the key to a successful future. I am continually impressed by the examples brought to our attention through this campaign. Your campaign motivates and demonstrates significant progress in closing the health and life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non Indigenous Australians. The campaign is a great example of community led action. It's not government lighting. And that's been a great focus of mine. And this government's great change comes when we can motivate enough people to care and enough people to make it happen. Government can never force anyone. The more people we have a leading in their own way using their own voices, the more likely we will achieve our common goal to improve the lives of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people regardless of the geographic diversity of this country. I wholeheartedly agree with the steering committee in saying we need to break new ground for the systemic and transformational change. Which is why last year the government made a significant shift in our approach to closing the gap. I know your report called the new agreement on closing the gap, a potential game changer for shared decision making and I agree. It is this is the first time governments have negotiated the national agreement in partnership with Indigenous Australians. It was developed between Australian guard a coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people organisations and the Australian Local Government Association. The National agreement centers around four key priority forms, reforms, shared decision making, building the indigenous community control service sector, transforming mainstream services, and sharing data. The priority reforms are how we will deliver on the targets. The agreement requires all governments to change the way they've worked with Indigenous Australians. Now, I've already noticed some of the positive changes from my colleagues in governance, their departments and their agencies. My colleagues in cabinet are all working with their departments to implement a new way of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For example, the work being done in education skills, and employment portfolio initially under Mr. De administer dantian. And now minister Alan tudge is a good example of working in partnership across the whole portfolio and not just in indigenous specific programs. To help our people in the job through education, training and skills development, it is a quantum shift. Targets will help to monitor progress in life outcomes. And the each target there are indicators that provide information about how we are tracking. For the first time all parties share accountabilities for the target, we've not had that before, it's only been the Commonwealth that has been accountable. every state and territory government will now have to report on the targets of the closing the gap within their state or territory Parliament's which means they will be open to scrutiny about what they have achieved, where the gaps are, and where they are required to do substantial work. To move towards achieving the outcomes that we see. This agreement has more accountabilities and obligations on all parties than ever before. Under the national agreement, all parties will develop new implementation plans by July 21. Become more government, each state and territory government, the Australian Local Government Association and the coalition of peace in the Morison government all ministers are responsible for the actions to achieve targets in their portfolios, it is no longer the single responsibility of the Minister

	<p>for Indigenous Australians. It is now shared across portfolios. As for rewarding, all that is changing is the timing of when we will deliver our assessment about performance. Going forward, the Productivity Commission will deliver an independent closing the gap data report annually and every three years a review of progress nationally. The first annual data compilation report will be released by the Productivity Commission in July this year. The Productivity Commission is also developing a real time public data dashboard which will go live by the end of June 2021. In concluding I want to say that our great country has shown how people can adapt and respond to crisis to make rapid and significant reforms to the way things are done through strength based community led actions. But equally community led solutions. We need to get the same sense of urgency on closing the gap on the broad spectrum of socio economic issues. It take more than just government to do it. We need everybody on board. I want to thank you for inviting me to speak today at the launch of the 2021 close the gap campaign report. And I look forward to hearing more of the work that you are doing to make a positive difference. And I want to thank you for your endeavors, your commitment and your passion for what you put towards compiling the reports. But identifying all those elements of strengths. What I want us to do is to focus on what are we achieved, as opposed to what is the deficit I'm tired of hearing our people referred to in the deficit mode. I want to hear that instead of the gap being 26%. I want to know that we have achieved 74%. And that next year we're going to achieve closer to 80. So we've become much more ambitious, ambitious, in the way in which we think we have lived as indigenous Australians on the messages a deficit and all the messages of disadvantage. But I also want us to reflect and share where six This happens, and to demonstrate that we do achieve things very effectively and well. And when we do that, that will encourage our children to know, and those who come after us that we are good at what we do, and that we are becoming better. And if I look at health in, for example, that is exemplified by indigenous doctors and nurses the number we have now compared to when we had our first doctor graduate. And we thought that she would be the only one. But now I meet so many who are successful. So let's celebrate our successes. But keep reminding each other that much more has to be done in order to get the equity that we rightly deserve. Thank you, and congratulations to you all.</p>
Dan Bouchier 25:59	<p>As to why thanks so very much, and particularly adding to highlighting there around the deficits and disadvantage story that we often hear and not forgetting to celebrate the successes as they come along as well. I mean, you also point A to the structural change through the agreement and how so much more work is happening and needs to happen around that. That report, I'm sure that many are waiting eagerly to see what that contains in the middle of the year. And also want to point out that discussing the significant progress that you see in this report, and that that point around the great example of community driven change. So thank you so very much for highlighting those I know it's very busy up in parliament on a sitting day. So we do appreciate your time. And I know that you can't stick around because you've got a lot of other stuff to get to. So thank you so very much. We do appreciate you being a part of this launch today and the work that you're doing in Parliament and through the United double A as well. And that was the third minister can be honorable qinhuai am MP. Next up we've got a video short video for you, Sir Michael Marmot is a global leader in health research, and has conducted groundbreaking studies into heart disease</p>

	and stroke in particular. And he's also a internationally respected epidemiologist. So Michael is chair of the World Health Organization's Commission on social determinants of health. Here's a short message that he sent this is so Michael Marmot.
Sir Michael Marmot 27:25	It's a privilege to spend a few minutes with you today, the nature of lockdown and where we are impossible to do it in person. But this is second best. When I chaired the commission of the Pan American Health Organization, on equity and health inequality in the Americas. One of the striking findings was that in all the relevant countries, indigenous populations had worse health than the non indigenous populations. And we drew attention to that, and to the ongoing legacy of colonialism. We said that all the social determinants of health apply in trying to explain the difference between indigenous and non indigenous populations, the health differences. But in addition, there's something else going on particularly in a country like Canada, it was explained to us you're not going to understand this unless you understand relationship to the land, to culture, to dignity, empowerment, all crucial. And I think about my visits to Australia, and my attempts to engage with the problems of ill health in the indigenous communities of Australia. And everything that our commission has explained to me for the Americas seems to apply to Australia, if not more. So. Yes, the social determinants of health are absolutely vital. And they go through the life course starting with outcomes of pregnancy, early child development, education, employment, money, having enough money to live on communities, and of course, lifestyle, all crucial. But we're not going to solve the problem simply by looking at those things as if it was simple and failing to understand the importance of empowerment. Isn't I can't over control of destiny, of leading lives of dignity. We do need money to solve those problems I just listed but money without empowerment, money, without the opportunity, the possibility of leaving lives of dignity will get us nowhere. Let me just recount one experience I had the last time I was able to visit. I was taken to the shed in Western Sydney that was set up to prevent Aboriginal male suicide. And among the various people I spoke to was a human rights lawyer. And she explained to me that the default position of the care services in Australia was not when to remove children from their families, not whether but when to remove children from their families. And the next evening, I was having dinner with some of the leaders affetto, the Victorian Aboriginal community controlled health care organizations. And I reflected on what I seen in Sydney and what I've been told. And I said, My understanding is it costs about \$100,000, to take a child into care. Surely, for \$100,000, it would be possible to work with families to deal with problems of drug and alcohol and domestic violence. And one of the Aboriginal leaders there said, we're doing it, we've taken on that responsibility. Every time I hear a story like that, I'm filled with hope. Every time I see an Aboriginal leader, leading a community controlled health care organization, I'm filled with optimism. And when I see Aboriginal doctors, and administrators and teachers, and reflect that when I was a student at the University of Sydney, and Charles Perkins was the first university graduate of indigenous background.
Sir Michael Marmot 32:16	What a shame that should have been on all of us. But now looking at university graduates in leadership positions from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, they've come to visit me in London. I've met them in Victoria, in Alice Springs, in Darwin in Sydney, and I'm filled with hope, there is a long way to

	go. But with organisations empowered to make a difference such as this one, there's every reason for evidence based hope. I wish you well, thank you.
Dan Bouchier	And we send out thanks to serve Michael Marmite for that message. And 40 obviously couldn't travel to Australia because of the ongoing restrictions. But the points he made there about the sad state of indigenous health globally, goes to why it's so important to have this conversation and the community work that you've heard from both June and Ken and everyone getting involved in this process, right along the way and highlighting land culture, dignity, empowerment, we can't separate those out from all of the broader close the gap targets and initiatives either this is about fundamentally reconnecting and respecting, but they're the hope the optimism I don't know about you, but that gave me some sense to smile that there are reasons and even that note at the end about doctors and professors, indigenous people, leading companies in politics across the board in media, even leading the charge having these conversations. And one Our next guest is exactly that one of these incredible young Australians, who is respected as a bit of an emerging indigenous leader, Dr. Janine Muhammad is and no longer can a woman from South Australia, the CEO of the Lord Institute, or she's made an impressive contribution to health in her role in the short time that she's been there previous roles as chief executive of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives. But more broadly than that, across an distinguished career to Aboriginal community controlled health, he has Dr. Janine Muhammad to give observations of the report from the large steering Institute's leadership and legacy through crisis, keeping our mob safe. Your mo Dr. Janine over to you.
Dr Janine Mohamed 34:42	There we go. Thank you, Dan. And thank you for calling me young. I always love to be called that.
Dr Janine Mohamed 34:49	And thank you to my colleagues for your opening remarks. I think you've said it well done. Our speakers have already given us so much richness to think deeply about today and into the future. So I'd like to acknowledge them. And also all of our allies who are in line today as supporters. And of course Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander community members, brothers sisters joining us. We have over 3000 registrations today. And we feel very supported. And of course, this video will be shared after today's webinar. I also, of course, would like to acknowledge all of their land seas and waterways and skies, from where you're all joining us. I'm on nanawall and again, very country here in Canberra. And of course, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge our elders past, present and future emerging generations. As you've heard Hammond uranga gana woman and the CEO of the Lucha Institute Institute, Australia's only national and Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander community controlled Institute for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander health research. And we are so proud to have prepared the 2021 close the gap campaign report, of course, on behalf of the National close the gap steering committee, the report, as I hope you've read is entitled leadership and legacy through crisis, keeping our mob safe. As you'll hear, and read, it looks at the exceptional legacy and the leadership of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people in the face of multiple crises, the global pandemic that has killed more than 2.6 million people and cause profound suffering and loss around our globe, the Black Lives Matter movement, which has put an absolute spotlight globally

on their systemic racial and justices that way as Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people feel. And we've also seen the growing toll of the climate crisis, especially in Australia, where we are experiencing the ongoing Aftermath and the devastation of the 2019 2020 bushfires. So we believe our report is a wake up call to governments and that Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples have the solution to the health inequity gaps that we experienced, and it's well within our grasp. But if we were only allowed to lead, and there's no more, as you've already heard, a glowing example of our leadership, then our COVID-19 rights, where we're six times less likely to be infected than other Australians. That's something that all of Australia should be proud of. And like the lower cheek Institute, the close the gap campaign takes a strengths based approach to research policy and practice. And believe me, this is not a denial or an either side of the systemic racism, the short term funding cycles, the poor infrastructure or any other barriers faced by us as communities, we reject absolutely the deficit based policies and culturally unsafe systems that reduce Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people and communities to problems or statistics. I spoke earlier today about my, my journey in this world. It's always the narrative of the problem with Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples as opposed to the problems we face and the solutions and the resilience and the 60,000 plus years that we have cared for country. So we have the solutions to the big health challenges facing the world. Whether that's inequality pandemics, or the climate crisis, and our solutions are good for everyone, including non Aboriginal people, say after a year like no other the 2021 close the gap report showcases amazing success stories of the past year and many Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander organizations and their initiatives, and these include the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisory group on COVID-19. There are a number of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander community controlled health organizations like the Kimberley Aboriginal medical service, and the central Australian Aboriginal Congress, who's there in Alice Springs, women there and contango, who are on the New South Wales South Coast, as well as Bajau our name and Victoria seed mob and the Aboriginal carbon foundation working to address you know, the climate emergency and to protect our country. And in mental health we have the extraordinary work of the transforming indigenous mental health and well being research project led by our very own Professor Pat Dodson, along with go Dewey project and the alive and kicking goals youth suicide prevention program, also working in broom. So the report shines a light on the policy environment that day and so many other Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples communities and organizations work in the enablers and the barriers to work to, to our work in closing this gap. It's a snapshot of excellence and a blueprint for the future recognized Saying that we have many crisis stealing MS and many more that may emerge. The report shows the way forward with 15 very strong and clear recommendations for structural reform and strengths based, community driven approaches. And they include they include but are not limited to this place. The full implementation of the illusory statement from the heart, fully funding the close the gap national agreement, and learning the lessons of the year regarding the success that happens when Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples lead the way when we're in the driver's seat. And of course, one of the recommendations that's very close to my heart, raise the age of criminal responsibility nationally, and immediately. I strongly believe as many Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples do that 10 year olds should not be in detention. most developed countries around the world have a minimum age of 14, only Australia and England, remain her 10 year

	<p>olds, the development of the and delivery of a national anti racism strategy and so much more that I hope you'll read. So my overall message to all Australians, as we happily launch this report to you is that governments are not the solution. We are the solution to governments. I urge policymakers across the country to read this report and to hear our wake up call, we will only ever travel at the speed of trust. And in concluding I'd like to acknowledge and thank everyone who keeps the passion going to support the close the gap campaign, and who continue to hold events every year in support of us. We are 97% sorry, we are 3% of the population. We need our allies in the 97%, you know, to drive this campaign forward. I look forward to hearing from everyone on the panel and your discussion. Thank you wholeheartedly, for sharing your stories with the literature Institute. And your work, obviously, as highlighted in the report. Thank you, everyone.</p>
<p>Dan Bouchier 42:03</p>	<p>Dr. Janine, I think I speak for everyone when I say thank you. And thank you for the passion that you bring to this role and leadership. And the way of bringing people together, you spoke of leadership there, and of being put into the driver's seat, all of us being given that opportunity. Well, I think you're epitomize that, quote, Be the change you want to see in the world. And that is the point you make about this being a wake up call to government, it's very clear is going back to June earlier that the solutions are here, the leadership is here. It's just up to the politicians, the policymakers to open the pages and read and listen and learn and go from there. I also want to pick up on something you said about it all being within our grasp, if only we're given that chance to lead from a strength based approach, and not dismissing the very many deficits, the challenges that so many face on a daily basis. But saying that we're not going to just be led by that process when we learned from the other side of that and have these big conversations. And I think you summed it up perfectly. It's a snapshot for excellence, and a blueprint for the future, and perhaps even a roadmap of how to get into that future. So thank you so very much for all the work for this report and for the entire team that you've been leading in doing this. We're very, very grateful for your work. Now, Dr. Janine Muhammad, the the boss, the CEO of the Lordship Institute, and I would encourage you to read the report. If you haven't had a chance here it is going to be online at the lower Institute website. And you'll be able to get those details. I'll give it to those a little bit later. We've got a panel discussion now to look at unpacking some of the detail. And we've only got a short time so we're not going to get to it all. But this is just about having these conversations and as Dr. Janine mentioned there about continuing the conversation. The first step we've got Angel, our proud bachelor walk, Obara and South Sea Island a woman driven by protecting country and culture for future generations. The mom of two says protecting country for her future generations, her children, their children and beyond, is crucial. She's the organising director at seed Australia's first indigenous youth climate network, which you can see quite a bit of detail about them in the report. You're my Good afternoon, Angela Angel. Also Professor James waters at Peking Geron, now neringa man, a national leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research his Aloma distinguished career in public health and has been responsible for securing more than \$23 million since 2013. For Health Research. He's the director of the Porsche center for indigenous Health at the University of Queensland. Welcome to you. Tom Bryson is a Camilla Ryan gomeroi man, a respected leader in Health First Nations health and mental health is a member of a number of organizations</p>

	driving change in health across the nation, and he's the CEO of the Gaia dewy Australia. Hello to you and Kevin McKenzie is a Java Have an origin but minang and gaurang man, an advocate for mental health awareness, and an advocate for greater awareness and priority of helping to address mental health challenges and to having that greater understanding, particularly for First Nations people, Kevin, hello.
Guest Speaker 45:15	How are you going?
Dan Bourchier 45:16	Great to have you all on I want to start at first with leadership and legacy through crisis, the name of this report, after the 2020 that we've had. And the year that we've heard about First Nations mold around the country from Dr. Janine from June. And the minister, what's your view on where we're at? Right now? I want to start with you, Tom on that one. If you can hear you've just got your microphone switched to silent. We've got we've got you now, Tom.
Guest Speaker 45:59	Okay, great. post on the other host is not allowing me. So look, I think the legacy and, and particularly around areas of drama, and, you know, it's never been clearer than in the last 12 months. You know, the fallout from the bushfires, the fallout from the COVID. And the response, there was just simply amazing, in regards to the COVID pandemic, that was impacting on communities, and the actions that were taking, however, that, you know, still creates a whole lot of issues for people. And the other thing that sort of was really, really clear, for me was that communities are left, often to themselves, you know, after things like fires and that type of thing. And the investment in the future should be into communities. Because we need to actually build communities as opposed to relying on the fly in fly outs and and, you know, all those elements that just didn't serve very well for us through throughout you know, crises and, and, and certainly responding to particular issues that are taking place for people.
Dan Bourchier 47:32	Angela, what about for you What's the last year been like?
Guest Speaker 47:36	But for me, the last year has been absolutely crazy. I welcome my the birth of my second child as well as trying to navigate COVID and what that looks like with a baby already. I was living up in North Queensland and couldn't even buy formula for my son. So I was very, like, the landscape of the world has changed dramatically. And just trying to navigate that as a young mom, as well as working in the climate space is just being it's a lot, you know, especially when we work with rural and remote frontline communities, it's been very hard to navigate.
Dan Bourchier 48:13	We are going to unpack a little bit more detail about that space around climate and all of the issues that we've seen over the last year around that. Kevin, what about you the last 12 months leadership in crisis?
Guest Speaker 48:27	Yeah, it's been tough on my end, as well. I'm in the same boat as Angela, my wife had our second baby as well, last year. So just trying to navigate through all that has been pretty tough. You know, feedback from the community was with all the other issues that we face. The cope COVID-19 and the Kimberley brought on

	<p>feelings of being unsure and uncertainty, which added a lot more to what we're already facing. Like, with the issue of isolation. There's not much for the Kimberley people, even in remote communities, there's hardly anything out there for them to fall back on. And COVID just added to that. And there's a lot of fear issues around around that as well. People were pretty scared and just wanted to get away without Bush, adding to that isolation as well. So, you know, going forward, we really shine a light on the gaps we already have. But it showed that people were resilient and could adapt to the issues of COVID-19 and shows that it's been passed down from ancestors that we're gonna feel really proud of that as well.</p>
<p>Dan Bourchier 49:44</p>	<p>James, what do you think when you hear that about the shining a spotlight on the challenges and in some instances even exacerbating those, the this last year</p>
<p>Guest Speaker 49:55</p>	<p>It's definitely been a challenging year. But I want to put it into this spective there's no other country on the face of the planet that's done what Indigenous Australians have done, that is protected our nation. We've had no community transmission in a remote community, we've had no single death among an indigenous person from COVID. No other country on the planet has done. And that has only been achieved with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a special call after Nacho into the member services across this country have driven our response that has been exemplary favored by the overall Australian response. But I think what it has shown is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people when they're in the decision making see when they're at the table when they're in control, we can control our destiny. And I think it really, the COVID response really sets the foundation for us to move forward. Particularly timely, with the close the gap refresh for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander will be at the table that I'm very optimistic about our future. Now that we're at the table as we move forward with these ambitious set of targets.</p>
<p>Dan Bourchier 51:09</p>	<p>And I guess, to expand on the point that Kevin made there last year, not only had COVID-19, there was a bushfire smoke, a hailstorm here another will land that was so long ago at the start of last year, it's almost easy to forget. But there was also the Black Lives Matter movement prompted by the killing of George Floyd. And it's sort of powerful spotlight on issues here around over incarceration, the health and education divide interactions and issues with the judicial system. Just yesterday, we heard Senator Pat Dodson, speak out about how when horrible things happen to indigenous people, particularly Indigenous women, it doesn't cut through and doesn't prompt the outcry or the the action that we have seen in other areas. Angel, I wonder if you have a sense of what needs to be done to shift this to engage or to get the rest of the country interested in what's happening in our communities? Look,</p>
<p>Guest Speaker 52:05</p>	<p>I just think everyone sort of shine the light on it a little bit. It just comes from leadership within our communities, and really providing the space for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people from all over the country to have a voice and to be a part of the decision making process. But also, I guess, create space in things like mainstream media, to tell our stories, you know, too often we are. We're silenced. And it's not fair. And I think, you know, it's not really a lot of I don't really have a lot of knowledge in that area. But I definitely see a lot of gaps where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and leadership can feel. And</p>

	you know, we have we have the knowledge and we have the skills and we just need a seat at the table. And it's long overdue.
Dan Bouchier 52:53	James, what do you make of that?
Guest Speaker 52:56	Look, I think please choose a slow burn issues, I think we need to maintain the momentum, we need to maintain the pressure, it needs to be done at all different levels and all different angles in the country, a great majority of Australians are with us, it's really in the people in the parliaments and in the corridors of Parliament. So really need to step up, listen to the voices of the majority of Australians that want change. And I think we will get there. But I think we need to maintain the pressure. Black Lives Matters in the middle of a pandemic, someone that was really critical to the response in Australia, really frightened that so but it was really Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people exercising their sovereign rights to be able to protest against a intractable issue that has been going on forever and ever. And I really think we just need to maintain the pressure, maintain the momentum, support the other groups who are struggling for a voice right now, including women across this country, including our own, especially our own.
Dan Bouchier 54:02	Tom off the back of that, and looking at this, through the prism of mental health, what sort of impact Have you been seeing around as a result of the Black Lives Matter, but also COVID-19, and the impact that's having on mental health?
Guest Speaker 54:17	Look, I think the enormous impact really, in terms of, you know, individuals and families and communities, you know, the, the isolation that people feel, through lockdown the isolation, you know, in terms of connecting with family, the isolation that tends to be applied, because the only thing that we're looking at is the, you know, the square boxes and the social media space, and those sorts of things. So the impact is very, very real, it's very present. And the messaging that's been pushed out there has been very sad. In terms of trying to, you know, connect people, to services connect people to different other elements, and that type of thing. I guess the the other part too many more much of that is, you know, areas of obviously racism, the areas of rage, the areas are in just recently those years, there's been three deaths in custody, as well, you know, you know, at what point of time does it stop? You know, the Royal Commission was 1991. And we're still
Dan Bouchier 55:36	30 years next month, next month?
Guest Speaker 55:39	Yeah, still talking about the things that are basic things like basic training for prison guards, or basic training for police officers and that type of thing. Surely, we've moved beyond that. But unfortunately, we haven't. So I guess it's really about maintaining the rage, maintaining the you know, all the efforts that people are putting in, and one day, people might move with us.
Dan Bouchier 56:07	Kevin, do you want to add to that as well?

Guest Speaker 56:10	Yeah. Yeah, I think it was just a hugely said, yet powerful issue that we all faced with black lives matter.
Guest Speaker 56:19	It brings up a lot of underlying issues, I think, for indigenous people, going back to racism, how people were treated, and just a whole history of indigenous people, I think, a way forward maybe, to focus a bit around the awareness and education of our history, you know, getting a full scope of where we've come from, and where we can, how we can move forward.
Dan Bouchier 56:46	I Angel, the work that you have been doing with seed mob is featured in the report for anyone who hasn't had a look through that or wants to hear from you, can you give us a sense of what you've been doing on climate change what seed moms all about, and why it's important now more than ever.
Guest Speaker 57:05	So, seed was launched back in 2014, as Australia's first indigenous youth climate network, and we were really born out of the, I guess, the lack of representation of Aboriginal title Islander people in the green environment space within Australia. And since our launch back in 2014, we've grown to a strong network of 300 volunteers in our grassroots movement and a small staff team. And we've created relationships, both with our brothers and sisters here in Australia, but overseas as well. And our current campaign at the moment is to stand in solidarity and help support frontline communities in rural and remote Northern Territory to stop fracking on their country. And I think, you know, talking about leadership from Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people what better way to support rural and remote communities and to help elevate their voice and let them have a say on what happens on their country? Because we know at the end of the day, if our country is ill, and so are we we are so we're so connected to our country. And you know, talking about recent bushfires, the impacts that that could have or has had on mob not being able to connect back to country. And, you know, climate change is just an issue that really trickles down and affects a lot of other elements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples lives. And I, I just am so passionate about it. I'm lost for words at time. But you know, just providing that platform and really supporting those frontline communities to have a say in what happens on their country and how that impacts their culture for future generations.
Dan Bouchier 58:47	We can hear the passion, and we can see that in the report as well. And I guess, you know, to play devil's advocate a little bit I wonder what all Australians can learn from the work that you're doing from the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander the solutions on the ground to these really vexing global challenges around climate change.
Guest Speaker 59:06	Yeah, I strongly believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the solutions to climate change. We've been living sustainably off this land for 10s of 1000s of years, and we have what it takes to provide safe and healthy ecosystems and to nourish our land and give back and only take what we need. And I just, you know, again, it just is the issue that we just don't have a seat at the table. And we're not in the driver's seat at the moment. And there's people that are filling these leadership roles that shouldn't be speaking on behalf of our people. And we just, it's time to move forward like it's 2021 Let's get the right

	people in the decision making, like roles within Australia and we have the knowledge we just need someone to give us a space to really tell the story and to just, you know, it's in our drain time. It's in our song line. We have The answer is we just need space. And it's now we need it now.
Dan Bouchier 1:00:04	Yeah, it does feel like this is that moment of change, doesn't it? I wanted that ties in with what Dr. Janine said, it's within our grasp. If only we would give, we're allowed to leave and sort of like people get out of the way and listen to the voices coming from a country. And look, I just because I just want to stick with this for half a second. I wonder if you get a sense that Australians more broadly, are waking up to climate change in the effect of it right here in Australia, particularly as a result of what we saw the bushfires the smoke the hail last year?
Guest Speaker 1:00:35	For sure. I definitely think like the conversation around climate change has become a lot easier to navigate and a lot easier to even talk about than it was in previous years. Like even trying to talk about it back when I was at high school, it's very hard. And the narrative has really shifted from this stereotypical polar ice caps and the polar bears and save the polar bears, you know, that stereotypical ideology of climate change to it's actually a people problem. And Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people in Australia and our First Nations people around the world are contribute less to climate change. But we are the first people globally to feel the impacts when it comes to the effect that it has on culture and country with severe weather events such as flooding, and bushfires, and things like that, you know, our culture is so entrenched in enrich with our country, and we know what it's like if a certain tree doesn't blossom at a certain time, then that affects our sunlight and drain time to then tell us when a fish is running in the river. So we're so connected to country and when it's changed and impacted by the severe weather events, it's, it's detrimental to our culture.
Dan Bouchier 1:01:45	I want to pick up on something angels said there, James, how important is it to have Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people in the driving seat, the climate change that we've just heard about, or broader conversations around primary health care community controlled health, mental health?
Guest Speaker 1:02:01	Absolutely. Look at together Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander knowledges and, and Western science, I reckon, can inform climate change mitigation strategies and and adaptation strategies. While I acknowledge that health and environment are two very different silos, we can join up those silos, the better off we'll be in improving health outcomes because climate change directly impacts health status, whether it be diet or habitat, or re growth, regeneration, sustainability, they directly impact health outcomes. And so they're two very different silos, the quicker we can join up those silos, the better off we'll be. And one very different big difference, I think, is that we are government and the and the reason why we're in the situation we are with COVID, right now in Australia is because of government listen to science, we need to listen to the science and we need to listen to indigenous knowledge is also a science in its own right, about the way we move forward with climate change.
Dan Bouchier	And, Tom, by extension of that, I guess, how do you say that as a cultural change

1:03:06	aspect of better embedding, empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes science outcomes and alike.
Guest Speaker 1:03:19	One of the things that gauge very proud spirit Australia is as taken is its name from the gauge, very proud spirit declaration. And what that is, is a declaration international declaration around indigenous mental health and suicide prevention and social emotional well being. And what the essence of that is, is the best of this and the best of that, to the best of cultural wellness, and the best of clinical intervention, for example. So the best of both worlds is really about the approach that gay juries talking about. Now, gay juries are made up of, you know, seven board members from a collective group of people. So we've got indigenous doctors, we've got the indigenous psychologists, indigenous allied health, the leadership and Mental Health Group, Nacho on our board, as well as the Center for best practice and, and the postvention service. And our chairperson is in fact, the first doctor that would was mentioned by minister Wyatt earlier. But the essence of what we are about is the best of this and the best of that. So looking at the way in which we are doing things in terms of in communities in regards to social emotional well being and mental health or suicide prevention and really sort of bringing collective voice through that discussion. Now, the difficulty with this whole space is that it's only been since really sort of 2017, where, you know, it's been on that national agenda as a national priority, despite the enormous efforts for, you know, 20 or 30 years or more in regards to people trying to get mental health and suicide prevention. And had we actually done what we should have done in the first place 20 or 30, or 40 years ago, we wouldn't be in this position. So this is where we're sort of really sort of trying to say, well, we're slow off the mark, we need to do some more work. And we need to do it in a real concerted effort that is long term and sustainable.
Dan Bouchier 1:05:51	Kevin, does it feel like this is there's a bit of a sense of a moment of change?
Guest Speaker 1:06:00	Yes, I'd say so. I think everything's pointing towards the us moving forward. And I agree with what Tom said, you know, it needs to be a collective voice. And we need to drive it. And it needs to happen pretty quickly.
Dan Bouchier 1:06:16	Yeah. And I think that perfectly, heads us towards the end. I'm conscious, we've gone over time. And but I've got one more question that I think is pretty pertinent to where to from here. Angel, I want to start with you. And I open up to the whole panel, but but we're having big conversations about climate change about close the gap about those targets around that how Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people are seen, respected, valued in Australia. What do you think are the next steps from here?
Guest Speaker 1:06:46	I think, definitely, self black self determined communities and allowing communities around the country have have a say in what happens on my country and really take ownership. And, it's just, there, I do feel like there's this shift of change. And I feel like we're driving it as Aboriginal tarsha. All in the latest across the country, we really are. But yeah, I definitely, I just am so strongly believe that communities should be able to have a say on what does

	and doesn't happen on their culture outside on their country, because it affects their communities. And no one at the top can really, you know, have an opinion on what happens in the community better than people that live in my community. Right. So yeah.
Dan Bouchier 1:07:34	Kevin, what about you where to from here?
Guest Speaker 1:07:37	Yeah, I think of voice as well. But also a youth voice used to discussable that the youth are our future leaders bring and build their capacity now. They can carry on what we're trying to do at the moment. So youth voice for me,
Dan Bouchier 1:07:58	And Thomas?
Guest Speaker 1:08:00	Because I think, you know, there's many, many things that sort of, and this report sort of highlights a whole lot of them. And if they were enacted, if the national agreement was enacted, you would see reductions in an improvements in health, right across the board. So I think, you know, the whole space around optimism, momentum, sustainability, are really, really key moving forward, and look at the fantastic leadership that's, you know, sort of contributed to this whole space in terms of, you know, not just looking at, you know, what's happening in communities, but looking at, you know, that whole sort of connection across all of that. And I think we're in a much better space, but we've got a huge, huge journey in front of us.
Dan Bouchier 1:08:56	And, James, that the final word to you on where to from here.
Guest Speaker 1:09:01	Okay, I think we need to be very careful about setting the right targets, I think we shouldn't limit ourselves to reaching equality with the non indigenous population, I think we should set our own targets and we shouldn't be afraid of that. The second thing I think we should do is think carefully about the interventions that programs and policies that will get us to those targets. And particularly, I think, the right potency, the right dose, the right time, the right population, I think we need to think very carefully about the interventions that will get us to reaching our targets. And finally, centering indigenous peoples knowledges and values and wisdom, the decision making table will get us there. And finally, a very rigorous evaluation processes we go throughout this next phase of close the gap refresh will get us there.
Dan Bouchier 1:09:55	It's a pretty comprehensive and thorough way of looking at it. Thank you. So much and thank you all of the panel Angel loan organizer and director at seed, Australia's first indigenous youth climate network. wonderful to have you here Professor James Ward, Director of our Center for indigenous Health at the University of Queensland. Thank you. Tom Branson, CEO of Gaia dewy Australia. wonderful to have you alone. And Kevin McKenzie, a mental health advocate. Great to hear from you today. And so do appreciate all of the insights for all of the panel and talking to a big range of issues and touching on quite a bit. There. As I mentioned, we have slightly gone over a little bit to go. Today's webinar wouldn't be possible without the Australia Institute. The Australian Institute is

	<p>hosting today's webinar and supportive close the gap campaign and have generously partnered with to close the gap campaign, the steering committee to get this webinar out there right across the nation into ensure this whole conversation could be had with you wherever you are in our nation. The Australia Institute is one of the country's most influential public policy think tanks, and conducts a high impact research that combines rigorous fact driven material with cutting edge communication strategies, driven by the goal to provide intellectual and policy leadership to conduct research that drives the public debate and secures policy outcomes that make Australia better. And there's plenty of webinars and other discussions and information on their website Australia institute.org.au, also on their social media and YouTube platforms. And this in fact, this conversation will be up on YouTube and a link in the website as well. evany Bennett's the deputy director of the Australia Institute and after working in federal politics for more than a decade, has seen quite a bit of those big conversations firsthand is then it is published research on climate change gender street harassment, and now hosts the economics of a pandemic webinar series and the follow the money podcast to give you a sense of why the Australian Institute was involved. Is there any better?</p>
<p>Ebony Bennett 1:11:51</p>	<p>Thanks, Dan, and thanks to everyone on the panel. It's been such an amazing discussion today like Dan, and Janine, I think I'm coming to you from nanowall country here at the Australia Institute office. And I just want to congratulate the literature Institute on writing such a compelling report for close the gap. It's been absolutely terrific. Working with close the gap. A lot of the Australia Institute's research as a think tank focuses on reducing inequality. And I think the gap that remains between indigenous and non Indigenous Australians, whether it's health, income education, over incarceration, it really is a continuing national travesty, because it's a choice. Australia is one of the richest countries on earth, and we can afford to do basically anything we want, but not everything we want. And I think time and again, we've seen federal government's, you know, happy to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on income tax cuts or submarines that will never, probably never use. But time and again, the tried and tested programs and organizations that are led by Aboriginal people really struggle to attract, you know, that secure long term funding and support. And so it's been so encouraging to read about the new national agreement changing that dynamic. It's the report just makes so clear that when solutions are led by Aboriginal people they work, I was actually on the board of a YCC when seed first began, and it's so fantastic to see what Angel and the team at seed are achieving when it comes to combating climate change. But in particular, the the stunning success of the Aboriginal led community controlled health organizations that have really kept their community safe and healthy during the pandemic, when so many other First Nations communities have really been devastated around the world. It's just such a testament to the amazing work of those communities and the health care workers who served them. So in a global crisis, it's just become so clear that Aboriginal people here and Torres Strait Islanders really stepped up. And the response from the oldest continuing culture on Earth was really world leading better than even the Australian Government managed to achieve. So when close the gap first approached the Australia Institute to host this webinar, we were so honored and delighted. In the past few obviously with the pandemic we can't have in person events anymore. But through our webinars, we have been in touch with 10s of 1000s of Australia Institute</p>

	<p>supporters, who've attended our webinars and really build a lovely community who's heard from mobile Prize winners and Peace Prize winners, former presidents and prime minister's artists, activists, academics, and some of our most popular webinars from last year were on trading and sovereignty as part of the national trading summit, and on the stunning success, as I said, of those Aboriginal led health responses in the community controlled organizations, and we spoke to a couple of frontline workers and health academics. And it was just so clear that people are really hungry for that kind of knowledge. And we're just so delighted to be able to share this plan. form and get the information that's coming out of the close the gap report today and hear from all the panelists and share that with the 1000s of people who've been coming to our webinars, we always try and make sure we're giving free access to the best thinkers and doers and the people who are really changing Australia for the better. And I can think of no more important cause for the Institute to help amplify and help more people to access than the close the gap campaign. We had more than 4000 people register for today, they'll all end up getting this recording. If they couldn't join us today. I think we've had more than 2100 people on the line today. I want to thank everyone involved in close the gap everyone who's been on with panel today. And thank you everyone for tuning in today to hear this on behalf of the bank out of the Australia Institute. Thank you to everyone. And Thanks Dan for hosting</p>
<p>Dan Bouchier 1:15:56</p>	<p>My pleasure. And thanks for those kind words and for the the way that you guys have brought this together and opened up this whole discussion to is such a big audience right around the nation. I'm seeing the comments popping up and people mentioning the country that they're on and it's wonderful to see that I'm really really thrilled. To round this out. We began by hearing from one of the CO chairs, Juno sky, and so we're coming full circle at the end of this discussion today. Gao Briscoe is a proud kuku yalanji man has been advocating indigenous health for many, many years. He's the chief executive officer of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners, the peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and also practitioners. Kyle Briscoe is also the co chair of the close the gap campaign and he's here to provide some closing remarks. You're not welcome.</p>
<p>Karl Briscoe 1:16:57</p>	<p>Okay, thank you then. Yellow the young guy go Bobo jalama blueberry Yellin g Bama may go, Woody Joba? Hello everyone, as Dan said from the mosman dietary area of Far North Queensland. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional lands where everyone is zooming in from today. I'm wondering not the land of the nanowall people. I'd also like to recognize a lot of beautiful landscapes that make up this country. And to my many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters that are online today. So we've just heard an overview of the 12th annual close the gap campaign report produced by the low budget Institute, which showcases the resilience, strengths and leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples communities and organizations. I urge you all to have a read. More significantly, the report reinforces how effective and critical self determination is in improving the health and well being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It highlights that achieving positive lasting change requires a formula that is too simple to ignore, value our culture, engage our leadership, share the power, and let us leave decisions</p>

	<p>about matters that affect us. Again, the report includes key recommendations for governments to act upon. Over the years most of these have been discounted or quickly forgotten. Yet, this does not lessen our resolve or diminish our efforts. We remain steadfast and resolute in recommending the same approach. We know what works, we will not fail. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the solutions to health inequality in their grass. Governments must listen to us, involve us invest in us and change the way they work with us. Although the signing of the new national agreement on closing the gap is a positive development. It's concrete conjured congruent with Sorry, it's congruent with the witch's report that draws attention to the needs for structural reform and to eliminate racism and embed cultural safety across our institutions. These actions must be prioritized the harmful and enduring impacts of racism on our health and well being should not be underestimated. Wait again, we stand together and call for a map for national action. We cannot wait any longer. It is time for many to take ownership for the role they play, the injury they cause and the discord they perpetuate. Going forward. Everybody must understand that equality and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will only be delivered when and governments choose to act in accordance with policies and principles and approaches they formally endorse. We will take responsibility for reiterating the same messages year after year. We are not responsible for the inaction were in congruence or bad governments, or our political class. In contrast, we stand proud of our actions, achievements and the strength and resilience of our culture. This year's report demonstrates, there is so much more to learn from our leadership.</p>
<p>Karl Briscoe 1:21:18</p>	<p>I would like to acknowledge our current and previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice commissioners and adjourn Oscar, Uncle mequoda. And our first Commissioner Uncle Tom Kalma for their leadership and contribution in the in improving the health and well being for our people. Closing the Gap is very much a people's movement, which occurs 365 days of the year. Finally, as a campaign current co chair, I do want to pay special acknowledgement to my other co chair Annie, June Oscar, and to our panelist, Angela arwen, Tom Bryson and Professor James Ward, and Kevin McKenzie, also the Lucha institutes chain on ypad Anderson, the CEO Ginni Mohamad and her staff for producing this year's report and assisting in our comms campaign, indigenous leadership group that we have, and a lot of steering committee members, and the water Australia, Australian public, including Ebony Bennett, from the Australian Institute, and members for their ongoing support and commitment to equality, Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. And, of course, to you, Dan boresha, for facilitating today's webinar. Thank you very much, Gemini.</p>
<p>Dan Bourchier 1:22:49</p>	<p>Thank you. And such powerful words there. It struck me we pointed out there about the positive lasting change the formula for it actually being quite simple, really share engaged leadership, value culture share power. And let us lead decision making and discussions that affect us It seems pretty straightforward, but it actually ends up being that the toughest thing, isn't it about getting all of those lined up. And I couldn't agree more that we can't wait any longer. And this report really puts truth to that about explaining the circumstances the situation right now. And as you've heard today, from this incredible panel, where to from here, some of the ways to navigate the road ahead. So thank you for that Cal</p>

	<p>Briscoe, co chair of this group and of this process, along with Annie, June, in getting everyone together and finding a way through working, of course with the Lord Institute to write this report. This recording will continue to live on the Australia Institute YouTube page and the Australia Institute website. So keep checking both and I understand will also be sent out to the email address with which you signed up for the leadership and legacy through crisis keeping our mob safe report, visit the launch Institute website@launcher.org.au. Thank you so much for joining us and for staying for this conversation. It's been really wonderful to have you're part of this big discussion, looking to the past but also thinking so much about the future for me, Dan boresha Oh, yeah. Thank you.</p>
<p>Ebony Bennett 1:24:24</p>	<p>Thanks, everyone.</p>