

Media Release

For immediate release

Monday 18 February 2019

Local Healthcare Providers Join Together to Strive for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Equality at Closing the Gap Day

On Wednesday 27th March 2019, Sonder is hosting its annual Closing the Gap Day celebrations at the Adelaide Showground.

The free event is co-funded by the Adelaide Primary Health Network and event partners, Nunkuwarrin Yunti and SA Health's Watto Purranna. The event is co-designed by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people as a celebration of Aboriginal culture and health promotion. The event brings together community members, ambassadors, entertainment and an array of healthcare providers to promote Aboriginal health equality.

Event goers can receive free general health checks from the University of South Australia's Health Check Bus and Watto Purranna. Local healthcare providers, including Diabetes SA, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network and Asthma Australia will also host interactive stalls and provide attendees with information on the range of programs available to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to prevent and manage chronic conditions.

"Sonder is proud of its association with the Closing the Gap program and we see this event as a vital step to increase the awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait people's health needs. This celebration is one way to bring the community together, to have fun and talk about what needs to be done to make people well." said Sageran Naidoo, CEO.

The event won't be short of entertainment, with AFL superstar, Michael O'Loughlin as MC, music from The Merrig and Vonda Last, comedian Joshua Warrior and dance squad Dusty Feet Mob as well as many fun activities for children including a petting zoo, jumping castle, bumper cars and specky inflatable football games.

sonder.net.au • info@sonder.net.au

PO Box 421, Elizabeth SA 5112

T (08) 8209 0700 F (08) 8252 9433

Health Gap

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can expect to live up to 10-17 years less than non-Aboriginal Australians. The health gap exists largely as a result of decades of government inaction and a continuing lack of appropriate medical services. The Australian Government's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 identifies actions to address challenges in the current system and improve the patient journey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Integrated Team Care (Closing the Gap) Program

Sonder is funded by the Adelaide Primary Health Network to deliver the Integrated Team Care (Closing the Gap) program in metropolitan Adelaide and the Country SA Primary Health Network in Gawler/Barossa, Yorke and Mid North SA. The program is delivered by a team of Aboriginal Outreach Workers and Care Coordinators who work together to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access primary health care as required, provide care coordination services for people with chronic conditions who require multidisciplinary care, and improve access to culturally appropriate mainstream primary care.

This year's Closing the Gap Day will be held from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Goyder Pavilion at the Adelaide Showground.

To find out more and register online, visit www.closingthegapday.net

If you require transport assistance to reach the event, contact Sonder on (08) 8209 0700 or email info@closingthegapday.net

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About Sonder

Sonder delivers a range of integrated community health services across metropolitan Adelaide, including mental health counselling and the Aboriginal Health program, Integrated Team Care, Closing the Gap.

Sonder is proud to have been selected by the Adelaide Primary Health Network as the preferred provider to deliver mental health services in the northern and central western suburbs. This is in addition to services delivered by Sonder in the Country SA Primary Health Network region; the Gawler-Barossa corridor.

As a result, Sonder is one of the leading and largest providers of high quality, mental health services available to the community. Over the past 25 years, we have earned a solid reputation for the provision of high quality, evidence-based clinical psychological therapy services that are relevant to the complex needs of the local community. We deliver clinical services across the age range and complexity of mental health concerns.

Additionally, Sonder delivers a range of integrated community health services, including health projects and the Aboriginal health program, Closing the Gap.

Sonder delivers programs across metropolitan Adelaide and country SA, with offices located in Edinburgh North, Port Adelaide, Onkaparinga and Nuriootpa.

Media Enquiries

Please call (08) 8209 0700 or email comms@northernhealth.net

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