New Closing the gap targets announced at the Garma Festival in Arnhem Land

Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin outlined three new Closing the gap targets to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage in a speech at the Garma Festival in East Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

The targets include a focus on higher education, reducing rates of offending and ensuring access to Disability Care.

'The new incarceration target will help to focus national effort to address high rates of offending and victimisation in Indigenous communities,' Minister Macklin said.

The Coalition has already signalled support for including reducing prison rates in the targets following calls from Congress, the Law Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commissioner, Mick Gooda.

Congress has also called on all political parties to commit to fully support the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and continued support for the achievements made so far through the Closing the gap initiatives.

Another target would be for 90% of eligible Indigenous Australians to be receiving funded support from DisabilityCare Australia by 2020. A target for increased Indigenous participation in higher education would also be developed.

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott also unveiled plans at the Garma festival. He committed to establishing an Indigenous advisory council to help tackle disadvantage in Aboriginal communities. The council would be chaired by former Labor Party president Warren Mundine.

For more information on Labor's recently released Indigenous policies, please see the links below.


Links

- View publication: Congress’ expectations of Australia’s political leadership
- View news item: Abbott unveils plans for Indigenous advisory council
- View news item: At-a-glance: Labor's Indigenous policies
- View news item: Both parties to tackle high prison rates
- View news item: Housing company scheme aims to close gap further