

My Life My Lead - Opportunities for strengthening approaches to the social determinants and the cultural determinants of Indigenous health: Report on the national consultations December 2017



PRIORITY AREA 3

Foundations for a healthy life



“Social and environmental influences in early childhood shape health and wellbeing outcomes across the life course.”

(Online submission, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress)

The gap in child mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has reduced by¹



However, the mortality rate for children 0-4 years of age remains **more than twice the rate of non-Indigenous children** in the same age range.¹



There are strong links between participation in early childhood education and academic success.²



In 2015, 87% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia were enrolled in early childhood education in the year before full-time school.²

NEXT STEPS

An early years approach supports strong foundations and underpins better health and social outcomes across the life course by:

- Focussing on mothers, fathers, partners and the broader family before, during and after pregnancy; and
- Enhancing efforts to enshrine respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages across early learning settings.

¹ Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2017 Report, AHMAC, Canberra

² Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, 2017, Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2017