

handed up by Mr Emerson  
3:54pm 9/10/25



**WFPHA**

World Federation  
of Public Health  
Associations

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## **Re: Support “in principle” for Closing the Gap Legislation**

3 August 2025

Tēnā koe Mr Emerson,

I am writing to offer support “in principle” for legislation that I understand you will be introducing and sponsoring through the ACT Legislative Assembly. At this stage I have not had an opportunity to read your specific legislation. However, efforts across Australia to “close the gap” between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have not proved as fruitful over the last couple of decades as Indigenous leaders in Australia had hoped.

As an Indigenous (Māori) woman in the privileged position of being leader of the World Federation of Public Health Associations I have a unique understanding of Indigenous disadvantage internationally. I am happy to support efforts to diminish (and hopefully one day to remove) the impact of colonisation on Indigenous Peoples across the world.

Australia is not unique in having people of good will working to close the gap. The ACT is not unique across Australia. However, each step that is taken in one place has an impact on Indigenous welfare across a country, across regions and internationally.

It is for these reasons that I am happy to offer “in principle” support for increasing pressure on governments by the use of legislation in order to make a difference to people who have suffered the impacts of colonisation for too long.

Your legislation and your efforts have my support and that of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

Nāku iti noa, nā

**Ms Emma Rawson Te-Patu**

President World Federation of Public Health Associations