

External assessment 2022

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Stimulus book

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

## General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

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## **Source 1**

**Excerpt from an article by June Oscar, a proud Bunuba woman and the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission**

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## Source 2

**Artwork *Emeret Nar*, 2017, with accompanying explanation, from the Australian National Maritime Museum. This artwork is in the form of a traditional Erub double outrigger canoe and was created using 'ghost nets' by artists from Erub Erwer Meta (Erub Arts) on Erub (Darnley Island) in the Torres Strait.**

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## Significance (excerpts)

'Ghost nets' is a term for fragments, lengths or sections of fishing nets or rigging lines abandoned by or dumped from fishing vessels in the seas around Torres Strait and Cape York. The nets can be found floating or washed up on local beaches. They are a destructive hazard to sea life.

...

Artists' statement: 'The Canoe glides silently through the water navigated by the stars and the seasonal winds and tides. With its translucent ghost net it invites a discussion around culture in times of change; all life is fragile and changing, preserving life and customs is an important part of Erub Island beliefs.' The stars of the Tagai constellation in the Milky Way that decorate the canoe's hull are ... critical to Torres Strait Islander culture, dictating seasons for mating, hunting and gardening. The constellation remains an important guide to daily life, especially for navigation and fishing.

### **Source 3**

#### **Quote from artist and Erub elder, Florence Mabel Gutchen, 2014**

Redacted quote is from artist and Erub elder, Florence Mabel Gutchen, 2014, beginning at 'We are concerned about the ghost net ...'

### **Source 4**

#### **Quote from artist and Erub man, Joshua Thaiday, 2014**

Redacted quotes from artist and Erub man, Joshua Thaiday, 2014, beginning with: 'I want [people] to have an understanding of all the cultural objects ... ' and 'If I don't have my culture and the stories ...'

## **Source 5**

**Excerpt from an article by Oliver Costello, CEO of Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation, a network that aims to re-invigorate the use of cultural burning. Costello is a Bundjalung man from the northern rivers of New South Wales**

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## **Source 6**

**Excerpt from a Q&A with Oliver Costello, Bundjalung man and CEO of Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation**

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## **Source 7**

**Excerpt from an article by Madeline Austin, a Wiradjuri woman**

**The Royal Australian Mint launched a new circulating coin on 30 March 2021 to commemorate Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have served in the military.**

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## Source 8

### Image of a coin released by the Royal Australian Mint

A black handprint represents Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples on a background of three rings of dots in the colours of the Defence Force's tri-service flag. The outer ring is dark blue dots representing the Royal Australian Navy; the middle is red dots representing the Australian Army; and the inner ring is light blue dots representing the Royal Australian Air Force.



## Source 9

### Excerpt from an article by Ella Archibald-Binge, a Kamilaroi woman

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## Source 10

### Table showing Federal Government progress towards Closing the Gap targets

The information in this table was published in 2019. It uses the seven Closing the Gap targets from the National Indigenous Reform (Closing the Gap) Agreement (2008). It indicates the progress of each of the targets.

Not on track	<b>Child mortality</b>	Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade by 2018.
On track	<b>Early education</b>	95% of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025.
Not on track	<b>School attendance</b>	Close the gap in school attendance within five years by 2018.
Not on track	<b>Life expectancy</b>	Close the gap in life expectancy within a generation by 2031.
On track	<b>Year 12 attainment</b>	Halve the gap in Year 12 attainment or equivalent by 2020.
Not on track	<b>Reading and numeracy</b>	Halve the gap in reading and numeracy for Indigenous students by 2018.
Not on track	<b>Employment</b>	Halve the gap in employment by 2018.

## Source 11

### Excerpt from an opinion editorial, July 2020

**This editorial was written by Pat Turner, the daughter of an Arrente man and a Gurdanji woman. She is the CEO of National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, the convenor of the Coalition of Peaks, and Co-Chair of the Joint Council on Closing the Gap**

Our country is tarnished by inexcusable gaps in life outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians including in mortality, chronic disease, housing security, education, employment, and wealth. These gaps have plagued Australia for too long and burdened First Nations people for generations.

...

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap, which we announced on Thursday [30 July 2020] with the Prime Minister and Minister for Indigenous Australians, is a commitment to a new way of working between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the nation's federal, state and territory governments — one that is based on shared decision making.

The voices, experiences and expertise of First Nations people will be front and centre in the design and delivery of government services and programs that affect us. It will involve negotiation and shared decision-making between governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This is an historic achievement. It is the first time that an intergovernmental national agreement to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has been developed and negotiated between governments and our representatives.

## Source 12

### Excerpt from the Preamble to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (2020)

3. Improvements to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people occurred under the Council of Australian Governments' (COAG) National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA), known as Closing the Gap, starting in 2008. But more needs to be done, and done differently.  
...
5. This Agreement builds on, and replaces, the NIRA. It continues the successful elements of the NIRA, strengthens others and addresses foundational areas previously excluded from consideration. The most significant of those was that NIRA was only an Agreement between Australian governments whereas in this Agreement, for the first time, representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are also parties.
6. This Agreement also stems from the belief that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of services that affect them, better life outcomes are achieved. It recognises that structural change in the way Governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is needed to close the gap.
7. In response, all Australian Governments are now sharing decision-making with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented by their community-controlled peak organisations on Closing the Gap, the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peak Organisations (Coalition of Peaks). This is an unprecedented shift in the way governments work, by encompassing shared decision-making on the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.  
...
9. The views and expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including Elders, Traditional Owners and Native Title holders, communities and organisations will continue to provide central guidance to the Coalition of Peaks and Australian Governments throughout the life of this Agreement.

# References

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## Source 2

Emeret Nar — ghost net outrigger canoe 2017, Erub Erwer Meta Arts Centre, Information on significance and artists statement available at Australian National Maritime Museum, <https://collections.sea.museum/objects/202650/emeret-nar--ghost-net-outrigger-canoe>.

## Source 3 and Source 4

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## Source 10

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, *Closing the Gap Report 2019*, [www.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/reports/closing-the-gap-2019/sites/default/files/ctg-report-20193872.pdf](http://www.niaa.gov.au/sites/default/files/reports/closing-the-gap-2019/sites/default/files/ctg-report-20193872.pdf), Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0)(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)

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## Source 12

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