

Submission for Human Rights Council Expert Mechanism “on the right to health and indigenous peoples with a focus on children and youth”.

International Presentation Association is a Non Governmental Organisation accredited with United Nation’s Department of Public Information since 1997 and Economic and Social Council since 2000. We work in 23 countries with special focus on Indigenous peoples, Human Rights, Women and Children and Sustainable development. This paper expresses our concerns regarding the health of Indigenous youth and people in Australia and some recommendations.

There are more than 370 million Indigenous People living in 90 countries around the world today and making up roughly 5% of the global population. Their contribution to the global community is invaluable as they are custodians of some of the world’s most biologically diverse territories; are responsible for much of the world’s cultural and linguistic diversity and their traditional knowledge is an invaluable resource in medicine and agriculture.

Despite this invaluable contribution to the world Indigenous People’s marginalisation and disadvantage is clearly evident. They make up to 15% of the world’s poor, and over one third of the world’s 900 million extremely poor rural population.

Justice for Indigenous Peoples will only be achieved by developing relationships with, deepening respect towards, and increasing opportunities for Indigenous communities worldwide. It is crucial that good intentions, whether at a governmental, organisational, community or individual level, are measurable actions supporting Indigenous Peoples to achieve equality in all aspects of life.

Within **Australia** Indigenous Australians make up 3% of the population but are 26% of the prison population. They are the most disadvantaged group in the country. The Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull delivered his “**Close the Gap**” report to the Federal Parliament on 10th February 2016. In it he stated

“The life expectancy gap is still around 10 years, an unacceptably wide gap: this target is not on track.”

Mr Turnbull said that the results of the campaign were mixed with some gains, such as the decline in Indigenous child death rates between 1998 and 2014 by 33%. In contrast the rate of Indigenous employment had fallen from 53.8% in 2008 to 47.5% in 2012-2013. At present Indigenous Australians die about 10 years earlier than non-Indigenous Australians. Although Indigenous mortality rates have declined by 16% since 1998, it is not fast enough to meet the 2030 goal.

Regarding **child mortality** although Indigenous child deaths declined by 33% since 1998 the decline between 2008 and 2014 is not statistically significant - casting doubt on whether progress has continued in the past eight years. Between 2010 and 2014, 611 Indigenous children under five died. There remains an unacceptable disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous infant mortality rates.

The goal of the government regarding **early education** was to have 95% of all Indigenous four-year-olds enrolled in early childhood education by 2025 and to ensure all Indigenous