



# Enhancing the News

---

May 2007

## The Great Health Divide

A new World Health Organisation report suggests there is a worrying gap between the well being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The report states the health of Aborigines as a century behind other Australians, as published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

According to the report, some Aboriginal communities still suffer from leprosy, rheumatic heart disease and tuberculosis, problems that have not been experienced by white populations for decades.

This follows the recent release of a paper from Oxfam Australia, which found Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders life expectancy to be almost 20 years lower than that of non-Indigenous Australians.

The poor health of Indigenous populations is stated as "preventable" by the Oxfam report. It identifies increased funding, improving access to healthcare and education, and adequate housing as important initiatives needed to address this health crisis.

EnhanceTV has a range of resources to help students examine the health inequality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. For an insight into how some communities are managing this disparity take a look at [Keep Safe](#). Also, [Start Strong](#), and the sequel, [Grow Strong](#), focus on the embedded problems in society that lead to poor health outcomes for Aboriginals. Download the free [Kanyini study guide](#) which partners this documentary that explains why Indigenous people are struggling in a modern world. [Message Stick: Broken Borders, Pt2](#), asks what impact urbanisation will have on the future of Aboriginality, and [Australia By Numbers: S.A. Mid North 5724 - We Of Little Voice](#) focuses on the plight and concerns of the Aboriginal people from communities in northern South Australia. While [Birth Rites](#) explores the gap between existing services available to Indigenous women and their ideal birthing environment ([study guide](#) also available), the [Australian Biography: Joan Winch study guide](#) partners the program which tells the story of a lady who has made an extraordinary contribution to Aboriginal health. [Difference of Opinion: The Way Ahead for Aboriginal Australians](#) addresses the Aboriginal debate and asks if there is a new and more hopeful vision for the world's oldest continuous culture?

---