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In terms of education and health ^{Indigenous} Aboriginal Australians (IAA) in Yarrabab, Queensland and Sioux Indians ^(SI) of Pine Ridge, South Dakota have ~~not~~ not achieved total equality in their respective nations. In saying this, it must be acknowledged, that due to government and community initiatives there has been some progress which has decreased the levels of disadvantage experienced. In each community there are distinct outcomes that convey the current inequality which has improved since colonisation, but still suffers from the ~~to~~ harsh impact of colonialism.

In ~~Yarrabab~~ Australia the life expectancy of females is 71 and 67 for males which is well below the Australian average. This highlights the current disadvantage which is ~~emphasised~~ by ~~the 68%~~ reflected in the Yarrabab community. In Yarrabab the diabetes (type 2) rate is 3x the national average, while heart disease is 6x the

national average. Due to these continuous effects of colonialism which have lead to bad diets, ~~and~~ /A's in Yarrabon have failed to achieve equality in their community. However, various initiatives such as Curring Yealamucka have began to inspire small improvements in the community. The program is run by local Aboriginal people and therefore meets the needs of the people (through a generous range of programs) and is culturally appropriate which is better for the community. Despite the alarming statistics, continuation and empowerment of these initiatives will allow them to achieve equality in the future.

In Pine Ridge South Dakota SI experiences, currently similar alarming results. Approximately 62% of ~~the~~ SI under the age of 18 are living below the federal poverty line, while only 29% are a healthy weight. These statistics convey ~~the~~ the

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large ~~difference~~ inequity experienced and that it seems in this community to a very little extent they have achieved equality. The tribal council offers numerous programs which aim to combat the gap, for example Native Women's Healing and the Occa Tea project. These initiatives are beginning to make a small impact, which over time will effectively close the gap in health, enabling indigenous peoples to be equal with non-indigenous people.

The difference in education remains steep, however in Yarrabah there has recently been some evidence which suggests the improvement of ~~the~~ IA's ^{status} ~~achieving~~ educ. ~~for~~ ~~example~~ Despite the NAPLAN results of 2011 for years 3, 5, 7, 9 being "substantially below" the national average in the areas



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of numeracy, literacy and reading there are signs of improvement. Mr. Simon Cotton has had an extraordinarily fantastic impact on Yarrabah State School, ignoring the politics and ~~government~~ accusations of disadvantage stating "Closing the gap is just a campaign, what every parent wants is the best ~~of~~ for their kids". He recently announced that for the first time in their history he was required to ~~buy~~ buy gold readers, which are the top level books, for some students. This suggests their improvement, which although does not translate directly to equality it suggests the amazing progress which will achieve equality in the years to come. ~~Similarly~~ Moreover, he announced an increase of 41% in attendance rates due to a 'smart money' campaign which aims to teach students about effective money management. The NAPLAN results clearly state that to ~~a~~ no extent

IA's in Yarrabah have achieved equality, however these improvements ~~are the beginning of~~ suggest that it will happen in the near future.

In Pine Ridge South Dakota SI experience similar levels of disadvantage when it comes to education. At Little Wound school, of the year 11 students last year, only 7.5% were proficient in numeracy and 4.5 were proficient in literacy. This ~~part~~ conveys the large extent to which SI have not achieved equality. However, in a similar way to Yarrabah State school there are hints of improvements which could make a lasting difference in the future. Red Cloud Indian school is the only school on the reservation that is private, and is run by the Jesuits. Last year they recorded that 95% of their students will seek

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further study in the years ahead. At Red Cloud they teach Lakota language and culture, which engages students more effectively in their study. This is however contrasted with Little Round School which has a graduation rate of only 37%. Therefore it is obvious that due to some working initiatives Pine Ridge may achieve equality in the future, but at the present more have not achieved it.

In conclusion, both communities have alarming results and outcomes which suggest they have not achieved equality in terms of education and health. However, through effective initiatives, there is the possibility that their small progress will amount to equality in the future.

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