

Use the information provided to answer Questions 5–6.

In 2008, the Council of Australian Government (COAG) agreed to a set of national policy targets to guide the design and delivery of programs and services for Indigenous people.

These targets known as 'Closing the Gap' targets are:

Close the life-expectancy gap within a generation

Halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade

Ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities within five years

Halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade

Halve the gap for Indigenous students in Year 12 (or equivalent) attainment rates by 2020

Halve the gap in employment outcomes within a decade

- 6 With reference to ONE of the 'Closing the Gap' targets, explain how addressing racism can help to 'close the gap'. 4

In addressing racism, numerous factors can be helped to "close the gap" and one of them being the reading, writing and numeracy achievements. Currently these aspects of schooling have a continual result of being below the state average. If schools can block out any racial commentary towards these students and focus on improving their achievements in these areas, then the schools will see an improvement within ten years. Having this skill will enable them further down the track to get a job and an income for their family

-4-