

**SENATOR RACHEL SIEWERT**

MEDIA RELEASE



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### **CLOSING THE GAP**

#### **Patronising platitudes and denial will not close the gap**

The Greens have said that Mr Morrison will continue to fail First Nations peoples until his Government makes a genuine commitment to self-determination and co-design and stops with patronising platitudes.

“Mr Morrison will keep failing First Nations peoples and this country until a genuine commitment to self-determination is at the heart of closing the gap,” Australian Greens spokesperson on First Nations peoples issues Senator Rachel Siewert said.

“The Prime Minister’s same old “welfare” rhetoric indicates that the Government really hasn’t got it. While they say they are committed to the COAG co-design process the PM ignores the point that it is his Government continuing to drive discriminatory programs such as the Cashless Debit Card, the CDP program, ParentsNext and who are failing to address the important social determinants of health and wellbeing.

“There are a few things this Government needs to do before they just “get people into jobs”, like invest in the social determinants of health and wellbeing and a housing first approach.

“Perhaps the Government could reallocate their James Cook “commemoration” fund to show their commitment to justice. There is a list as long as my arm on what we could better spend this money on – for example more culturally appropriate suicide prevention services, justice reinvestment and truth telling.

“If we do not address poverty in First Nations communities we will not achieve better outcomes in health and education.

“The PM blames a top down approach which is the very approach that his Government is taking on so many issues.

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**Media Contact:**

Lucy Cowcher-Guthrie; 0418 401 180