



Streamlining chronic disease management in the Torres Strait

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The Torres Strait region is home to some of the highest rates of chronic diseases in Australia. Challenges that arise in the management of chronic diseases in this region include extreme geographical isolation, high health workforce turnover rates, difficulty accessing health care, and significant social and environmental determinants of disease.

This presentation covers the results of a qualitative study that was performed by interviewing 15 health practitioners in the Torres Strait. The study aimed to identify key issues associated with chronic disease management in the Torres Strait as perceived by clinicians in the region. The study also assessed the feasibility of establishing a regional chronic disease registry and integration of the registry with the recently established shared electronic health record system for better regional data collection.

The presentation also aims to illustrate how regional data on chronic disease rates in the Torres Strait can be used in a more streamlined approach to the management of chronic diseases in the region, and how such an enhanced approach may help address some key issues and improve health outcomes of the Torres Strait Islander people.