Key health resources

Overview
The Overview of Australian Indigenous health status provides information about: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations; the context of Indigenous health; measures of population health status; selected health conditions; and health risk factors. It is regularly updated as new information becomes available.

HealthBulletin
The Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin is the electronic online peer-reviewed journal of the HealthInfoNet. It facilitates access to information about Indigenous health, including current events and recent research. The HealthBulletin publishes original research articles and abstracts of research and other information published or presented elsewhere.

Bibliography
The HealthInfoNet's Bibliography is the most comprehensive, up-to-date library on Australian Indigenous health with over 16,500 publications to access. Find journal articles, reports, theses and 'grey' literature to help you in your work or study.

The gecko rating system
The gecko rating system shows, at-a-glance, how comprehensive a topic is; the more geckos in the rating, the more complete the coverage.

Coverage of the topic is comprehensive, including:
• up-to-date review of the topic
• plain language information
• dedicated yarning place

Coverage of the topic is limited

The HealthInfoNet's goal is to provide at least a 4-gecko level of coverage for all major areas of relevance to Indigenous health, but funding limitations mean that this is not possible at present. The core funds, provided by OATSIH, enable good coverage of many areas. Better coverage of some areas - such as road safety, substance misuse, and ear health and hearing - is achieved because of the availability of extra funding.

Online yarning place
Our free online yarning places are electronic networks that enable people interested in Indigenous health to share information, knowledge and experience - even when they live in different parts of the country, come from different sectors and work for different organisations.

Dedicated yarning places are available for many specific health topics so you can network with people who work in the same health area. It's a fast, easy way to stay connected.

How you can help us
We welcome your support and there are many ways you can help us in our work. If you are:
• working in Indigenous health: share program materials, booklets, posters, DVDs and any health-promotion or disease-prevention resources.
• an academic or researcher: provide research publications (e.g. journal articles, reports, theses, dissertations or other publications) or join us as a visiting research fellow for your academic study leave.
• a senior government staff member: encourage a greater level of support, particularly at a State level.
• a senior private industry staff member: become a sponsor and make a vital contribution to our work.
• a conference organiser: make us an integral part of your program through the inclusion of a HealthInfoNet café at your conference. This valuable service offers delegates the opportunity to explore our website and see how the HealthInfoNet can help them in their work.

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About the HealthInfoNet

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet is a national innovative Internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making the evidence base readily accessible. The HealthInfoNet is helping to ‘close the gap’ in health between Indigenous and other Australians.

The resource is a ‘one-stop info-shop’ for people interested in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. It makes published, unpublished and specially-developed material about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health available to people involved in the area to enhance their knowledge and skills, and improve their practice and/or policy work. Access to all information on the site is free and available to everyone.

Headed up by Director, Professor Neil Thomson, the HealthInfoNet has been operating since 1997 when it was known as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Clearinghouse. In recognition of its ‘value-adding’ as well as literature clearinghouse functions, it was re-named in 2000. The work of the HealthInfoNet is undertaken by a small team based in Kurongkurl Katitjin, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research at Edith Cowan University in Perth.

Core funding for the HealthInfoNet's work is provided by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing’s Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) with the Department's Drug Strategy Branch funding sections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) with the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's Office for Core funding for the Health

Building the evidence base

Two concepts underpin the work of the HealthInfoNet. The first is evidence-based/informed decision-making, whereby practitioners and policy-makers have access to the best available research and other information. The second is knowledge utilisation/translation, where research and other information are made available in a form that has immediate, practical utility.

Advisory Board

This comprises of 13 prominent representatives from key stakeholder organisations of which 11 are Indigenous. They provide expert strategic advice to the Director and Executive Group of the HealthInfoNet to assist in optimising our contributions to ‘closing the gap’.

Who uses the HealthInfoNet?

Findings from a recent OATSIH review state ‘84% of organisation representatives rate the HealthInfoNet as important to their work’.

The HealthInfoNet defines its target audience broadly as all people working, studying or interested in Indigenous health. It is a useful resource for many groups including:

- Indigenous controlled health services and their representative bodies
- government departments of health and Indigenous affairs
- non-governmental agencies
- professional associations and health service providers (including Indigenous health practitioners, doctors, nurses and other health providers)
- research agencies and bodies
- students in health-related courses and their teachers
- people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander health.

The Internet resource

The HealthInfoNet's massive internet resource enables users to easily access the information they're seeking. The home page provides navigation to ten main areas:

- health facts
- health conditions
- chronic conditions
- infectious conditions
- other health conditions
- related issues
- determinants
- protective and risk factors
- population groups
- States and Territories
- health systems

Key health topics

The HealthInfoNet provides Indigenous-specific information about a wide range of health and related topics, including:

- social and emotional wellbeing
- substance misuse
- heart health
- ear health and hearing
- nutrition
- road safety
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Indigenous environmental health practitioners

Health topic contents

From the homepage you can access specific health topics where you will find the following sections:

- reviews
- resources
- policies and strategies
- publications
- programs and projects
- organisations

Just wanted to say thanks to this fantastic unbelievably great website. I’m a Murri ‘Nanna’ and think it is amazing the support and information that our people have available to us. A big wide beautiful country we have and yet we connect. My old school motto was “Knowledge is power - be it said loud and clear” so keep spreading the word. stay deadly!

Amy Creighton

I tell everyone I know who works in Aboriginal Health to register with your site. There is so much information important to their work'.

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Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website

...is helping to ‘close the gap’ in health between Indigenous and other Australians.

A recent review commissioned by OATSIH found the HealthInfoNet to have a ‘different and unique role’ with no other sites ‘that fulfilled the same function’. That it provides ‘important, relevant high quality up to date information’ is widely known and widely used among no other sites ‘that fulfilled the same function’. That it provides ‘important, relevant high quality up to date information’ is widely known and widely used among

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