

Media Release – New WA Aboriginal health status publication supports the need for the Health and Wellbeing Framework initiatives

5 June 2019

The most recent indicators of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia (WA) are documented in the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's latest publication, the *Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status in Western Australia* <https://bit.ly/2JMMako>

The *WA Overview* was funded by the Government of Western Australia Department of Health and provides a comprehensive summary of the health and current health status of WA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The *WA Overview* shows that despite some improvements, there are still significant health disparities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Western Australians. This supports the vision for Aboriginal people to live long, well and healthy lives in the *WA Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015-2030* and the broader refresh of the Closing the Gap targets.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population accounts for 3.9% of the total WA population and 13% of the total Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew said 'The *WA Overview* is an important knowledge exchange resource as we summarise information from a variety of sources into one publication which ensures those working in the sector receive an authoritative update that is both accessible and timely'.

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About the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet: The HealthInfoNet is based at Edith Cowan University, Perth Western Australia. Its massive Internet resource www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au informs practice and policy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander health by making up to date research and other knowledge readily accessible via any platform. In this way, it contributes to closing the gap in health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. For over 20 years, working in the area of knowledge exchange with a population health focus, the HealthInfoNet makes research and other information freely available in a form that has immediate, practical utility for practitioners and policy-makers in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, enabling them to make decisions based on the best available evidence.