

Media Release

Despite ongoing challenges, the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to show important positive developments

25 February 2020

The most recent indicators of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are documented in the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's authoritative publication, the *Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019* <https://healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-facts/overview-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-health-status/>

The annual *Overview* contains updated information across many health conditions. It shows there has been a range of positive signs including a decrease in death rates, infant mortality rates and a decline in death rates from avoidable causes as well as a reduction in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who smoke. It has also been found that fewer mothers are smoking and drinking alcohol during pregnancy meaning that babies have a better start to life.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew, said 'In the *Overview* we strive to provide an accurate and informative summary of the current health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In doing so, we want to acknowledge the importance of adopting a strengths-based approach, and to recognise the increasingly important area of data sovereignty. To this end, we have reduced our reliance on comparative data in favour of exploring the broad context of the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how this may impact their health journey'.

As part of the HealthInfoNet's commitment to knowledge exchange, a PowerPoint of key information from the *Overview* is available as a teaching resource.

-END-

Spokesperson:

Professor Neil Drew - HealthInfoNet Director

Tel: 08 9370 6155 Mob: 0418 901 468

Email: n.drew@ecu.edu.au

Media contact:

Tara Hoyne – Tel: 08 9370 6109

Email: t.hoyne@ecu.edu.au

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet is located at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. The HealthInfoNet is a massive web resource that 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. For over 22 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. www.healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au