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Year in Review 2020

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The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of Australia and the Torres Strait. We respect all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—their customs and their beliefs. We also pay our respects to Elders past and present, with particular acknowledgement to the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation, the Traditional Custodians of the lands where our offices are located.



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Director's welcome

Welcome to our 2020 Year in Review, a year unlike any other.

As the year began none of us could have predicted the devastating impact of COVID-19 throughout the world. Countries, governments, industries, businesses, families, and individuals have been decimated and disrupted by this insidious virus. No-one has escaped unaffected. Tragically, many have lost their lives.

We have also seen the remarkable resilience of the human and community spirit. Australia has fared better than most due to our relative isolation and swift response. On the whole, we have demonstrated admirable cooperation and commitment to supporting the people and communities we love.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the impact of the pandemic has been significantly lessened due primarily to the concerted effort of many agencies throughout the country, in particular the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health (ACCHO) sector. At the Health/nfoNet we quickly established our COVID-19 Information and Updates section to facilitate swift access to high quality, reliable information from a number of authoritative sources. We learned a great deal

about ourselves as an organisation and our capacity to respond quickly and effectively to the many challenges we encountered on the journey through 2020.

We were once again reminded of, and extremely grateful for, the support of friends, colleagues, people and communities throughout Australia who while facing their own challenges held out the hand of friendship in our times of need. I am proud to say that we too did our best to reach out to support the Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people and communities throughout Australia. We learned that we are a capable, agile and flexible organisation that was able to seamlessly transition virtually overnight to entirely home-based work without our users noticing any difference in the quality or reliability of our service.

This review of our activities and achievements during 2020 is testament to the quality and strength of our relationships in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector Australia wide. We, the staff at the Health *InfoNet*, thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing support for the work we are so proud to undertake on your behalf.

Professor Neil Drew

Governance

The Health InfoNet Advisory Board

The Advisory Board was formed in 2008 to provide strong cultural governance, advice and advocacy support to the Director and Management Team of the Health *InfoNet* and to assist in optimising our contributions to closing the gap between the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. The Advisory Board comprises representatives of key stakeholder organisations and other members selected for their individual expertise. I welcomed two new organisations to the Board this year NATSIHWA the peak body for Health Workers and Health Practitioners and IAHA the peak body for Indigenous Allied Health Workers (https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/governance/advisory-board/).

Honorary Consultants

The Health/InfoNet has developed over many years, a network of Honorary Consultants. Health/InfoNet Consultants are leading experts in a wide range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health topic areas. Honorary Consultants provide expert advice, guidance and review of Health/InfoNet knowledge exchange products, as well as providing assistance to collect additional materials to be added to the Health/InfoNet database. They also act as an informal reference group. Each Consultant is allocated to a member of the Health/InfoNet research team who are responsible for maintaining regular contact with the Consultant (https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/engagement/consultants/).



Our funders



AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme, the Australian Government Department of Health is committed to the delivery of high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate essential health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Aboriginal Health, a statewide office within the WA Department of Health, is responsible for facilitating a collaborative and coordinated approach within WA Health's public health system to improve health outcomes for all Aboriginal people living in Western Australia. The Government of WA provides financial support for the WA State Portal.



GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, FIRST PEOPLES HEALTH UNIT

The First Peoples Health Unit (FPHU) leads the implementation of the Griffith Health First Peoples Health Plan (2016-2022). The Plan is the Health Group's statement of a broad vision Transformational Leadership Baugal Baugulin Yabruma (Well Better Always) for what the FPHU, the Health Group, schools, programs and its First Peoples Health community organisations, industry and partners can achieve to contribute to closing the gap in health and educational outcomes between Australia's First Peoples and other Australians. Griffith University provides financial support for the Cultural Safety for Health Professionals Portal.



PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) is the national peak body for palliative care in Australia. PCA represents all those who work towards high-quality palliative care for all Australians. Working closely with consumers, their Member Organisations and the palliative care workforce, PCA aims to improve access to, and promote the need for, palliative care. PCA provides financial support for the Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Portal.



HEALING FOUNDATION

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to address the ongoing trauma caused by actions like the forced removal of children from their families. The Healing Foundation supports locallyrun projects, training and education, and commemorations and is leading the way in Indigenous healing research. The Healing Foundation provides financial support for the Healing Portal.



EMHPRAC

Inspired by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and communities, eMHPrac (e-mental health in practice) in collaboration with the Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet* develped the WellMob website. WellMob is a safe online place for communities to access all kinds of digital, culturally relevant resources including; websites, apps, podcasts, videos, social media, and online counselling all with a focus on social and emotional wellbeing.

Our partners

Partnerships are vital to the work of the Health*InfoNet*, and we collaborate with a wide range of organisations and individuals. Most of our partnerships are informal, but the Health*InfoNet* has formal agreements with the following organisations:

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
- Alzheimer's Australia
- Analysis and policy Observatory
- Asthma Australia
- Australian Association of Social Workers
 WA
- Australian Research Centre for Population
 Oral Health
- Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait
 Islander Nurses and midwives
- Cranaplus
- First People's health unit, Griffiths
 University
- Mealth direct
- Hitnet
- Indigenous Allied Health Australia
- Indigenous Health Education Unit, Sydney Medical School
- Injury Matters
- Kidney Health Australia
- Kulunga Research Network
- Mental Health Coordinating Council
- Menzies School of Health Research
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
 Islander Health Worker Association
- National Centre for Clinical Research in Emerging Drugs
- National Drug Research Institute
- National Rural Health Alliance
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

- Rural Health West
- SA Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health
- The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
- The Australian Association of Social Workers WA
- The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- The Australian Indigenous Doctors'

 Association
- The Australian Lung Foundation
- The Australian Physiotherapy Association
- The Brien Holden Foundation
- The Indigenous Eye Health Unit
- The Lowitja Institute
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
- The National Heart Foundation of Australia
- The Research Centre for Injury Studies
- The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health, Charles Sturt University
- WA Council of Social Services





Our impact

The Health Info Net website

The HealthInfoNet places great emphasis on the user-friendliness of its web resource in terms of its navigation and appearance and the ability of users to readily access the information they are seeking. Work continues to enhance and develop its usability and analytics. The website received 2,342,679 pageviews from January to December 2020. The top 3 most searched terms recorded in 2020 were 'Diabetes, Mental Health and Closing the Gap'. Our users are spread relatively evenly across the country and overall saw a 9% increase in visits over the year.

A new WellMob website (wellmob.org.au) was designed and developed by our team in partnership with eMHPrac (e-mental health in practice). WellMob is the result of more than a year of collaboration and planning that involved many workshops and community consultations across the country. The website focuses on digital resources made by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; it includes a wide range of up-to-date online resources to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's social and emotional well-being.

Summary of improvements to the Health InfoNet website and the database:

- added a centralised place for all the analytics reporting
- sped up page load for the dashboard that staff use
- added the ability for archived content to be searched when requested, specifically
- enhanced the search functionality so users can view additional content items that match their search



2,342,679 Website pageviews **728,017** Sessions

The website saw a 9% increase in pageviews from 2019.

Library database

In May, we reached the milestone of 40,000 entries in our library database. Our bibliography is the engine room of the entire Health/InfoNet. All our services draw on what we call our 'back end'. Our expert library staff have highly developed systems and processes for ensuring our database remains the most complete repository of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health information anywhere in the world. By the end of 2020, we had over 80,000 links providing direct access to other online publications and resources.



40,000 Entries in our library database 80,000+ Links providing direct access to other online publications and resources



Social media impact

Throughout 2020 we remained consistent in our connection to our communities across our social media platforms. With numerous resources shared throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we provided our followers and subscribers with up-to-date information relevant to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector workforce. From the 110 COVID-related posts we sent out, we received 609,724 impressions and 14,871 engagements.

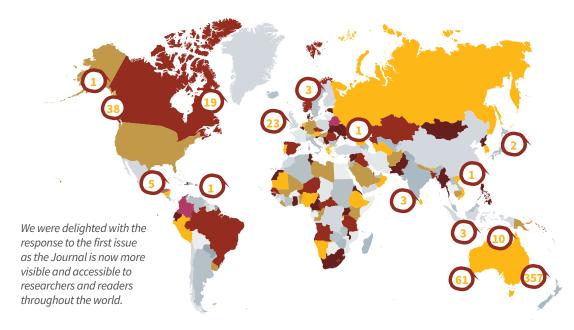
The social media strategy saw the implementation of several new tactics, including repurposing and extending the life of the knowledge exchange products we produce. With a focus on enhancing our knowledge capabilities through social media, our engagement grew by 36%.



Health Bulletin Journal

In December, we published the first edition of the Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin Journal via Edith Cowan University (ECU)'s Research Online institutional repository.

In October, the Health Bulletin transitioned to a new automated manuscript management system and joined ECU's repository of online peer-reviewed journals. The Journal's remit remains the same: to facilitate access to information to support those working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. Reflecting the wide range of readers – policymakers, service providers, researchers, students and the general community – the Health Bulletin keeps people informed about recent research and promotes knowledge exchange.







Multimedia products

Since 2000, the Health/InfoNet has produced over 200 multimedia resources, including over 100 overviews, summaries and health topic reviews on a wide range of health conditions affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Below are the page view and download statistics for some of our key products over the last twelve months:

Product:	Pageviews:	Downloads:
Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019:	30,366 (12 months)	14,574 (12 months)
Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019: Key facts, figures and tables:	1,979 (12 months)	2,746 (12 months)
Summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019:	10,982 (12 months)	7,215 (12 months)
Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples:	2,619 (12 months)	803 (12 months)
Summary of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples:	998 (12 months)	3673 (12 months)
Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	1,250 (7 months)	328 (7 months)
Summary of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	867 (7 months)	358 (7 months)
Summary of cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	1,191 (15 months)	400 (15 months)
Summary of respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:	865 (12 months)	446 (12 months)
Summary of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	2,203 (11 months)	1,172 (11 months)
Summary of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	1,048 (11 months)	924 (11 months)
Summary of nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:	2,000 (12 months)	1,105 (12 months)

Bush Onion Dreaming by Sarah White

'Janmarda' (bush onion [Cyperus bulbosus]) are small bulbs found in the soft soils on the banks of sandy creeks. One of the main sites for this Jukurrpa is Purrupurru near Wakurlpa, to the north of Yuendumu. The custodians of that site and story are Napaljarri/ Nungarrayi women and Japaljarri/ Jungarrayi men. The women were collecting and cooking 'janmarda' when they saw an old Jungarrayi called Warungurla who had been traveling from the west. He was hiding in the bushes, watching the women and wanting to make love to them. He had an enormous 'ngirnti' (penis) that was long like a hose and that entered the ground and came up near to the women. They were frightened of him and tried to hide. When they saw his 'ngirnti' they beat it with their 'karlangu' (digging sticks), killing the old Jungarrayi, who can still be seen today in the form of a large stone figure at Purrupurru.



Our Projects

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's mandate is to contribute to improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health by making relevant, high quality knowledge and information easily accessible to policy makers, health service providers, program managers, clinicians and other health professionals (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers) and researchers. By sharing expertise, the HealthInfoNet helps to:

- support capacity building and knowledge-informed decision-making within the workforce
- promote evidence-informed practice across sectors
- encourage greater integration between policy, practice and research.

Up-to-date, relevant information can then be used to inform practice, policy, research, teaching and general community understanding. The HealthInfoNet's key functions in addressing this goal are to:

- collect relevant research and other information about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- collate, translate and synthesise the information gathered to create new and more accessible knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- disseminate this knowledge, primarily via the internet.



The Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet

The Australian Government Department of Health provides our core funding, and we receive funding from other funders for specific projects, working collaboratively on programs that aim to provide information to people who are working, studying or interested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Our core funding enables website coverage and knowledge exchange products mainly about:

- chronic disease
- social and emotional wellbeing
- sexual health
- environmental health.





Specific funding from the Australian Department of Health for this important area saw the section expanded with more content and resources. Consultation with the sector will see a relaunch of the updated section in 2021.





NEW Sexual Health Portal

In November we launched the Sexual Health Portal with additional funding from the Australian Department of Health for this important topic. The Sexual Health Portal focuses on the aspects of sexual health that impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and their communities. These topics include safe sex, healthy relationships, sexuality (diversity and inclusion), sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses, sexual problems and reproductive health.



Environmental Health Portal

Environmental health refers to the physical, chemical and biological factors which potentially impact a person's health and wellbeing. The Environmental Health Portal provides Indigenous Environmental Health Practitioners an evidence base with a social and cultural context, to reduce the rates and spread of diseases that are commonly linked to environmental causes.







NEW Bushire section

This was added to our environmental health portal in January following the devastating bushfires on the east coast of the country. Information included programs resources and publications.





NEW COVID-19 section

In March, with the increasing number of Australians being impacted by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the HealthInfoNet recognised the need to establish a COVID-19 Updates and Information portal to ensure our website users were informed with timely, accessible and relevant health promotion and health practice information and resources as they became available. The COVID-19 portal contains information sourced form reliable and authritative sources suchs as NACCH and the various departments of health throughout Australia. The Portal is monitored daily with new resources and relevant information.



Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre

The AOD Community Portal was updated to better meet the information needs of Elders and community members working to reduce harms from alcohol and other drug (AOD) use in their communities. The redevelopment was guided by focus groups in Perth and Adelaide as well as feedback from a national user survey. The refreshed content focuses on strength-based resources, information on healing and trauma and up front, factual information on mental health and addiction. The expanded content on the Community Portal includes information on events, courses, funding and programs to support those seeking training, resources, or services to address AOD issues in their community.







WellMob website

Inspiration for the WellMob website came from frontline health and wellbeing workers, who needed a one-stop-shop to easily access culturally relevant resources to use with their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. WellMob brings together over 200 videos, apps, podcasts and other websites in the one place and is free to access. The website was developed by eMHPrac (e-mental health in practice) in partnership with the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking website

The National Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Workers' Facebook Yarning Group was created in 2020. The Yarning Group is a culturally-safe online community where TIS workers from across Australia can connect with their colleagues and share information, knowledge and experiences. At the end of 2020, there were over 150 members. On the TIS website, a tobacco publications page was created to support TIS workers with evidence based literature.



Healing Portal

The Health InfoNet is funded by The Healing Foundation to maintain a portal for people working in healing, health, justice, education, employment, child protection and family violence. The Healing portal is designed to encourage information sharing and collaboration across sectors and locations. It brings together best practice healing initiatives and information about what is working around healing. The portal includes the latest research, reports, case studies and tools from around Australia to enable people to bring trauma informed and healing aware practices into their organisations and communities.





Palliative Care Portal

The Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Portal (funded by Palliative Care Australia) has been developed specifically for the health workforce who provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their families and communities as well as supporting clinicians and policy makers in accessing relevant and culturally appropriate resources, research, events, courses and projects on palliative and end-of-life care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Subsections include Culturally appropriate palliative care and end-of-life care, Grief and bereavement and Planning ahead.



WA State Portal

The WA State Portal is funded by the WA Department of Health. It aims to collect and disseminate WA state specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health information to health professionals, stakeholders and policy makers, in a timely manner to ensure that policy and program decisions are evidence-based and in line with current trends. The WA State portal is more comprehensive than the HealthInfoNets coverage of other states and territories coverage. The WA State Portal includes the Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status in WA as well as workforce information.



Cultural Safety Portal

In April, we added a new portal to our site which was the result of a collaboration with Professor Roianne West, First Peoples Health Unit at Griffith University, to develop a new Cultural Safety for Health Professionals portal. The aims of the portal are to support the teaching of health professionals to critically reflect on the concept of cultural safety and to deliver safe, accessible and responsive healthcare that is free from racism.







Knowledge exchange at the Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet*

The Health/InfoNet aims to remain at the forefront of innovation and development in providing high quality, evidence-based materials to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. Our strength-based, culturally co-designed resources cut through enormous amounts of information, delivering massive time savings for Health Workers, policymakers, GPs, nurses, allied health workers, academics and professional health associations, and supporting the training and development of future health professionals.

Our knowledge exchange (KE) products and tools recognise that users require access to information in multiple formats to capitalise on emerging information technologies. To achieve this, written material is enriched by adding visual elements like information graphics and icons as well as providing the material in video and audio formats. Visual elements are increasingly becoming the tool of choice by many information hubs to visually and efficiently share information; they are particularly useful for sharing statistical and survey data.

Our multimedia products aim to increase the range of users who can engage with the content provided, moving beyond those interested in the scholarly material provided in our Overview and health topic narrative reviews. Our Digital and Multimedia Research Coordinator oversees and coordinates the delivery of our ever-expanding suite of KE research products and resources. This ensures that our products are maintained to a high standard, ensures brand consistency, and develops and meets stakeholder and staff needs and best practice standards.

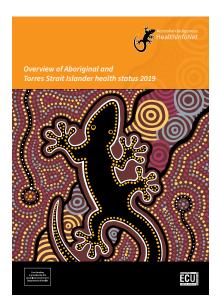
Our activities in this area are guided by several principles that ensure that the HealthInfoNet works in authentic partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other stakeholders, including:

- Engaging with users to co-design, co-construct and co-produce resources that meet the needs of users
- Ensuring that we engage in culturally responsive and safe ways with all people
- Striving to enact socially transformative, decolonising and socially just practice.

In January 2019, an Indigenous artist, Frances Belle Parker, was commissioned to produce a suite of illustrated icons that translated our biomedical and statistically based information into culturally sensitive visual representations for use in our KE products; currently, we have over 120 custom-designed icons. These icons continue to support our key objective of ensuring that our products are maintained to a high standard.

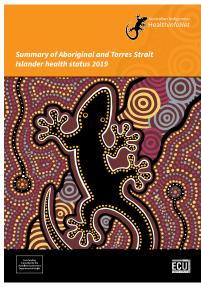
We also provide an integrated social media presence to facilitate communication and information sharing among practitioners with shared interests (known as communities of practice). Our Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media platforms are integrated with our Yarning Places to provide a range of opportunities for collaboration, relationship building and information sharing.

Overview and Summary



Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status

The *Overview* provides a comprehensive summary of the most recent indicators of the health and current health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It provides information about the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, population, and various measures of population health status as well as selected health conditions and risk and protective factors.



Summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Health*InfoNet* produces the *Summary* as part of its effort to help 'close the gap' by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The Summary aims to make this information available to all people, including those without a specialised knowledge of the health field. It uses a range of visual aids to assist readers to quickly and easily understand the data presented throughout.

Reviews



Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

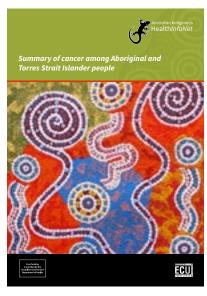
The Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples provides a comprehensive synthesis of key information on the use of tobacco among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The review provides the historical, social and cultural contexts; describes the extent of tobacco use in Australia: the health and social impacts in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities; the burden of disease and mortality; and other factors relating to tobacco use.



Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

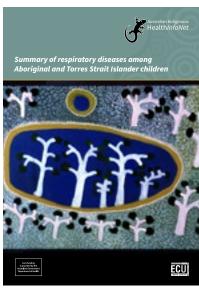
This review aims to provide an overview of the impact of kidney disease, specifically chronic kidney disease (CKD) and endstage kidney disease (ESKD) on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The review gives context to the kidney health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, together with established risk factors for kidney disease and the role of primary health care to address these factors.

Summaries



Summary of cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

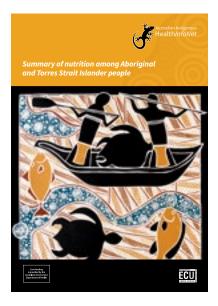
The Summary of cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of cancer among Aboriginal and *Torres Strait Islander people.* Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

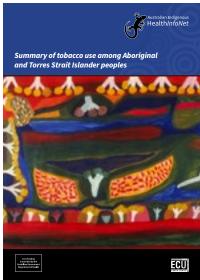


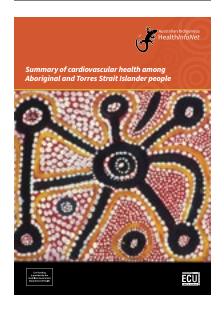
Summary of respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

The Summary of respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of respiratory diseases among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PRODUCTS 2020







Summary of nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Summary of nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from two reviews; Review of nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Review of programs and services to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nutrition and food security. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

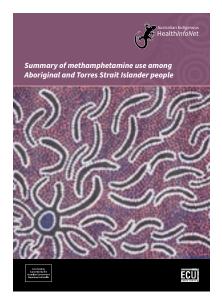
Summary of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

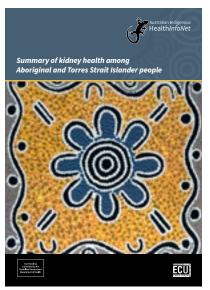
The Summary of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

Summary of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Summary of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.







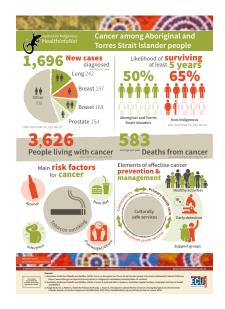
Summary of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Summary of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

Summary of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

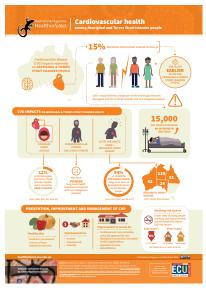
The Summary of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is a plain language publication that provides summarised and updated information from the Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

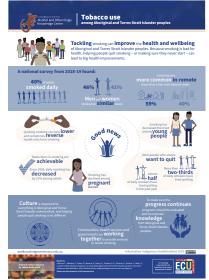
Factsheets



Cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people [Updated]

This fact sheet highlights a number of key facts about cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The fact sheet is based on the Review of cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2018) and has been updated in line with the plain language Summary of cancer among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2020).







Cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This factsheet uses infographics to highlight a number of key facts about the cardiovascular health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is based on the Review of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2020). Information includes the prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD), hospitalisations for CVD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and prevention, management and treatment of CVD.

Tobacco use among Aboriginal and **Torres Strait Islander peoples**

This factsheet highlights a number of key facts about tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is based on the Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (2020). Information includes how common smoking is, recent good news about decreases in smoking and effective strategies to addressing smoking.

Kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This single paged factsheet uses infographics to highlight a number of key facts about the kidney health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. *It is based* on the Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2020). Information includes the impact of kidney disease and ways in which improvements can be made to address kidney disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Videos



Cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Based on the Review of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2020). This short video highlights a number of key facts about the cardiovascular health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Information includes; the prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD), hospitalisations for CVD among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and prevention, management and treatment of CVD.



Tobacco use among Aboriginal and **Torres Strait Islander peoples**

Based on the Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (2020). This short animated video highlights a number of key facts about tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The information includes; health improvements from tackling smoking, recent good news about decreases in smoking, and effective programs.



Kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Based on the Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2020). This short animated video highlights a number of key facts about the kidney health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people Information includes; the impact of kidney disease, the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reporting kidney disease, and ways in which improvements can be made to address kidney disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Webinars



The experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in primary healthcare when speaking about substance use and depression



Smoking among disadvantaged and vulnerable groups



Heart health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during COVID-19



What do we know about the impacts of cannabis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?



Refreshed Community Portal with expanded content and new focus



A tour of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Environmental Health Portal: how to find information



Synthetic cannabis and other new psychoactive substances (NPS)



Alcohol and the social determinants of health: an equity lens on interventions



A look at the Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019



Navigating the journey of kidney disease for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people



Primary research news

External research collaborations:

Uncle Mick Adams is a Chief Investigator, Neil Drew Associate Investigator on a UNSW project looking at improving the mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents. The project is funded for \$1.68 million dollars. Also we are part of a successful consortium of ECU researchers funded by the WA Government to undertake COVID-19 research. Our project will focus on gaining a better understanding of how knowledge about COVID-19 is 'activated' in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and on the role of natural helpers who are at the crucial interface between community members and the services that support them.

Collaborative research engagement within Edith Cowan University:

Knowledge activation, implementation and support for COVID-19 messaging in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Dr Michael Adams, Professor Neil Drew, A/Prof Stuart Medley

Funded by the State of Western Australia

Health messaging about COVID-19 is crucial to the success of COVID-19 suppression and management activities, however there is a need for more research evidence of the capacity of communities to translate health messages into active behaviour change during major public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This study will investigate the lived experience of Aboriginal people and communities in translating web-based knowledge about COVID-19 messaging into community action and behaviour change. This project will contribute to a better understanding of the critical health literacy support needs within communities focussing in particular on the role of natural helpers; those 'naturally' turned to in times of crisis.



The aims of the project are to:

- To consult with natural helpers in Aboriginal communities to gain a better understanding of the processes and mechanisms for culturally safe and secure knowledge transmission and activation.
- Develop principles and practices for effective knowledge sharing and activation regarding
- To identify key impediments and constraints to effective knowledge transmission and activation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To further understand the role of natural helpers as a de facto health workforce support service during periods of community crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Publications, book chapters and books:

Bernstein, D., Pooley, J.A., Cohen, L., Gouldthorp, B., Provost, S., & Cranney, J., Drew, N. (2020). Psychology, 3nd edition. Cengage: Melbourne.

Adams, M., Canuto, J., Drew, N., & Fleay, J. (2020). Postcolonial traumatic stresses among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, ab-Original Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations and First Peoples' Cultures, 3 (2), 233-263.

Hodgetts, D., Stolte, O., Sonn, C., Drew, N., Carr, S., & Waimarie Nikora, L. (2020). Social Psychology and Everyday Life (2nd Ed). London: Macmillan.

Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet Peer Reviewed Publications:

Schwartzkopff, K.M., Kelly, J., Potter, C. (2020). Review of kidney health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (2020). Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2019.

Colonna, E., Maddox, R., Cohen, R., Marmor, A., Doery, K., Thurber, K. A., Thomas, D., Guthrie, J., Wells, S., Lovett, R. (2020). Review of tobacco use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Conference presentations:

Elwell, M. COVID-19 Update and information section to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities informed – Public Health Association of Australia Conference 19-30 October 2020

FitzGerald, V. The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet: responding to the bushfire crisis and climate change. Public Health Association of Australia Conference 19-30 October 2020

King, C. (2020) Sexual health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: providing evidence based, relevant information and resources to support the workforce. ASHM Conference, 16 November, 2020

Trzesinski, A. (2020) The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet AOD Knowledge Centre: information and support for the workforce. Australian & New Zealand Addiction Conference, 7 December, 2020





HealthInfoNet AOD team with Perth based Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Reference group members Dennis Gray and Anna Stearne (centre).

Engagement

The AOD Reference group was a 'hybrid' meeting with some members attending face to face while others observed social distancing via Zoom. This was an opportunity to plan for the coming year and update the reference group members on the work undertaken.

Several of our AODKC team ran a workshop for AOD Worker Students at Marr Mooditj in Perth in September. This was an opportunity for them to have a thorough understanding of the breadth of resources and information on the site, where to find these and the section which supports the workforce themselves.

Due to COVID-19, there were limited conferences held in the January to June period, but there were conference opportunities in the latter part of the year.

Face to face conference/workshop:

- The Rural Health West South West Research Forum, 26 November, Bunbury, WA
- A workshop about the AODKC at Marr Mooditj on 16 September in Perth, WA

We submitted abstracts and presented online at several virtual conferences:

- The ANZMH Online Conference, 10 July (online presentation)
- The PHAA Conference, 19 October (two online presentations)
- The ASHM Conference,17 November (online presentation)
- ECU School of Medical and Health Sciences NAIDOC week stand in October, WA
- IAHA Online Conference, 1 December (exhibited online)
- Australia New Zealand Addiction Conference, 7-8 December (presented and exhibited online)

In August, we welcomed two new Consultants, Dr Anne-Marie Eades and Dr Dana Slape. Anne-Marie is a Noongar woman from Minang country in South of Western Australia. She is a registered nurse with a PhD in Public Health. Dr Dana Slape is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and a graduate of Western Sydney University. She is Australia's first Aboriginal dermatologist. She is passionate about managing chronic dermatological conditions across all age groups but is particularly interested in children, adolescents and the elderly.

We congratulated one of our current Consultants, Professor Gail Garvey, who was recently awarded the Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence, the highest honour of the University of Newcastle's Alumni Awards. Professor Gail Garvey's research career has focused on investigating cancer experiences and outcomes of Indigenous Australians.









Our team

We celebrated 23 years on the 22nd of September this year, which is a real milestone for us - as is every year - as we continue supporting the workforce. We are committed to ensuring strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on our team and work closely with ECU's Indigenous HR Advisor when recruiting for new positions and with the AFL Sportsready programme in placing trainees within our organisation. In 2020, 25% of our staff comprised of Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people.

Our staff have been very creative this year in staying connected and coming up with many in-house wellness activities. One of these activities was creative and contemporary art day led by Uncle Mick Adams. It was an opportunity to come together to learn about and appreciate Aboriginal culture and how the animals and images are connected to the storylines and spiritual wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

In June, our Director, Professor Neil Drew, was named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 for significant service to tertiary education, behavioural science, and Indigenous health.

Also, in June, Uncle Mick Adams, our Senior Research Fellow, won the National Award for Local Men's Health Hero awarded by the Australian Men's Health Forum. Uncle Mick has been a researcher and advocate for boys' and men's health for many decades and has made a significant positive difference to the life of thousands with his work.



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