

Trusted COVID-19 portal supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector efforts to increase vaccination rates

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In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet was quick to develop a COVID-19 updates and information section. This went live in March 2020. Since then, users from across the country have been able to find the latest information and resources available on COVID-19 from the Australian Department of Health and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). Relevant information about infectious diseases and respiratory health was also available.

Two years on there is a wealth of authoritative information available and the COVID-19 section has now expanded to become a [COVID-19 HealthInfoNet](#) portal, making it easier for health practitioners to find what they need. HealthInfoNet portals are designed to provide information that is timely, accessible, and relevant to the everyday practice of the health sector workforce. Using the new portal will save time and enable users to search within their state and territory for relevant resources.

This portal provides a comprehensive collection of publications, resources, policies, programs and workforce information relating to COVID-19. All the state/territory information can be searched via interactive maps for: Resources, Publications, Policies, Organisations, Jobs, Funding, Events, Courses and Programs. Some resources are also available in Aboriginal languages.

With booster vaccines now available, the subtopic of vaccinations for COVID-19 allows for quick access on this crucial element of the fight against COVID-19. There are links to state and territory government, NACCHO websites and links to support those accessing help if needing to isolate via the healthdirect website.

HealthInfoNet Director, Neil Drew says “With most of Australia now open to the world, the need to ensure our most vulnerable populations are vaccinated is even more urgent. This portal will be an invaluable support those working around the clock with community members to combat COVID-19”.

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More information: The HealthInfoNet is a massive Internet 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. It contributes to closing the gap in health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. For over 24 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