

## **New review says diabetes burden still impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**

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Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic disease condition globally. Type 2 diabetes has reached epidemic proportions, with the greatest burden falling on socially disadvantaged groups and Indigenous peoples. The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's latest [Review of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#) focuses primarily on type 2 diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The high levels of type 2 diabetes in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities reflect a broad range of historical, social and cultural determinants, and the contribution of lifestyle and other health risk factors. It provides general information on the social and cultural context of diabetes, and the behavioural and biomedical factors that contribute to diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is growing concern regarding the emergence of type 2 diabetes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents.

The Australian Government has recently released the *Australian national diabetes strategy 2021-2030*. The Strategy is based on contemporary evidence and emerging priorities such as public health issues including COVID-19, aged and disability care, mental health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. It is hoped that the Strategy will provide a bi-partisan long-term commitment to culturally appropriate prevention and management of type 2 diabetes across the lifespan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew says "This review provides detailed information on the extent of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. With each review we summarise and synthesize the latest data as part of our knowledge exchange role efforts to make this information freely available online in one document saving busy health practitioners and policy makers time".

Accompanying the review is a [plain language summary](#) of the review, a one-page [factsheet](#) and a short [animated video](#) of key points from the review.

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More information: The HealthInfoNet is a comprehensive 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. 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 them to make decisions based on the best available evidence <https://healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au/>