

## **New review confirms little progress in gynaecological cancer outcomes among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women**

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The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet's latest [Review of gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia](#) shows that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women are still disproportionately burdened by gynaecological cancers, impacted by increased exposure to risk factors as a direct result of colonisation.

Senior author, Associate Professor Lisa Whop, says that 'Providing effective cancer prevention by risk reduction and participation in cancer screening programs for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people requires improved access to both high quality primary health care services and tertiary specialist services. This will also enable earlier diagnosis, management, and care for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women at all stages'

Culturally safe, accessible and patient centred care are seen as key components to decreasing the burden of gynaecological cancers on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women and their communities. That without equitable resourcing to implement effective prevention, management and care of gynaecological cancers, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women will continue to suffer.

While national strategies and policies have highlighted the need to improve awareness of cancer prevention and early detection through the provision of culturally safe and high-quality care, little progress has been made and the disparities in gynaecological cancer outcomes persist.

Rigorous research is the urgent need to focus on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies which hold the health system accountable to providing culturally safe care free of racism that is patient centred. With the *Australian cancer plan*, *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer plan* and the National Strategy to Eliminate Cervical Cancer under development, their implementation is critical as is their subsequent monitoring, and evaluation to ensure tangible outcomes in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women with gynaecological cancer.

HealthInfoNet Director Neil Drew says 'As part of our knowledge exchange work in making this important review accessible, a plain language [summary](#), [video](#) and [factsheet](#) are also available'.

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More information: The HealthInfoNet is a comprehensive 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 25 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.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au)