

New online resource to combat high rates of HTLV-1 in Central Australia

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A collaboration with the national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, NACCHO, has resulted in the development of a portal collating resources particularly relevant for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities [HTLV-1 - Health Topics - Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet \(ecu.edu.au\)](https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au)

Human T-cell lymphotropic virus type 1 (HTLV-1) is an ancient human retrovirus which affects T lymphocytes, a type of white blood cell. While current evidence suggests most people with HTLV-1 will remain well, in a small number of people HTLV-1 can cause serious illness. Aboriginal communities in Central Australia have some of the highest rates of HTLV-1 in the world.

Monica Barolits-McCabe, Acting Deputy CEO at NACCHO says ‘this Portal is for health professionals, people with HTLV-1 and those in their community that support them. Ultimately, the aim of the Portal is to support a reduction in the HTLV-1 burden for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by increasing understanding and knowledge of this health condition.’

The Portal is located on the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website facilitating instant online access for health professionals, people with HTLV-1 and other interested stakeholders, supporting their professional development and future knowledge-informed decision-making.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew said ‘getting this information out to communities and health practitioners is vital and being housed within the HealthInfoNet website will ensure it is accessible as it is a trusted, nationally used, evidence-based site for over 25 years’.

The Portal artwork titled *Fish* is painted by artist Uncle Mick Adams who has connections to Central Australia and the Top End.

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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 26 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