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Artwork: by Melanie Robinson. This artwork is featured on the following page: Cultural Safety for Health Professionals

Communiqué



Welcome



ECU Staff attending the 2025 NAIDOC National Awards to support nominee Prof. Braden Hill.

Kaya. Since I started in October last year, I have had face to face meetings with key stakeholders in Perth, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. It's been a wonderful opportunity to further discussions and very encouraging to see the strong support of our work from the sector.

I attended and presented at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference in May. It was a fantastic gathering, and I was pleased to be part of the roundtable discussion on setting the agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.

In June at the Lowitja Institute's International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference

on Kaurna Country, I presented on various research projects including co-presenting with Shakara Liddelow-Hunt the recently launched **Walkern Katatdjin Roadmap Report: Working together to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQIA+ young people to thrive.** The Roadmap is a culmination of several years of advocacy and research lead by Aboriginal LGBTQIA+ researchers and community members and the report includes several steps you can take today to support Aboriginal LGBTQIA+ young people- I encourage you all to check it out and make a commitment to action. Noongar Elder Aunty Dorothy (Dot) Bagshaw and young Noongar person Spiider and I

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, present and emerging with particular acknowledgment to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional owners of the lands where our offices are located.

also co-presented on the **Pride Yarns** project which is a pilot of an intergenerational support program for Aboriginal LGBTQA+ young people. I was also lucky enough to co-present a project on Aboriginal data sovereignty for health data in Boorloo (Perth) with Keisha Weir and Dr Duc Dau from Wungening Aboriginal Corporation.

In May the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet completed a round of Online Community Consultations to help inform our upcoming Strategic Plan. We had 74 attendees come to various sector group sessions including regional, rural, and remote communities, tertiary students, higher education and research institutes, university librarians, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), Aboriginal Health Workers and community members, the environmental health workforce, justice sector professionals and health practitioners. It was a privilege to hear about the amazing work that each sector is undertaking daily. Key take home messages were the need for greater workforce skills support, especially in cultural safety, and the need for easy to digest, brief summaries of research evidence. The Strategic Plan for the Australian Indigenous



Bep presenting at Lowitja with Shakara Liddelow-Hunt. Photo courtesy of Lowitja Institute

HealthInfoNet will be released later this year and will rely heavily on these learnings.

Finally, Happy NAIDOC to all. I had a great time recording an episode of UWAs *The Meaning of Health* podcast with Aunty Vicki Wade (Menzies School of Health Research) and Dr Ingrid Stacey (Cardiovascular Epidemiology Research Centre, UWA) on the importance of Noongar women's heart health. The episode will be released online with NAIDOC Week and available free through any podcast service. Aunty Vicki also spoke about her work on cultural safety in the updated **Australian Guideline for the**

prevention, diagnosis and management of acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease: edition 3.3 which you can find on the HealthInfoNet.

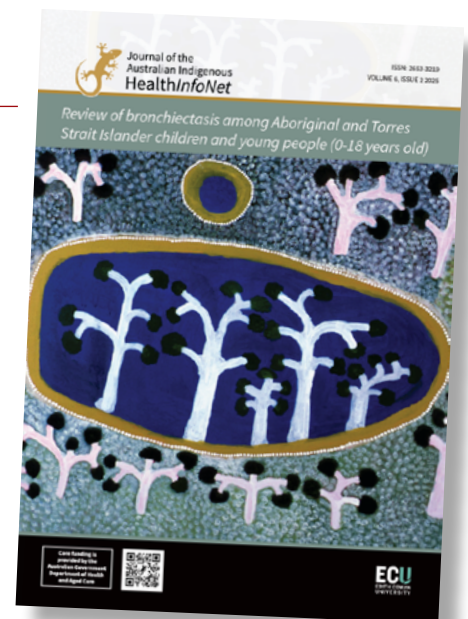
I also had the pleasure of attending the National NAIDOC awards to support Edith Cowan University Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Equity and Indigenous) and ECU HealthInfoNet Advisory Board representative Prof. Braden Hill who was nominated for the Education award. You can read more about Prof. Hill's transformational work [here](#) along with all the other deadly award finalists.

Professor Bep Uink

Review of bronchiectasis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people

Our latest review was promoted at the World Bronchiectasis conference in Brisbane in mid-July. We are grateful to our partners **Lung Foundation Australia** for their support in facilitating the promotion of our review at this international event which is also hosted by them. The review was also pre promoted to all registered delegates and helps us to get this important content which includes risk factors, prevention strategies, management and future directions to a targeted audience. The new **Review of bronchiectasis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people (0-18 years old)** was authored by Professor André Schultz and Professor Anne Bernadette Chang and confirms that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

children are disproportionately affected by bronchiectasis. Professor André Schultz said "The timely diagnosis and optimal management of bronchiectasis and its precursors in children, which can potentially prevent a lifetime of chronic disease, can be achieved through comprehensively addressing risk factors, and the provision of guidelines-based, culturally secure health care". The review recommends that there should be true partnerships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, experts (in paediatric respiratory health, environmental health, public health, the social determinants of disease and smoking cessation), government institutions and other institutions. Professor Anne Bernadette Chang said



"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people-led-and-administered health services and initiatives must be given priority".

New Queensland web resource supports First Nations health

Learn > Locations > Queensland

Queensland

Queensland interactive map

Go to the publications, policies, resources, programs, organisations, events, courses, funding and jobs sections of the Queensland Portal to use the map and filter content by the following regions:

- Torres and Cape
- North West
- Cairns and Hinterland
- Townsville
- Central West
- Mackay
- Central Queensland
- South West
- Wide Bay
- Darling Downs
- West Moreton
- Brisbane Metro
 - Metro North
 - Metro South
- Sunshine Coast
- Gold Coast

Queensland is Australia's second largest state, with a coastline that stretches over 7,000 kms [1] from the Torres Strait Islands at the top of the Cape York Peninsula, down to the urban centres of South East Queensland, which includes the State's capital and largest city of Meanjin/Brisbane, situated on the traditional lands of the Turrbal and Yuggera peoples [2]. It is also the most decentralised of the mainland states in Australia with more than half the population living outside the greater metropolitan area of Meanjin [1].

Queensland has the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) population in Australia [3], making up around 29.2% of Australia's First Nations peoples and almost two thirds (64.5%) of Australia's Torres Strait Islander population [4]. Specifically, in the 2021 Census, 4.6% (237,303 people) of the Queensland population identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander compared with 3.2% nationally [5]. Along with the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland also has the highest projected growth rate for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia to 2031 (2.4% per year) [6]. Of those who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in Queensland, 81.5% identify as Aboriginal, 9.2% as Torres Strait Islander, and 9.3% as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [7].

Reducing the disparity of health outcomes between First Nations peoples and other Queenslanders, as well as between remote and urban areas across Queensland, is a priority. Closing this gap is also embedded in the care and determination of First Nations community controlled health services (ATSICCHS), which are guided by the State's peak body, the [Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council \(QAIHC\)](#). A list of QAIHC's thirty one Member ATSICCHSs and two regional organisations (the [Institute of Urban Indigenous Health \(UIIH\)](#) and the [Northern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Alliance \(NATSIHA\)](#)) can be found on the [Map of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health/medical services](#).

▶ TAKE A TOUR OF THE QUEENSLAND PORTAL

Determinants

Social and emotional wellbeing

Chronic diseases

Infectious conditions

Populations

Health system

In May, Queensland Health and the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet launched a new [Queensland Portal](#), which provides Queensland-specific health information and resources to support anyone working or studying in First Nations health in Queensland, including students, academics and policy makers.

Funded by the Queensland Government Department of Health, the new Portal includes a map that allows users to filter content by Queensland's Hospital and Health Services for a faster, more efficient search for relevant publications, resources, programs, organisations, courses and jobs. The Portal also supports the workforce with information

on Queensland-specific events and funding opportunities.

This freely accessible portal will help support and inform the health workforce in Queensland by providing them with up to date, relevant and evidence-based resources for First Nations peoples. I am delighted that Queensland Health have chosen the HealthInfoNet to provide and keep updated this curated culturally safe collection to support their ongoing initiatives in improving health outcomes for their First Nations population groups.

Queensland Health, Chief First Nations Health Officer, Haylene Grogan who heads up the First Nations Health Office said "The Queensland portal will facilitate access to evidence-based

health information about First Nations peoples. I'm excited by the possibilities this offers in supporting improved health outcomes for our people".

The [Queensland Portal](#) is located on the HealthInfoNet website. Users can freely access up-to-date information and culturally appropriate resources on First Nations health in Queensland. Stay up to date by signing up to the monthly [Queensland State Newsletter](#) and by subscribing to [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#).

National Indigenous Times also shared the news about the new portal <https://nit.com.au/28-05-2025/18212/new-portal-launched-to-support-first-nations-health-in-queensland>



Journal of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

New issue of our Journal

The Journal aims to facilitate access to information that supports those working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. Reflecting the wide range of readers – policy makers, service providers, researchers, students and the general community – the **Journal of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet** keeps people informed about recent research and promotes knowledge exchange.

With 22,566 downloads, in 141 countries and 597 institutions around the world, we are extremely grateful for the continued support shown for the Journal by both authors and readers worldwide.

In this issue, we present a diverse group of papers consistent with our desire to provide an outlet for a wide range of people in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector:

1. Ekberg et al., detail an account of their work to assess communication patterns of clinicians following cultural capability and clinical yarning training.
2. McRae et al., describe a process and impact enquiry of the development of healthy skin resources.
3. Lansbury et al., tackle the crucial issue of water security in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities amid

the ongoing climate crisis.

4. Anderson et al., critique the efforts to address Closing the Gap, Target 10, describing their frustration with the lack of what they call 'congruence' among federal, state and local community initiatives.
5. Zuchowski et al. reflect on the role of social work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings. They report a preliminary case study of social work practice in the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service, concluding that social work can make a strong and meaningful contribution.

Reconciliation Memoirs with Patrick Dodson



Some of the HealthInfoNet team at Pat Dodson's Reconciliation Week talk

During national Reconciliation week, some of the team and I attended this inspiring event. Ken Wyatt interviewed Pat Dodson, a Yawuru Elder from Broome, who spoke

about the highlights of his journey so far, sharing his experiences, insights, and vision for reconciliation and justice and the importance of finding common ground.

Pat Dodson is widely regarded as Australia's Father of Reconciliation. The event was hosted by Reconciliation WA.

Welcome event for Indigenous Canadian students

The Global Indigenous Learning Experience (GILE) Program, delivered by ECU's Kurongkurl Katitjin and Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) in Canada, hosted the Canadian students and colleagues on campus from the 7-11 July 2025. On Monday 7 July, our team attended the opening with a Welcome and Smoking Ceremony hosted by Nan Roma Winmar, Aunty Tj and Micheal Spratt.

GILE is a collaborative international learning experience for Indigenous students at each institution. This study tour explores the similarities and differences between Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and Indigenous peoples in the Coast Salish region in Canada.



Nan Roma was part of the Welcome to Country event for the GILES students

Farewell and thank you to long term Advisory Board member



Sandy (Sandra) Thompson

In May, Sandy (Sandra) Thompson let me know that she would be stepping down as one of our long term Advisory Board members (2009-2025). While I have not yet had the pleasure to meet Sandy in person, I know the previous Director and HealthInfoNet staff have spoken so highly about her contributions to the HealthInfoNet over the years.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Sandy for all of the work she has helped shape during her years as an Advisory Board member and her long contribution to advocate and promote our work across the three Directors. It has been very much appreciated.



National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking with National Coordination TIS Professor Tom Calma AO, in front of the sculpture titled Kilung Morunbal Jum, "Death by Smoke" by artists Shannon Best and Frederick Beil.

New Tackling Indigenous Smoking app in development to support remote workforce

On June 11-12, HealthInfoNet staff attended the National Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Workers Workshop in Garramilla (Darwin) on Larrakia Country. Over 250 TIS Workers from around the country gathered to share ideas and hear the latest in best practice for tobacco control. The HealthInfoNet facilitated sessions with the University of Canberra, Ninti One and Origin Digital to consult with TIS Workers about the new TIS website app that is under development. The app will make it quicker and easier for TIS Workers to access TIS resources on their mobile devices, with the ability to download information to use 'offline'. This will support the workforce when they are in areas with poor or no internet connection.

Palliative Care



We promoted National Palliative care week in May and added any relevant resources to our portal.

Perth Roundtable event



Perth Roundtable speakers 2025

In May, I presented at our Perth Roundtable event, alongside some of our wonderful Perth based guest speakers:

1. WA Health, Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate - Director of Aboriginal Health Wendy Casey
2. Aboriginal Health Council of WA (AHCWA) - Executive Manager Health and Wellbeing, Kim Gates
3. WA Country Health Service- Director of Aboriginal Health, Russell Simpson
4. WANADA & AHCWA joint project - Culture Care Connect Jurisdictional Coordinator, Rebecca Peagno
5. Australian Indigenous Psychology Education Project - Research Fellow / Clinical Psychologist, Belle Selkirk

This was a great opportunity to share ideas, current approaches and hear about the positive work being done and the challenges in the WA health sector. As always, our Roundtable provides a valuable networking opportunity for attendees.

Resources in language

Did you know



The **Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website** has **over 610 resources in language**.

These items have been classified into **43 language and cultural groups**

The top 6 language and cultural groups on the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website are:

Yolngu	Pitjantjatjara	Kriol/Creole
Warlpiri	Arrente	Torres Strait Islander people

Across the sector, we are seeing a strong demand for these resources. This request also came through in our Online Community Consultations. While our research and library team have been adding these for some time now, we are at the stage where there is a significant amount with currently 600 resources across 42 language groups on our website, so it is timely that we showcase this important collection with you.

We have grouped these resources for easy access. To find these resources, we have added a 'Cultural' tab on the filters section of the resource page (see screenshot below). This filter is also available on any of the health topics resource pages too.



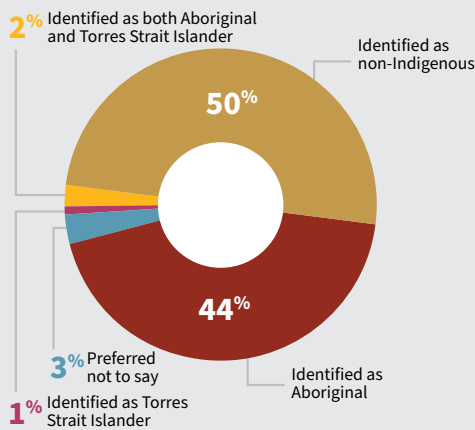
HealthInfoNet user survey results

We had an excellent response to our user survey.

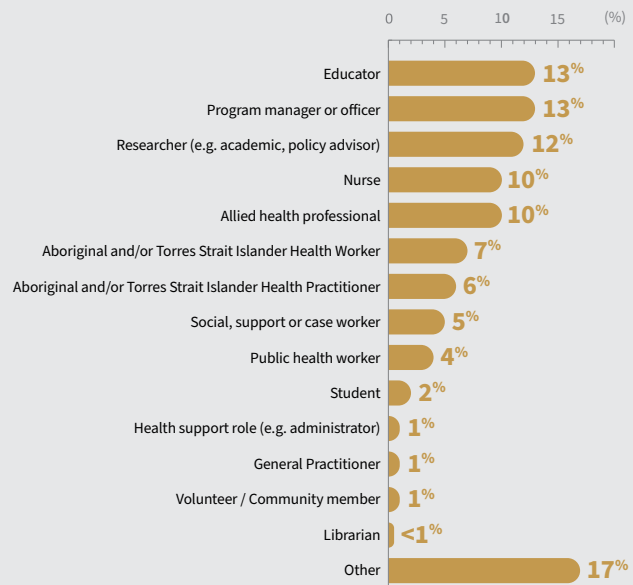


USER DEMOGRAPHICS

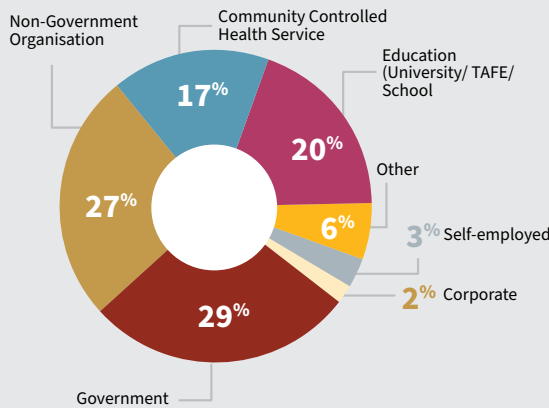
Indigeneity



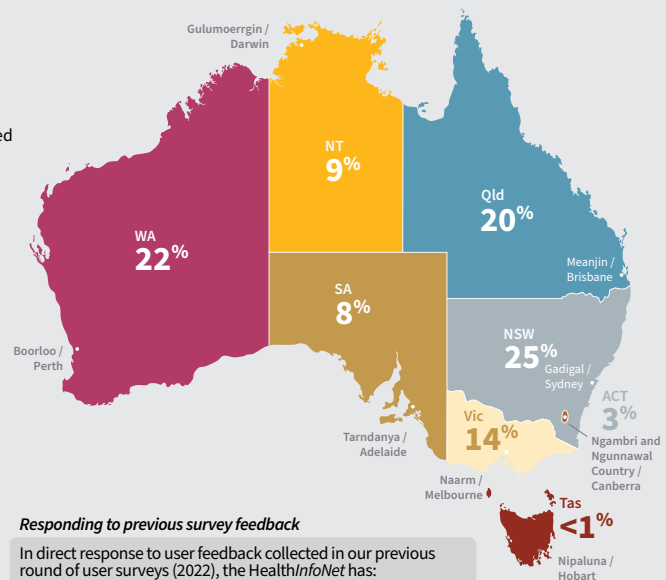
Occupation type



Employer

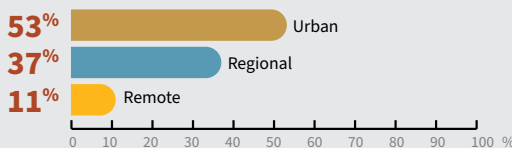


Location of respondents



Note: Only respondents who did not select 'Student' as their main occupation were asked this question.

Remoteness



Responding to previous survey feedback

- In direct response to user feedback collected in our previous round of user surveys (2022), the HealthInfoNet has:
- Added the ability for users to identify open access publications
 - Added thumbnail images to improve user experience
 - Made improvements to the search function of the website
 - Created user videos highlighting features of portals.

Technical notes: The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet User Survey 2025 ran for three weeks in March 2025. It received 596 valid responses, of which 467 were from people who use the HealthInfoNet website for work purposes. The analysis presented here is of this subset of 467 responses. Due to rounding, the sum of percentages may not equal 100%.

This survey formed part of the HealthInfoNet's Impact and Evaluation Project, which has been approved by the ECU Human Research Ethics Committee (Project number: 18408).

Core funding is provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care



Promotion at conferences May-July 2025

1. Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference, 16–19 June on Kaurna Country in Adelaide – Bep attended and presented
2. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference (NATSIEHC25), 27-29 May in Perth – Bep presented and we provided our calico bags as delegate satchels
3. International Family Nursing Association Conference 20 June in Perth - Bep presented
4. Quality Assurance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services (QAAMS) Workshop in Perth, 14-15 May – we presented and exhibited
5. Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies (NADA) Conference, Sydney 5-6 June – we exhibited
6. Australian College of Mental Health Nurses WA Branch Autumn Symposium, Perth 30 May – we exhibited.
7. 8th World Bronchiectasis Conference Brisbane, 15-17 July in Brisbane - we exhibited
8. Australian College of Nursing Conference, 23-25 July in Canberra - we exhibited

In addition, we gave updates/presented online or in person to:

- QAIHC
- NAATSHWIP
- CATSINaM – LINMEN
- College Medicine and Public health - CPSP Empower, Flinders University
- NSW Government - Health and Social Policy Branch
- WA Country Health Service - BACKUP Staff Development Nurse Central Office
- Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group - Allied Health team
- Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council Leadership group
- Moorditj Minds radio interviews [In-person].



WA MHN hamper winner



NADA Conference. Photo credit Helene Cochoud



AHCWA delegate Nicole Burton at our stand



WANADA delegate Jan Allen and hamper winner



HealthInfoNet's Tara Hoyne, promoting our new Bronchiectasis review at the 8th World Bronchiectasis Conference in Brisbane in July



Lesley Versteegh, Respiratory Nurse, Menzies School of Health Research holding a copy of our new review at the 8th World Bronchiectasis conference in Brisbane in July.



Jane Davies, Director of Nursing on Thursday Island at the Australian College of Nursing conference in Canberra in July.

QAAMS morning tea



Grant White, Michelle Elwell and Mark Shepherd

In May, we welcomed staff from QAAMS – Quality Assurance for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Medical Services – for a morning tea. It was a wonderful

opportunity to hear more about their work ahead of their Workshop in Perth. They presented Michelle Elwell -who has been our representative and exhibited

and presented at their annual Workshop for many years - with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Farewell to a long term team member



We held a celebration morning tea late June to farewell and thank Christine Potter (Research Coordinator) as she heads into retirement. Christine was an integral part of the research team leading many projects in the 17 years she was with the HealthInfoNet. We wish her every happiness ahead in her retirement and upcoming travel plans.

New Programs Manager appointed

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Seema Rind as our new Programs Manager who joined the team in late April. This is a new position and will ensure our research team

are mentored and supported to focus on their core work. Seema is also responsible for coordinating the reporting, preparing funding submissions and community engagement.

Seema comes from a policy background having worked across state and federal government departments and this expertise has been a fantastic addition to the team. Welcome Seema!



Reaching our users via social media

We continue to achieve above average engagement for our industry and have seen pleasing results through LinkedIn, where we have the highest levels of engagement and following; encouraging follower growth on Instagram, consistent engagement on Facebook and we no longer post on X/Twitter as of July 2025.

Makuru—season of fertility

Makuru, in the Noongar calendar of Western Australia, is the season of fertility and the coldest and wettest time of the year, typically spanning June and July. It is a time when the landscape experiences heavy rains and strong winds, and animals begin to pair up in preparation for breeding. Find out more https://beta.bom.gov.au/resources/indigenous-weather-knowledge/indigenous-seasonal-calendars/nyoongar-calendar#bom-anchor-list__item-makuru-season-of-fertility

