

## Media Release – New review of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children’s respiratory health says more can be done

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The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (HealthInfoNet) at Edith Cowan University has published a new *Review of respiratory health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children*.

HealthInfoNet Director, Professor Neil Drew, says ‘this important review states that respiratory illnesses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are serious and can progress to chronic lung disease’.

The review written by Kerry-Ann O’Grady (Queensland University of Technology), Kerry Hall (Griffith University), Anna Bell, (Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital), Anne Chang (Charles Darwin University) and HealthInfoNet Research Coordinator, Christine Potter, found that the lung health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children requires a greater focus. The review recommends that to reduce the burden of respiratory illness in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, best-practice medicine is essential. Also, tied to this is improving socioeconomic factors, reducing harmful exposures to infections and toxins, and addressing access to culturally acceptable health care and illness prevention programs.

The review also highlights that significant change will only occur once the broader determinants of respiratory health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are adequately addressed. However, much can be done now to enable children to ‘breathe easy’ throughout their lifetime.

Link to review <https://healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-facts/reviews-knowledge-exchange-products/>

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**About the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet:** The HealthInfoNet is an 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. In this way, it contributes to closing the gap in health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians. For over 20 years, working in the area of translational research 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.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au](http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au)