

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing



Population



5,811 people identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in Gippsland in the 2021 census:

- 1.9% of the total Gippsland population (1% Victoria)
- Median age 23 years (non-Indigenous people 46 years)

	Bass Coast	South Gippsland	Baw Baw	Latrobe	East Gippsland	Wellington
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	465	358	724	1,659	1,683	923
Proportion of total population	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	2.1%	3.5%	2%

Gippsland PHN is located on Gunaikurnai and Bunurong lands and we acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria, and their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay our respects to them, their cultures and to elders past and present.

“Having doctors that look at you, see you, hear you. Ask in a genuine way what you are needing and your health history, especially why you're there that day.”

- Community member

Gippsland data



Factors affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing

Data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	Gippsland	Victoria
Aboriginal low income families (at least one Aboriginal person in home and with income under \$20,799 pa)	14.6%	12.6%
Privately rented dwellings - Aboriginal persons	30.7%	39.0%
Social housing - Aboriginal persons in rented dwellings	15.7%	12.2%
Aboriginal participation in full-time secondary school education at age 16	73.3%	75.0%
Aboriginal participation in vocational education and training, age-standardised rate per 100	33.3	26.9
Aboriginal women who did not attend antenatal visit in the first 10 weeks	53.5%	61.5%
Smoking during pregnancy (first 20 weeks) - Aboriginal women (Gippsland has the highest percentage in Australia)	51.3%	40.6%

Children fully immunised 2021-22	Gippsland	Victoria
1 year old children	88.8%	91.2%
2 year old children	93.9%	90.7%
5 year old children	97.9%	96.3%

High compared to other PHNs, top 25%

Low compared to other PHNs, bottom 25%

Top five health conditions leading to hospital admissions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Renal dialysis
- Gastroenterology
- General medicine
- Respiratory
- Diabetes

Top four health conditions leading to ED presentations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:

- Injury
- Mental and behavioural disorders
- Asthma
- Influenza and pneumonia

Community perspective



Top rated health issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Gippsland:

- Work and study opportunities
- Mental health
- Chronic diseases (heart and lung health)
- Alcohol and other drugs

Main barriers stopping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Gippsland accessing health care (compared to all survey respondents):

- Cost 44% (32%)
- Long wait for appointments 41% (24%)
- Didn't feel comfortable accessing the service 18% (6%)
- Couldn't get there 15% (10%)
- Didn't understand how to access the service 8% (4%)
- Nationally, 32% of Indigenous Australians who did not access health services when needed cited cultural reasons

“Aboriginal people have negative experiences of health ... therefore healing is needed.”

- Gippsland professional