

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is a national priority.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOS) build on a strong connection to community to enable a holistic and culturally appropriate approach to health and wellbeing through meeting identified needs of individual communities.

Health is defined as:

"Not just the physical wellbeing of an individual but the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the whole Community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being, thereby bringing about the total wellbeing of their Community. It is a whole-of-life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life."





An estimated 5,207 **Aboriginal and Torres** Strait Islander people live in Gippsland.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population		South Gippsland	Baw Baw	Latrobe	East Gippsland	Wellington	GIPPSLAND
Number of people	318	285	628	1,438	1,855	802	5,207
Per cent of total population	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	2.0%	4.2%	1.9%	2.0%

Total hospital admissions for indigenous people are almost three times as common compared to the nonindigenous population, including for the following conditions:



Cardiovascular diseases (1.9)



Diabetes (3.9)



Hospitalisations attributable to alcohol (3.9)



Hospitalisations attributable to tobacco (3.9)



Mental and behavioural disorders (4.1)



Renal dialysis (8.8)

Total indigenous presentations to emergency departments are more than twice as common than for non-indigenous people, including for the following conditions:



Asthma (3.1)



Influenza and pneumonia (2.8)



Mental and behavioural disorders (4.1)



Injuries (1.8)

indigenous people identified things that are working well, including educational community activities and praise for staf at local services.

indicate that there are

no registered Aboriginal

or Torres Strait Islander

Health Practitioners in

Gippsland.

Main barriers stopping indigenous people in Gippsland accessing health care (compared to all survey respondents)



44% (32%)



Long wait for appointments 41% (24%)



Didn't understand how to access the service 8% (4%)



Didn't feel comfortable accessing the service 18% (6%)

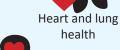


Couldn't get there 15% (10%)

The top-rated health issues for local indigenous people in a community survey were:



Work and study opportunities



Mental health

The role of Gippsland PHN specifically targeted to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Gippsland:

Integrated Team Care | Indigenous Dual Diagnosis | Place Based Suicide Prevention Project | Early Detection and Screening including Tobacco Initiative | Black Pages | Education and Training

For more information on The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-23 please visit: https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/B92E980680486C3BCA257BF0001BAF01/\$File/health-plan.pdf