COVID-19 resources: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Compiled by Austin Health Sciences Library

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Research and news

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations are taking a leading role in COVID-19 health communication ANZ Journal of Public Health 2020; online first: 24 June

First Nations people leading the way in COVID-19 pandemic planning, response and management Medical Journal of Australia, 29 April 2020

“Research following the 2009 pandemic found that infectious disease control measures must be developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

Indigenous Australians and the COVID-19 crisis: perspectives on public policy Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR), Topical Issue 1, April 2020

“A compilation of eight short papers written during the rapid escalation of the Australian response to the COVID-19 pandemic: employment impacts, social security reforms, Indigenous governance, violence against women, the Indigenous health workforce, school closures, energy security in remote communities, and a proposal for an Indigenous reconstruction agency.”


“We know that there are vulnerable populations, such as: the elderly, those with disabilities, people in prison, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people with chronic conditions, and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, that will be impacted disproportionately by COVID-19, particularly if assertive health promotion action is absent…

The health promotion profession can lead this charge and advocate for a national public health social media campaign and other pragmatic measures that reach people most in need. This will help support them to get accurate and timely
information to prepare and reduce the risk to themselves, their families, friends and their community.”

Roadmap to Recovery: reporting on a research taskforce supporting Indigenous responses to COVID-19 Croakey Health Media, 6 May 2020
“The Group of Eight universities have published an independent report, Roadmap to Recovery.

One of its questions was: What are the special considerations with regards to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and their communities through the recovery process? Coordinated by the University of Western Australia, the responses of a group of Indigenous academics and non-Indigenous academics to that question informed a separate chapter of the report, and this expanded article.”

“The disproportionate impact of pandemics on Indigenous populations worldwide has been well documented. In responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic, Australian Indigenous organisations have shown exemplary leadership and innovation in their efforts towards preparedness. Urgent action is required to ensure Australia’s indigenous community is protected from COVID-19, now and especially in the recovery phase as the nation ‘reopens.’”

Bullet proofing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities from COVID-19 Croakey Health Media 22 April 2020
Outlines the work being done by Indigenous communities and organisations to suppress the spread of the coronavirus.

Toolkits and clinical resources


COVID-19 Clinical Resources National Aboriginal Controlled Health organization (NACCHO)

COVID-19 Clinical Peer Support Group VACCHO (Facebook)
COVID-19 Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professionals National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association

Coronavirus response toolkit for member services Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, March 2020

Better phone communications in the age of COVID19 Phoenix Training Online
“COVID 19 has meant a huge increase in phone and video communications to replace face to face conversations not possible because of social distancing. Very few people providing essential health services have been trained in how to conduct this kind of communication. This presentation describes how to get the best outcomes from phone conversations which is especially important for certain groups who’re likely to have particular difficulties with phone conversations.”

Community education resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and remote communities Australian Government Department of Health

COVID-19 Resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities National Aboriginal Controlled Health organization (NACCHO)

Heart health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people during COVID-19 [webinar and slides] Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

COVID-19 information videos ICTV Play

Coronavirus community resources Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Over 30 different visual resources and downloadable posters on different COVID-19 topics