



Hot weather and bowel cancer screening

Hot tips for healthcare providers

- Weather over 30°C can affect stool samples and cause incorrect or inconclusive results
- ACCHOs located in areas that regularly get hot weather “hot zones” may need to put in place additional arrangements to ensure clients have somewhere cool to store samples.
- Hot zones are areas with a monthly average temperature above 30°C.
- There are 85 ACCHOs based in hot zone areas across various months of the year.
- People can still do bowel cancer screening in hot weather, provided the samples can be kept cool.

ACCHOs in areas that regularly get hot weather might want to offer to store samples for clients

Consider offering to community members the option to store samples at the ACCHO. This may be particularly useful if community members don't have somewhere cool to store the sample or it is hard for them to get to the post office.

Advice to give to community members about collecting samples in hot weather:

- Don't leave the test kit in direct sunlight
- Try not to expose the samples to temperatures above 30 degrees
- Store samples in the fridge or an esky but not in the freezer
- Use an insulated container (like a lunch bag or esky) to carry completed samples to a post box, if possible
- Try to drop the sample off indoors, either at the post office counter or to an indoor post box
- If the sample can only be dropped to an outdoor post box, try and drop it off as close to the collection time as possible (the collection time is usually displayed on the post box).

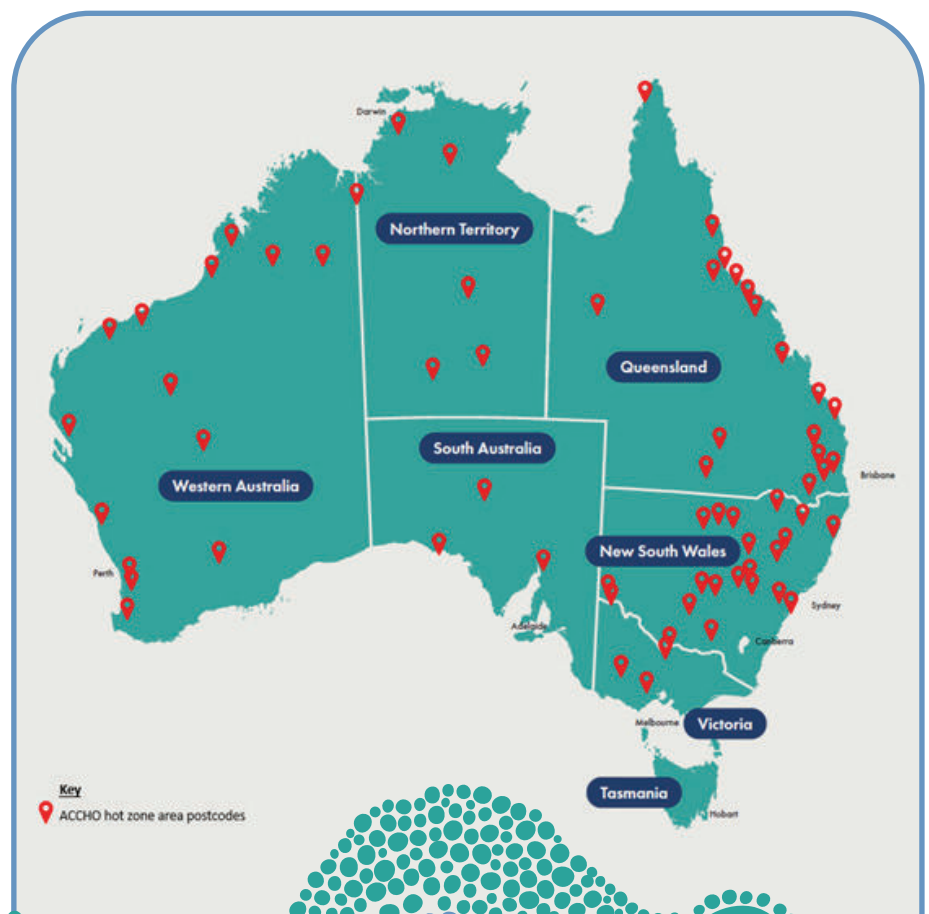


Figure 1. ACCHOs located in hot zone areas

