
MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 22 November 2024

Interviews: ☎ 03 8699 0992 ✉ media@racgp.org.au

Preventive care guidelines to improve health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: GP24

The health impacts of climate change, vaping and racism are among new topics in the fourth edition of preventive healthcare guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, launching at Australia's premier annual GP conference in Perth today.

It comes on day two of the Royal Australia College of GPs (RACGP) annual conference [GP24, from 21 to 23 November at Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre](#).

Dr Karen Nicholls, Chair of RACGP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, said: "I'm proud to be launching with NACCHO the fourth NACCHO-RACGP *National guide to preventive healthcare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*.

"Importantly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people led development of the guide, and it positively states what promotes, supports, and strengthens Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

"We know that high-quality culturally and clinically safe preventive care improves health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. [Government data shows](#) almost two-thirds (64%) of the fatal burden of disease for those aged under 75 are deaths that could potentially have been avoided with high-quality culturally and clinically safe preventive healthcare.

RACGP President Dr Michael Wright said: "This guide provides critical evidence-based recommendations and advice to help Australia's GPs to provide clinically and culturally safe care. The RACGP is proud to produce the guide in partnership with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

"The fourth edition has new topics including the health impacts of racism, sleep, vaping and climate change, which all have significant impacts on physical and mental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

NACCHO CEO, Pat Turner said the launch of the fourth edition of the NACCHO-RACGP National Guide to Preventive Health Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People is a vital step in addressing health inequities and empowering our communities to thrive.

"This guide reflects the collective wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices, ensuring culturally and clinically safe care is at the forefront. By tackling emerging challenges such as climate change, vaping, and racism, we are not only addressing immediate health concerns but also laying the foundation for a healthier future."

"NACCHO is proud to partner with RACGP in delivering this indispensable resource to support GPs and healthcare workers nationwide in providing the highest standard of preventive care for our people," Pat added.

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Media contacts

Media team: 03 8699 0992 / media@racgp.org.au

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is the peak representative organisation for general practice, the backbone of Australia's health system. We set the standards for general practice, facilitate lifelong learning for GPs, connect the general practice community, and advocate for better health and wellbeing for all Australians.

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