



Australian Indigenous
HealthInfoNet

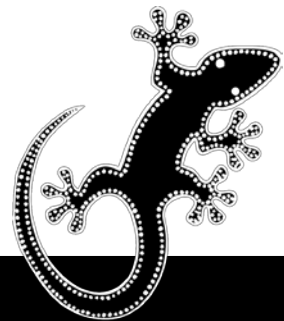
The value of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

Supporting and connecting within the Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander environmental health sector

Millie Harford-Mills
Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

Acknowledgement

I would like acknowledge and pay my deepest respects to the Traditional Owners of the land we are on today, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



Introduction

What I'll be discussing today:

- Introduction to the Indigenous Environmental Health Practitioners Portal
- How the portal can assist you in your work
- Future developments.



Introduction - HealthInfoNet

The HealthInfoNet:

- Was established in 1997 by the late Professor Neil Thomson
- Aims to make research around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health easily accessible
- Funded by the Department of Health
- Based at Edith Cowan University, Mount Lawley (in Perth, WA).



Introduction – IEHP portal

- Need for a 'hub' for information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health identified by WGATSIEH
- WGATSIEH contracted WA Environmental Health Directorate to investigate best options
- HealthInfoNet funded to create and maintain an Indigenous Environmental Health Practitioners portal



IEHP portal



Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

Home About Funders Contact Warning Quick access 

Topics A-Z Health facts Chronic conditions Infectious conditions Other health conditions Related issues Determinants Protective & risk factors Population groups States and territories Health Infrastructure

[Home](#) » [Health Infrastructure](#) » Indigenous environmental health practitioners 

Indigenous environmental health practitioners



Welcome to the Indigenous environmental health practitioners web resource - for people working, studying or interested in the environmental health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We aim to provide quality information and resources about environmental health among Indigenous peoples.

This web resource also supports an Indigenous environmental health practitioners yarning place by providing electronic services that encourage information sharing and collaboration among the full range of health professionals and others involved in environmental health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Environmental health



Water supply



Waste management



Housing and community



Food safety



Personal hygiene



Communicable diseases



Animal management



Caring for country



Emergency management



Workforce



About this resource

More on this topic...

 [Health Bulletin](#)

IEHP news

14 August 2017
Water conservation video up for award
[More IEHP news >](#)

Twitter

Tweets by [@aihiehp](#)

 **AIHEnvironment** [@aihiehp](#)
Water conservation video up for award goo.gl/fb/qrdSWS [#EnvironmentalHealth](#)
1h

 **AIHEnvironment** [@aihiehp](#)
Ranger Forum celebrating vital role of Indigenous rangers goo.gl/fb/nP9ikk [#EnvironmentalHealth](#)
Aug 10, 2017

[Embed](#) [View on Twitter](#)



IEHP portal – sub topics



Key topics identified by participants at the
2009 NATSIEH Conference



Housing and community

Housing and community



This section provides information about housing and community and Indigenous environmental health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners.



Key facts



Regulations and standards



Policies and strategies



Programs and projects



Resources and equipment



Publications



Organisations



Housing and community – key facts

Key facts



This section provides information about housing and community and Indigenous environmental health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners.

What are Indigenous people's needs for housing and communities?

Indigenous people need to live in healthy and safe environments and communities with adequate housing and suitable services and facilities. Unfortunately, many Indigenous people do not experience these conditions. Issues of concern are:

- that many Indigenous people have been moved from their homelands
- generally they have a lower income available for housing than non-Indigenous people, and
- they may experience racism and discrimination in obtaining housing.

For Indigenous people housing and communities must be suitable for social, cultural and special needs, and be adaptable for various life stages. Indigenous people often travel among different communities for social and cultural reasons which impacts on the demand for accommodation and facilities. In communities there should be access to services: medical services; shops; fire and emergency services; sport and recreation facilities. It is important for Indigenous people to be consulted about housing and community issues to ensure their needs are met.

What types of housing do Indigenous people live in?

Indigenous people live in a range of accommodation types: privately owned homes; rented properties; transportable buildings; hostels; temporary homes such as camps, and prisons. The Indigenous population is increasingly living in urban areas.

In 2007-2008 about a third of Indigenous households were home owners or purchasers, a third rented privately, a fifth rented from state or territory housing authorities, and a tenth rented from mainstream or Indigenous community housing organisations. Almost 2 out of every 100 Indigenous people were homeless.

Indigenous people live in either permanent or improvised dwellings. Permanent dwellings have fixed walls, doors and roof, and usually have kitchen and bathroom facilities. These dwellings are made from regular building materials and are intended for long term residential use. An improvised dwelling is a structure used as a place of residence that does not meet the building requirements to be considered as a permanent dwelling; including caravans, tin sheds without internal walls, humpies and dongas.

- Key topics covered include:
- ◉ Need of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in terms of housing and communities
 - ◉ Types of housing
 - ◉ Role of IEHPs in housing and communities
 - ◉ Healthy living practices



Housing and community - programs

Title	Reach	Focus
Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project	WA	●
Aboriginal Communities Development Program (ACDP)	NSW	●
Aboriginal Communities Program	NSW	●
Achievements under the Queensland Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Strategy 2001-2006	QLD	●
Alice Springs Transformation Plan	NT	●
Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Programme	National	●
Asbestos in Aboriginal Communities Project	NSW	●
Australian Feral Camel Management Project	National	●
Australian Indigenous House Crowding	QLD, WA	●
Best Practice Models for Effective Consultation Towards Improving Built Environment Outcomes for Remote Indigenous Communities	SA, WA	●
Binbi Meta (Healthy Dwelling) Program	QLD	●
Blacktown Aboriginal Safety Promotion Program	NSW	●
Building Better Roads	WA	●



Housing and community - programs

Regional Services Reform: Resilient Families, Strong Communities

Reach: WA

Focus area: Indigenous

Status: Current

Overview

This Government of Western Australia (WA) regional services reform program aims to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in regional and remote WA, and to bring about long-term systemic change.

A roadmap for major reforms to the delivery of housing, education, employment and human services was released in July 2016.

The three priority areas are:

- improving living conditions to enable families to prosper
- supporting families to build skills and overcome barriers to do so, through improved service redesign and delivery
- education, employment and housing opportunities, and supporting families to take them up.

Regional Services Reform had an initial focus on the Pilbara and Kimberley and in 2017 expanded in to the Goldfields.

Change will be implemented at the local level by district leadership groups, made up of representatives from State and Commonwealth governments, local government, the community services sector, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and industry.

The Regional Services Reform Unit is funded by WA State Government service delivery areas and the Royalties for Regions program.

Adapted from Government of Western Australia Regional Services Reform Unit

Contacts

Regional Services Reform Unit

PO Box 1143

West Perth WA 6872

Email: [✉ regionalservicesreform@drd.wa.gov.au](mailto:regionalservicesreform@drd.wa.gov.au)

Related publications

Western Australian Regional Services Reform Unit (2016)

Resilient Families, Strong Communities: a roadmap for regional and remote Aboriginal communities.

Perth, WA: Western Australian Regional Services Reform Unit

This report sets out the Western Australia (WA) Government's plan for long-term reform in regional and remote Aboriginal communities, and its priority actions for the next two years. The report is intended to be used by the WA Government, in consultation with other agencies, communities and industry, to bring about improvements to the standard of living for Aboriginal people, initially in the regional and remote communities of the Pilbara and Kimberley.

The report focuses on the three main areas of improving living conditions, supporting families, and providing more opportunities. Ten priority actions are given for the first two year stage of the reform process.

Each entry provides:

- 🕒 An overview of the program
- 🕒 Outcomes of the program (if available)
- 🕒 Contact details
- 🕒 Related publications (if available)
- 🕒 Evaluated publications (if available)
- 🕒 Links for further information



Housing and community – health promotion

Health promotion resources

When you click on one of the headings of the table, the list will be sorted according to that heading. For more information about the resource, click on the title.

If you have information you would like to have included on this page please contact us.

Title	Year	Author	Type
Asbestos cement products in the home: environmental health guide	2006	Western Australian Department of Health Environmental Health Directorate	Factsheet
Asbestos in Aboriginal communities	2016	Asbestos in Aboriginal Communities Project	Resource package
Asbestos: A guide for householders and the general public	2012	Environmental Health Subcommittee (enHealth)	Booklet
Bushlight - renewable energy for remote Aboriginal communities	2013	Parish, T.	Audiovisual
Deadly tenants, deadly homes	2013	Western Australian Department of Housing	Audiovisual
Fire safety in your home: protect your family – protect your life	2015	Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia	Booklet
Guidance note: identification of asbestos containing material	2015	Western Australian Department of Health	Report
Healthy living	2017	Western Australian Department of Health	Resource package
Housing for health: the guide	2013	Healthabitat	Electronic source
How design can help fight poverty	2013	Pholeros, P.	Audiovisual



Housing and community – health promotion



ASBESTOS HAZARDS

Sometimes an asbestos sheet or other asbestos-containing products can be damaged, broken or may be unsealed.

Here are some examples of what to look for.

- Asbestos can be found in many places in and around homes built or renovated before 1987.
- When asbestos is disturbed, damaged or broken, asbestos fibres can be released into the air which may increase the risk of being inhaled by you.
- Breathing in asbestos fibres may cause damage to your lungs.
- Be careful not to disturb or damage asbestos.
- If you are unsure your home contains asbestos contact your Housing Provider.
- If asbestos must be removed, the safest way to remove asbestos is by a licensed asbestos removalist.
- Asbestos waste can only be disposed of at authorised landfills.
- Illegally dumped waste may contain asbestos and could be harmful to your health and the health of anyone who disturbs it.
- Stay away from old, abandoned buildings that may contain asbestos.
- Importantly, if you think it is asbestos, Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! And whatever you do. Don't dump it!

Contact 1800 Asbestos (1800 272 378) or visit asbestosawareness.com.au to learn where asbestos might be found in and around the home and how to manage it safely.

photos courtesy of asbestosawareness.com.au for Asbestos Hazards

© Artist: Dora Pirochova, Design by BAL ARNDT



OUR HOMES, OUR MOB, OUR SAFETY

Asbestos can be in any home built or renovated before 1987. Find out how to stay safe.

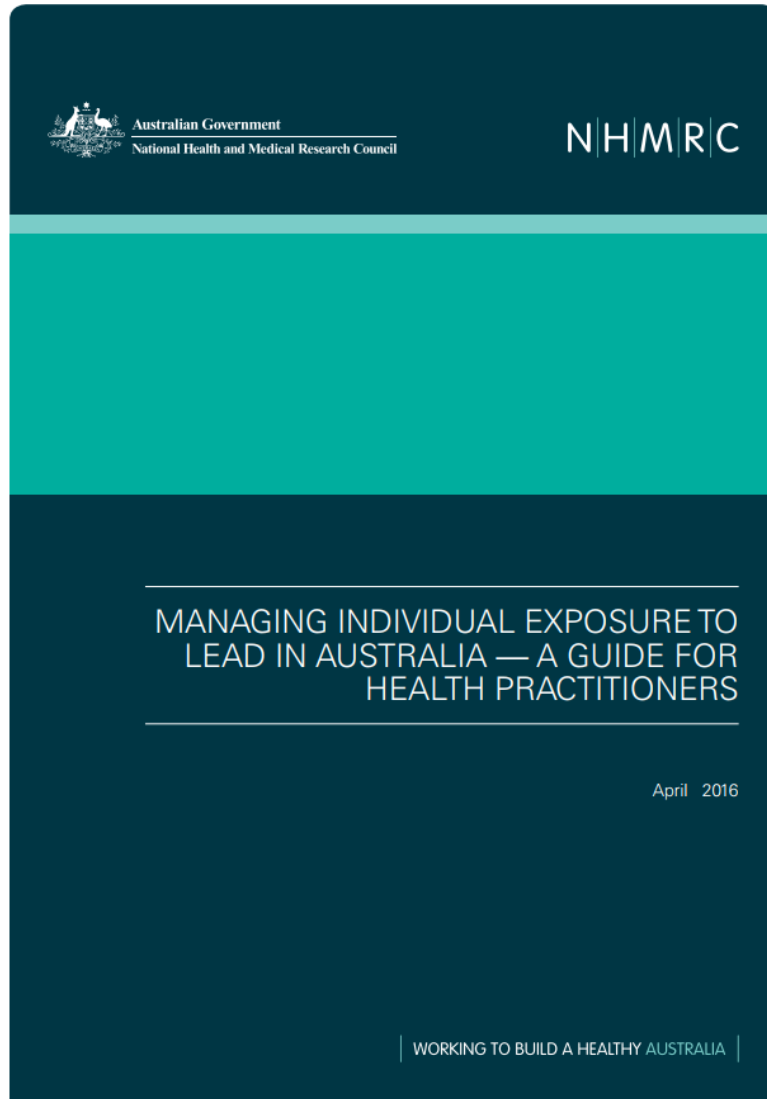


Health promotion resources:

- Aimed at the general public
- Can be used by IEHPs when working with communities and families



Housing and community – health practice



Health practice resources:

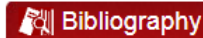
- Aimed at IEHPs
- Designed to up-skill or support practitioners when working in the area of environmental health



Housing and community - publications

General

This section provides recent references compiled from our bibliographic database about housing and community relating to Indigenous environmental health. This information is of particular relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners. References include journal articles, reports, theses and other literature. To access our complete database please use our bibliography.



2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2011

2017

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency (2017)

Remote Australian communities: the asbestos legacy.

Sydney: Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

This report documents research on asbestos management practices and issues in remote Australia. The report is realistic about funding constraints in remote communities and, importantly, provides a focus on ways to do things better within existing resources. It examines initiatives that work in remote communities and has looked at effective ways in which communities can tackle the problem.

Abstract adapted from Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Links

- [View report: Remote Australian communities: the asbestos legacy \(PDF - 3.3 MB\)](#)
- [View information: Asbestos safety research](#)
- [View website: Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency](#)

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2017)

National Social Housing Survey: a summary of national results 2016.

Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Links

- [View report: National Social Housing Survey: a summary of national results 2016](#)
- [View report: National Social Housing Survey 2016 infographic \(PDF - 1.4 MB\)](#)
- [View report: National Social Housing Survey: a summary of national results 2016 \(PDF - 5.5 MB\)](#)
- [View website: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Dockery AM (2017)

Culture, housing, remoteness and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child development: evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children.

Alice Springs: Ninti One

Publications are a collection of articles, reports and other literature:

- ◉ Publication lists for each topic, and also a general list under 'bibliography'
- ◉ Currently over 1,400 publications on Indigenous environmental health

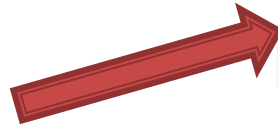


Workforce information

Workforce information relevant to all topics.

We provide:

- 🎯 Courses and training
- 🎯 Job opportunities
- 🎯 Funding
- 🎯 Conferences, workshops and events
- 🎯 Professional associations
- 🎯 Related publications





Title	Institution	State	Focus
Aboriginal Environmental Health Officer Training Program	NSW Health, University of Western Sydney	NSW	●
Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems (AWTS) Servicing and Maintenance Course	Centre for Environmental Training	NSW	●
Bachelor of Health Science	Griffith University	QLD	●
Bachelor of Natural Science (Environment and Health)	Western Sydney University	NSW	●
Basics of mosquito control	Mosquito Control Association of Australia	QLD	●
Certificate I in conservation and land management	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	NT	●
Certificate II in conservation and land management	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	NT	●
Certificate II in Indigenous environmental health	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	NT	●
Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	NT	●
Certificate III in Indigenous Environmental Health	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	NT	●
Certificate III in Indigenous Environmental Health	Kimberley Training Institute	WA	●
Domestic greywater management for sustainable reuse	Centre for Environmental Training	NSW	●
Fire management workshops	Mulong Pty Ltd	QLD	●
Housing Our Mob Everywhere (HOME)	Aboriginal Housing Office, New South Wales	NSW	●



Newsletter

Here is the latest newsletter for IEHP [Web Version](#)

Indigenous environmental health practitioners newsletter



[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Forward](#)

31/08/2017

Dear subscribers,

Here's the August update on the [Indigenous environmental health practitioners](#) web resource on the [Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet](#).

We encourage you to share this newsletter with your networks and anyone who might be interested. If you'd like your work or resources featured in this newsletter then please get in touch with me [here](#). You can also connect with me and others working in this field via the [Environmental Health Yarning Place](#), which currently has 262 members.

Kind regards
Millie Hartford-Mills
Research Officer
Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

[Visit our Yarning place](#)

[Follow @aihlEHP](#)

[Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin](#)

News

Program to tackle overcrowding in NT remote communities underway (31/08/17)
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rangers recognised on world stage (23/08/17)
Asbestos eradication projects for remote communities (17/08/17)
Water conservation video up for award (14/08/17)
Ranger Forum celebrating vital role of Indigenous rangers (10/08/17)

Publications, resources and reports

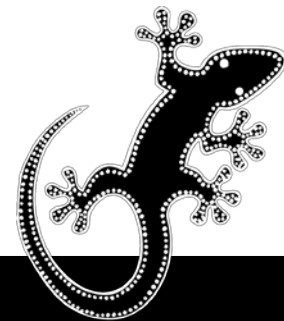
Publications:

- Housing conditions of urban households with Aboriginal children in NSW Australia: tenure type matters (2017)
- National Social Housing Survey: detailed results 2016 (2017)
- Vector-borne and zoonotic diseases of dogs in North-west New South Wales and the Northern Territory, Australia (2017)
- Northern Territory natural resource management plan 2016-2020 (2016)

A staff member from the HealthInfoNet will be at the 2017 NATSIEH conference next week! If you're going to be there, make sure you drop by our exhibition booth and have a yarn with Millie.

Environmental health newsletters:

- ◉ Sent out once a month
- ◉ Contain information on news, job opportunities, publications, resources and programs
- ◉ Only takes 2 minutes to sign up!

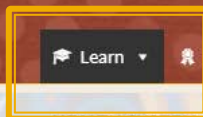


Future of the HealthInfoNet

- Moving the whole website to a responsive design (easier to use on tablets/phones)
- Improving other parts of the site, such as the search and navigation
- We hope to launch in January 2018



Navigation



HEALTH TOPICS

- Births
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Deaths and dying
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Disability
- Ear health
- Eye health
- Healing
- Kidney health
- Injury
- Infectious conditions
- Oral health
- Overweight and obesity
- Respiratory health
- Sexual health
- Social and emotional wellbeing

DETERMINANTS

- Environmental factors
- Social and cultural determinants
- Community capacity
- Immunity
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Preventing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternal Smoking

HEALTH SYSTEM

- Closing the Gap
- Hospitalisation

Environmental health >> Housing and community

Explore this topic

Environmental health >> Housing and community >> Programs and projects

Programs and projects

The section provides details of programs and projects relevant to Indigenous environmental health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners.

POPULATION GROUPS

- Infants and Children
- Adolescents
- Older people
- Women's health
- Men's health

LOCATIONS

- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Queensland
- Western Australia
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Northern Territory
- Australian Capital Territory
- Rural and Remote
- Urban

GROUP

Newly listed

WA, Qld, National

More on this topic

show here any social icons for this topic

Environmental health subtopics

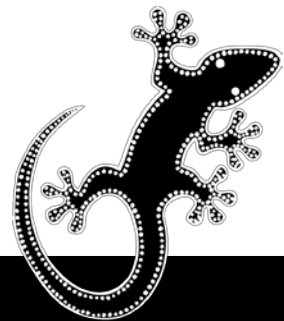
- Environmental health
- Water supply
- Housing and community
- Waste management
- Climate change
- Food safety
- Caring for country
- Personal hygiene
- Communicable diseases
- Animal management

Environmental health overall content



Search

- ◉ Working on creating a really easy-to-use search feature for the new website
- ◉ The new search will allow users to search for specific content with a number of filters.
- ◉ For example, content specific to dog health in Queensland



Pre-set filters

Subtopics

All 345 Home safety 4 Infrastructure and maintenance 0 Overcrowding 0 Power supply 6

Filters

Newly listed

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 ... 12 Next

Report

2017

Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027

Department of Housing and Public Works

Report

2017

Remote Australian communities: the asbestos legacy

Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency

Report

2017

Comfort and electricity use in remote Australian buildings

Osman, P. Havas, L. Ambrose, M. Clark, G.

Report

2017

National Social Housing Survey: a summary of national results 2016

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Report

2017

Culture, housing, remoteness and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child development: evidence from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children

Dockery, A.M.

Electronic source

2017

Why the housing shortage exacerbates scabies in Indigenous communities

Quilty, S.



Climate change

- New section on climate change to be launched with the new website redesign in 2017
- Lot of information coming out about the impact climate change will have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- This portal will aim to capture that information
- We'd love to hear about anyone doing work or research in this area!



Helping you get used to the changes

- Change can be scary, but we're here to help!
- We'll be running a series of webinars to guide people through the new site
- You can contact us at **any time** to ask for assistance.



Conclusion

Thank you!

Please contact me if you have any information to share on the portal, or if you have any queries. We also have a booth at the conference so come and say hello!

Millie Harford-Mills

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Email: m.harford-mills@ecu.edu.au

