



## FACT SHEET

# Clinical practice and decision support guidelines

### What the Australian Government is doing

- The Australian Government will develop a comprehensive primary health care resource for use by health care professionals in the prevention and primary care management of key chronic diseases for Indigenous Australians.
- It will also ensure that mainstream chronic disease guidelines are amended to include information specific to Indigenous Australians.

### The evidence-base

- Existing mainstream guidelines for the management of chronic disease do not adequately address burden of disease and health management needs specific to Indigenous Australians.
- The mainstream guidelines also do not outline culturally sensitive care for Indigenous Australians.
- Good quality guidelines can lead to improved patient care and clinical governance<sup>1</sup>.
- Mainstream GPs often see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific guidelines as aimed at Indigenous health services and not relevant to them.

### How this will work

- The resource will collate and present in a single resource existing tools, guides and other information that promote best practice in the prevention, identification and primary care management of chronic disease in Indigenous Australians. It will cover the key chronic diseases contributing to the burden of disease including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases (asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), and cancer (lung, breast and colorectal cancer).
- The resource will be aimed at workers in mainstream and Indigenous health sectors including GPs, nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers, and will consider urban, rural and remote settings.
- The primary health care resource will be developed in conjunction with experts, end users and consumers.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas L, Cullum N, McColl E, Rousseau N, Soutter J, Steen N. Guidelines in professions allied to medicine. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 1999, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD000349. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000349.

## **How this will help Indigenous Australians**

*For Indigenous Australians the resource aims to:*

- improve the diagnosis and management of people with chronic disease in a timely and culturally appropriate manner;
- reduce acute presentation and provide better continuity of care; and
- contribute to improvements in health outcomes.

*For health service providers the resource will:*

- provide easily accessible, relevant and culturally appropriate information for the prevention, detection and management of chronic disease in Indigenous Australians;
- support and improve the use of best practice in the management of chronic disease for Indigenous Australians; and
- contribute to improvements in health outcomes against key indicators.