

Koolin Balit

health

Victorian Government strategic directions for Aboriginal health 2012–2022

Koolin balit means healthy people in the Boonwurrung language

Vision

Within a decade, the length and quality of life of Aboriginal people in Victoria will have improved significantly and measurably

Objectives

1. Close the gap in life expectancy for Aboriginal people living in Victoria
2. Reduce differences in health outcomes between the general population and target groups for infant mortality rates, morbidity and low birthweights
3. Improve access to services and outcomes for Aboriginal people

Priorities

Key stages of life	A healthy start to life	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the rate of Aboriginal perinatal mortality• Decrease the percentage of Aboriginal babies with a low birthweight• Reduce smoking in pregnancy by mothers of Aboriginal babies• Increase breastfeeding rates for mothers of Aboriginal babies
	A healthy childhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the proportion of Aboriginal children attending maternal and child health services at key age milestones• Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people living in households with a current daily smoker• Improve the oral and nutritional health of Aboriginal children and increase their physical activity• Improve ear health to ensure it does not provide a barrier to educational achievement
	A healthy transition to adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the take-up of high-risk behaviours such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and use of illicit drugs• Reduce the rate of Aboriginal young people with sexually transmitted diseases• Reduce the rate of presentations of young Aboriginal people to emergency departments for injury and self-harm• Improve access to mental health services earlier for young Aboriginal people
	Caring for older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enable all older Aboriginal people to access the information, support and culturally appropriate service responses that will maximise their health and wellbeing
Continuum of care	Addressing risk factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal adults who are smokers• Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal adults who are obese• Reduce the rate of emergency department presentations due to alcohol consumption among Aboriginal people• Reduce the proportion of Aboriginal Victorians drinking at risky and high-risk levels• Reduce the prevalence of oral diseases, including tooth decay and gum disease, among Aboriginal adults
	Managing illness better with effective health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve Aboriginal people's access to the range of health, mental health and other support services• Reduce preventable hospitalisation rates for chronic conditions for Aboriginal people• Reduce preventable hospital readmissions for Aboriginal people• Reduce the rates of Aboriginal patients leaving hospital against medical advice• Improve the coordination and integration of services for Aboriginal people accessing and moving between health care settings

Enablers

Improving data and evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the range and quality of research and information to develop evidence-based interventions to improve the health of Aboriginal people in Victoria• Improve health service planning and delivery for Aboriginal people through comprehensive and consistent information monitoring and management for data relating to Aboriginal health and service provision
Strong Aboriginal organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide opportunities for community leadership in program design and decision making• Support the strengthening of capacity and skills among ACCHO employees• Support ACCHOs in positioning themselves for the future and in meeting the health needs of Aboriginal people in Victoria through quality governance and management• Strengthen and simplify Aboriginal organisations' accountability to government
Cultural responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase the number of Aboriginal people in the mainstream health workforce• Increase the cultural responsiveness of mainstream health and mental health providers so that Aboriginal people receive respect and high-quality care as a matter of course• Increase the capacity of mainstream health providers and their workforce to meet the health needs of Aboriginal people in Victoria