

# Australian health trends 2001

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Canberra  
AIHW Cat. No. PHE 24

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ISBN 1 74024 132 0

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's World Wide Web site can be found at:  
<http://www.aihw.gov.au>

### **Suggested citation**

de Looper M & Bhatia K 2001. Australian health trends 2001. AIHW Cat. No. PHE 24. Canberra: AIHW.

### **Acknowledgments**

The authors gratefully acknowledge input from the staff of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, including Tim Armstrong, Stan Bennett, Ching Choi, Bree Cook, Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Bonnie Field, Gerard Fitzsimmons, Indra Gajanayake, Diane Gibson, John Goss, John Harding, Jenny Hargreaves, Gabrielle Hodgson, Tony Hynes, Paul Jelfs, Richard Madden, Ros Madden, Paul Magnus, Colin Mathers, Sushma Mathur, Lynelle Moon, Geoff Sims, Phil Trickett, Richard Webb and Xingyan Wen.

Staff of the Institute's collaborating units, including Joan Cunningham (National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics), James Harrison (National Injury Surveillance Unit), Paul Lancaster (National Perinatal Statistics Unit) and John Spencer (Dental Statistics and Research Unit), also provided much valuable help.

Thanks also are due to Amanda Nobbs and Andrew Smith for their assistance in the production of this report.

### **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare**

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Printed by National Capital Printing

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## Foreword

*Australian Health Trends 2001* provides trend information on various aspects of the health of Australians, building on an earlier edition published in 1995. Using time-series information for more than 80 indicators, it gives a comprehensive overview of health trends and offers an opportunity to draw future scenarios in health.

The report describes trends using a variety of health indicators, such as life expectancy, total death rate, potential years of life lost and expected years of healthy life lost due to disability. It also provides time-series information for other indicators, in particular those based on cause of death data and health of various population groups.

The population groups examined include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, persons born overseas, mothers and babies, children and youth, and older persons. Trend data for the National Health Priority Areas of cardiovascular health, cancer control, injury prevention and control, diabetes and asthma are examined. Time-series information on a wide range of factors that affect health trends—health determinants and risk factors; health service delivery, costs and performance; and health service utilisation and access—is also provided.

The report provides historical data in a simple format. No attempt is made to disaggregate the time-series and delineate the role of various factors contributing to the fluctuations.

Sound statistical information is needed for population health action and for priority setting in health services delivery. I believe that the information contained in *Australian Health Trends 2001* would be highly useful for planning improvements in the health of Australians.

Richard Madden  
Director

