Improving Australia’s burden of disease
(Including references to National Health Priority Areas)

Burden of disease
- It is one way to measure the impact of different diseases or injuries on a population.
- Measures the impact of living with illness and injury and dying prematurely. See *Australia’s health 2018: in brief* report.
- The major diseases contributing to the burden for each gender and age group differs, reflecting how people experience different health problems at different life stages.
- More reports and statistics on burden of disease can be found under chronic disease and life expectancy and deaths.

National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions
- is the current policy document on chronic disease released in 2017
- moved away from a disease-specific focus
- provides guidance on delivering a national response and health system that responds more effectively to chronic conditions

National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs)
- were established in response to the World Health Organization’s Global Strategy for Health for All by the year 2000
- sought to focus public attention and health policy on these areas that were considered to contribute significantly to the burden of disease in Australia.

The 9 NHPAs agreed by the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council between 1996 and 2012 were:
2. Cardiovascular health (1996)
5. Diabetes mellitus (1997)

Further information:
- AIHW burden of disease
- COAG Health Council (CHC) and Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council (AHMAC)
- Department of Health Chronic Conditions
- State and/or Territory Health Departments
- Non-government health organisations for each condition; for example, Cancer Australia, Diabetes Australia, The Heart Foundation.

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